

Family Services Community Partners Meeting Minutes
2/8/17 at 11:00am

New attendees

Libby Powers, Day One

Chris Corson, Portland Public Library

Alain Nahimana, Immigrant Welcome Center

Andrew Bove, Preble Street

Susan McGaulley, Parish Social Ministry, Catholic Charities

Mary Allen Lindemann, Coffee By Design/Greater Portland Welcome Center

Updates

- Moving to two seatings at breakfast has been very helpful. Warming Center families are now able to stay at the WC until 8:30. WC staff cleans at this. Staff at Preble Street have reserved a couple of tables for families and are willing to get trays for the families so that they don't have to wait in line for feed.
- Numbers are continuing to rise at the WC. There has been an increase in families from Brazil. Jeff reports that families may be at the WC for a minimum of two weeks before an apartment opens up.

Initial Orientation

- All agree that families are in need of a core comprehensive initial orientation. Families are confused and don't know where to start. Families often seek out Leopold when they get to Preble Street and have many questions about accessing services.
- Joanna is conducting outreach every Friday. Leopold will now go over to the WC once a week.
- Information is always changing and not always communicated to families. For example, there are now new rules that require individuals to face an immigration officer within 21 days.
- Mary from Salvation Army shared that they offer their Skills for Life training once a week
- Do General Assistance workers provide guidance regarding immigration status?
- The City will be offering a more comprehensive welcome orientation at the Root Cella open to limited number of participants, transportation will be provided. If successful this orientation will be offered again soon.
- Alain, Leopold, and Joanna have agreed to be on an Initial Orientation Subcommittee.

Casework Services (healthcare, housing, immigration status, enrolling children in school, clothing)

- Anna will reach out to Claudette at TOA.
- The Casework Subcommittee created a list of organizations that provide caseworker services that was shared at the meeting. This will also be added to a Google Doc.

Day Space

- Chris reminded the group that the library is a free space full of resources for families.
- Chelsea is working on putting together a monthly calendar of events throughout the city.

Meals

- Lunch is served at Saint Vincent De Paul Monday thru Friday 11:30-12:30.

Other Resources

- Clothing – Salvation Army provides coats, Preble Street is starting to save kids winter gear and bring it over to family shelter MHI will compile a list of clothing resources.
- Catholic Charities, Social Ministry can provide one time vouchers to the Good Cause Thrift shop through their Mathew 25 fund.

Next Steps

It was suggested that we create a Google folder with resources. MHI will work on this.