

Update to Steering Committee  
on COVID-19 Response  
April 21, 2020

**Concord Area:**

**Friends shelter for families:**

- 3 families now at the Residence Inn Hotel;
- the charge is \$100 per night.
- Using NHCF funding (\$15,000 so far, perhaps \$15,000 more if no other pressing need in Concord)
- No overnight supervision by staff.
- Not currently accepting any new families

**Salvation Army McKenna House shelter for adults:**

- 36 people there now
- Using basement meeting room to spread people out
- Very limited ability to isolate or quarantine if someone gets sick (would have to use the meeting room for that)
- Not currently accepting any new families

**Outreach:**

- Staff from BM-CAP visiting encampments frequently
- City of Concord COVID-19 Jeffrey Stewart is doing engagements and outreach with @-risk, SUD, and homeless communities/clients.

**CCEH:**

- Resource Center now open M-W-F from 9-11, outside under tent
- Port-a-johns:
  - Arranged for Port-a-johns with sink put at Centerpoint parking lot and a sink put at Friendly Kitchen (port-a-johns already there from City) (CCEH planning to use CDFR funds, if awarded, to pay for this)
  - Still investigating putting port-a-johns near encampments (need to contact landowners and need to find company willing to take that risk)
- Showers:
  - City said we cannot use Everett Arena for showers because they are being refurbished.
  - Still waiting on letter from State EOC to YMCA with a more formal request that they consider offering their shower space (Exec Dir said it would be helpful to have the state bolster our request)
  - Plan to use our 2 basement showers at Resource Center if we can't find a better solution; would allow us to keep guests out of the main building

**City of Concord Human Services:**

- May be having major difficulty finding available hotel space for people

### **Concord Hospital:**

Has established a congregate site in the gym at NHTI. This is a joint effort of CH, Lakes Region Hospital and Franklin Hospital. Intended for isolation if someone tests positive, is sick, but does not need hospital-level care and cannot isolate at home (either because homeless or other reasons.) It is ready to go but hasn't been used yet. Would probably not use it until hospitals are at about 70% capacity, and they are only at 30-50% capacity now. So if isolated case of person who is homeless testing positive, they would probably keep them in the hospital a few days while trying to work out an individualized solution for that person.

They've also arranged to use one dorm at NHTI as quarantine location for frail or elderly people who are awaiting test results and who would return to nursing home after quarantine, or end-of-life care for some who have tested positive. Also, some nursing homes may be establishing covid+ floors.

**Biggest Potential Need for Concord:** space to safely quarantine if someone from a shelter or encampment is awaiting a test or has had a known exposure. Supervision and compliance with quarantine protocols may be challenging.

### **Other Efforts in the State:**

**Crossroads House in Portsmouth** obtained a block of hotel rooms to decompress their shelter, and have moved their most vulnerable shelter guests there. My understanding it there is no overnight staffing at the hotel, and staff checks in during the day with guests.

**FIT/New Horizons in Manchester** said they were able to have City/CMC do Covid testing on all their shelter guests. They have established a second congregate shelter site at St. Cashmir's for decompressing their shelter, but at the last minute shifted to putting 11 shelter guests there who needed to be quarantined due to exposure to a known case. When quarantine period is over they want to use it to decompress rather than for quarantine.

- Dom Gefken from Concord Hospital says they do not have enough tests for that type of testing in Concord shelters, and also suggested getting input from public health officials whether they would recommend that kind of mass testing.

### **State Efforts**

#### **Isolation/Quarantine Shelter**

Bureau of Housing Supports has been working closely the team at the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to set up a Quarantine shelter for people experiencing homelessness. The plan is for this shelter to be in Laconia, and BHS working with the local provider network to get this up and running. This shelter has a small capacity of less than 20, and that we can only use it when all possible local options have been exhausted.

#### **Decompression shelter**

BHS also trying to set up a decompression shelter to help existing shelters reduce their population in order to allow for social distancing. This has been more challenging to get set up due to resistance about having a centralized location. BHS continues to work with the EOC and local partners to try and find both local options and a centralized option for those who need it.