

Department of Human Services

February 19, 2015

Adult Emergency Shelter System

- Current Status:
 - Written rules required by the Shelter Grievance Policy as established by the Shelter Grievance Advisory Committee
 - Each shelter has had a set of rules. Although many rules are similar, the language and the sanction periods vary.
- Impetus behind Common Shelter Rules Process
 - Volunteer Arbitrators of the Grievance Process noted the same action resulted in different outcomes.
 - Public comments at the HSA Shelter Stakeholders' Meetings stated confusion resulting from differing shelter rules.
 - Shelter Access Workgroup meetings included public comments about different rules for the same violation.
 - Although the SAW Recommendations did not include a comment regarding common rules, HSA had responded in SAW meetings that it was an effort that was already underway.

Developing Draft Common Rules

HSA's Process to Date

- January - July 2012
 - HSA generated a working document of all adult shelter rules.
 - This summary was shared with Adult Shelter System providers.
- July 2012 – September 2014
 - Discussions with Adult Shelter System providers worked through commonalities and differences in the rules.
 - DRAFT Common Rules were generated by September 2014
 - HSA circulated draft for comments and input
- October 15, 2014
 - 3 hour Community Meeting reviewed each draft rule, collecting input along with individual emails, letters and calls.
 - Community comments were discussed with shelter providers.
- As of today
 - HSA has not issued a next draft or implemented common rules.

Next Steps

- Address Specific Issues
 - Clients arrive at shelters unable to self-care and without established support.
 - Shelters staff are not trained to provide self-care.

Proposed Efforts

- Analysis with the Department of Public Health of Critical Incident Reports and Emergency Calls at shelters to understand the scope of the issue.
- Explore access for eligible clients to In-Home Support Services.
- Discussions with Supervisor Kim and DPH regarding other care options and placements.