

TEMS CAC August 2020 Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Time/Date: Aug 6, 2020, 5 pm – 6:30 pm

Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

TEMS CAC members: Lillian Ferraz, Jessica Hartenstine, Tony Palagruti, Linda Sliva, Pastor Ina Battle, Bishop Lenall Battle, Raychel James.

Previous site TEMS CAC members: Sherrilla Bevins, Jo Davies

LIHI Staff: Tijana Campbell (Case Manager), Rachel Benson (Case Manager), Eric Davis (Special Projects Manager), Becca Finkes (Tiny House Projects Coordinator), Josh Castle (Community Engagement Director)

Tacoma City Representatives: Councilmember Catherine Ushka, Linda Stewart (NCS Department Director), Matthew Jorgensen (NCS Department), Steve Butts (Community Liaison Officer)

Introductions

Welcome and thank you to folks who were involved in the building and set up of the TEMS site. Neighbors and volunteers who have come out to assist with painting, landscaping, bringing of donations.

Information shared by Josh Castle about TEMS (Tacoma Emergency Micro Shelters):

- Opened one week ago Thursday
- Previously located at 8th & MLK
- Scheduled to operate until December 2021
- Meet the staff: 1 Special Projects Manager, 2 Case Managers, 5 Organizers providing security, operational and management support.
- 24 hour staffed site
- Members and neighbors are welcome to visit the site - would need to make special arrangements to uphold safety for COVID including physical distancing, mask wearing, and keeping any groups small
- Sent to members - Code of Conduct, Phone Numbers, Donation List, and Map is included
- The new site has 50 Micro-shelters, about double the units of the previous site.
- Capacity for the site is 65 persons
- The site accommodates people with pets

- One of the barriers to shelter for homeless people is couples not being permitted and pets not permitted. TEMS accommodates couples and pets
- History of LIHI – Non-profit housing provider, operates 65 buildings in 6 counties, including in Pierce County in Puyallup and Milton. LIHI operates or supports 9 other tiny house villages in Seattle and Olympia and operates 3 Urban Rest Stop hygiene centers.
- Partners with City of Tacoma for TEMS, which funds operations
- Temporary stay – provides temporary shelter with the goal to transition residents into permanent housing

Councilmember Ushka:

- Opportunity for the site to help the community and neighborhood. Thank you to LIHI. Please reach out to myself or other council members with any questions.

Josh Castle:

- Working on a Good Neighbor Agreement. Meetings with neighbors to gain feedback and improve upon it.

Special Projects Manager Eric Davis:

- Appreciate support received for TEMS
- Residents help to maintain the appearance of the community
- We appreciate neighbors and the community helping and donating amidst the pandemic
- We believe in transparency and fostering community with the village and the surrounding neighbors
- Goal to have a peaceful, quiet, inclusive community
- Residents work on getting housing and jobs

LIHI Case Managers Tyjana and Rachael:

Services residents receive from LIHI Case Managers:

- Reuniting with family and help with transportation costs to do so
- Documentation - establishing identification (application and payment for ID, Birth Certificate, Driver License)
- Background checks can be run to assist residents with determining what barriers exist for housing or employment and case managers can help work to overcome
- Filling out housing applications (identify, completion, and submission) and help cover application fees, deposits, first/last month rent
- Employment resources - creating resumes and filling out applications
- Enrollment in educational and certification programs and helping cover associated costs.
- Supportive role to help residents build autonomy

Current Outcomes for Residents

- 14 residents have transitioned into permanent housing from previous and current TEMS site
- One resident moved to permanent housing the week previous and within the first week of the new site
- 6 currently employed
- 4 residents actively looking for work
- 1 resident actively in school

Resident Success Story

- Recent resident who moved into permanent housing one week ago. Met all requirements in order to regain custody of their child.

CAC Members of the 8th & MLK site share their experiences:

- Staff listened to the community and were receptive to feedback from the community
- Personal involvement, we provided donations
- It's been a very good experience

Expectations and other info for CAC Members from Josh Castle:

- Oversight and advisory input for the village
- Made up of neighborhood stakeholders
- Review operations, progress, and discuss challenges/successes
- Go over outcomes of residents
- Connect regarding what is happening in the neighborhood
- Will send another Doodle poll for a time/date that works for the majority of folks.
- Transparency in operations to share how the village is going.
- CACs exist for all villages that LIHI operates or supports and are enormously helpful to the success of the villages
- How other CACs are helpful - One CAC member has a member who manages health clinic staff and has arranged to provide nursing support to the village. Others collect donations. One conducted and shared a survey of the community
- Monthly meeting is the minimum requirement. Whatever way you wish to help or role you wish to play you can determine

Review and highlights of the Code of Conduct and behavioral expectations by Eric Davis:

- 11 pm curfew with some exceptions (such as residents who have to leave or unable to return by then due to evening jobs)
- Use of drugs or alcohol is prohibited
- COVID (masks, physical distancing, and hand washing)
- Participation - must do your assigned chores. Only residents assigned to the tiny home are allowed inside the tiny home

- Violence or threats of violence are prohibited. Can result in being exited
- Not allowed to cook after 10pm. Microwave is available.
- Cameras on the grounds of the village
- Quiet time 10pm - 8am
- Meet every individual where they're at. Goal is success. Individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness will have challenges. We want to see everyone be successful.

Q&A Section

COVID Testing of Residents -

- 80% of residents have been tested.
- All residents will be tested again. Residents will be tested 8.7.2020
- No cases of COVID have occurred. Following TPCHD
- Councilmember Ushka rep for TPCHD

TPCHD - has been very helpful with all COT shelters for compliance with CDC.

- Testing
- Providing PPE

Positive Impact of the TEMS site from 8th & MLK

What's the Current Resident Status?

- One new individual who has been moved from the waitlist.
- Currently 23 residents that have transferred from the MLK site

Have we turned anyone away?

- Have not turned anyone away.
- Referrals from the HOT team and local community organizations

Porta Potties?

- Working to finalize permits and inspecting for hygiene facility.
- Showers and toilets are installed. Awaiting final inspection and permits

Comment -

Saw a resident with a white dog. Exited the community. Doggy bags? Can the City install some near the parks?

Comment - Excited when heard about the project. Seeing the needs of folks in a rough spot. We don't have as many parks, public services, as the rest of the City. Positive part - community gets to benefit from all the services support that are being provided to the residents.

Questions – CAC Minutes and dates/times of CAC meetings will be published on the Tacoma City website.

How to Volunteer?
Donation Wish list?

Update - Working on a North-end site

Mini Fridge - Concern about fire hazard? All tiny houses have smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

Tiny houses are 8 x 12 on the inside.

Other CAC members in other CACs do get together for special projects or to plan things. They don't call them subcommittees, but they sometimes are, and TEMS CAC could form these.

Currently don't have storage to store too many additional donated items such as clothes.

Wish List - Storage Shed. Currently using a vacant unit.

Scheduling - Doodle Poll? Regular Monthly meeting. Josh to send out for date and a time with the goal that it works for every single member.

Concern - Several people sleeping in the park

Concern - Make sure the neighborhood remains clean.

Comments by Bishop Lenall Battle:

CAC meeting space in church available still

How can we as the community be helpful and support the residents to be successful?
More than just providing the material things?

Comment - Steve Butts (Community Liaison Officer) – We want to support TEMS and would like to hear from you on how we can help.

Comment - Steve Butts (Community Liaison Officer)

I'm a local resident. Have lived on the Eastside. Relatively new to my role as a CLO. Assisted with the movement of residents from the Hilltop location over. Have heard great things about the TEMS site on MLK. Took a tour of the new site 8/5/2020

Hear the concerns is not what is on the site, but what happens around the site. As CLO we try to deal with things delicately but enforcing as needed. There is a sense of hope when you walk into the village that is not present when you walk into an encampment. We referred a couple of individuals today from the HOT team.

Tyjana - Thank you for the perspective.