

DALLAS COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOUSING WORK GROUP

Dallas County Administration – 411 Elm Street, Allen Clemson Courtroom, 1st Floor, Dallas Texas

October 27, 2021 10:00-11:30am

AGENDA

COVID-19 is hard on all of us but especially hard on our low-income and homeless populations.

Even though we are all doing business differently than before there is value in being able to communicate during these unpredictable times. Thank you for all you are doing and please stay safe.

The Dallas County BH Housing Work Group, with diverse representation, will formulate recommendations on the creation of housing and housing related support services designed to safely divert members of special populations in crisis away from frequent utilization of expensive and sometimes unnecessary inpatient stays, emergency department visits and incarceration.

Success will be measured in placement of consumers in housing and the decreased utilization of higher levels of care (hospitals and emergency care visits) and reduced incarceration in the Dallas County Jail. The Dallas County BH Housing Work Group is committed to a data driven decision-making process with a focus on data supported outcomes.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Presentation** – Eviction Filing Dashboard update , Ashley Flores, Senior Director, Child Poverty Action Lab
3. **Reports**
 - a. **Governance – Commissioner Theresa Daniel**
 - Approval of September 22, 2021 minutes
 - Dallas Area Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness
 - Dallas County Homeless Advisory Committee
 - Federal & State legislative environment
 - b. **Resources – services, programs, people, funds**
 - Shelter Discussions
 - NTBHA
 - Housing Navigator / Homeless Jail Dashboard/St Jude Center
 - Housing Authority Report- DHA/DCHA
 - Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute
 - ARPA funds Update
 - c. **Projects and Industry Updates**
 - Coordinated Access System
 - Pretrial Diversion and MH screening
 - CitySquare Report (The Cottages/Fuse Project /A Way Home Housing)
 - Dallas Connector
 - Homeward Bound, Crisis Residential & Respite Services
 - Metro Dallas Youth Committee update
 - Family Housing
 - Mattingly Report
4. **Discussion on the Next Meeting due to the holidays.**

Dallas County Administration, 411 Elm Street, 1st Floor, Dallas Texas 75202
September 22, 2021 Minutes

Mission Statement: The Dallas County BH Housing Work Group, with diverse representation, will formulate recommendations on the creation of housing and housing related support services designed to safely divert members of special populations in crisis away from frequent utilization of expensive and sometimes unnecessary inpatient stays, emergency department visits and incarceration.

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ATTENDEES: Dr. Theresa Daniel, Commissioner; Deborah Hill, DCCJ; Tzegabrhan Kidane, Dallas County; Yordanos Melake, DCCJ; Erin Moore, Dallas County; Charlene Randolph, DCCJ; Sandy Rollins, Texas Tenants Union; Janie Metzinger, NTBHA; Maria Herrera, DCCJ; Yvonne Green, Parkland Health and Hospital System; Hector Faulk, Dallas County; Kimberly Rawls, DCCJ; Ashley Brundage, United Way Dallas; Ikenna Mogbo, Metrocare Services; Laura Edmonds, DCCJ; Edd Eason, CitySquare; Erica McDaniel, Dallas County; Ellen Magnis, Family Gateway; Eric McCarty, NTBHA; Kelvin Brown, Housing Crisis Center; Brooke Etie, Dallas Housing Authority; Dave Hogan, Homeward Bound; Stephanie Mace, United Way

CALL TO ORDER: The minutes were approved without changes.

GOVERNANCE

Dallas Area Partnership to End and Prevent Homelessness:

The Dallas Area Partnership met on September 16, 2021. A presentation was done on what Dallas County is doing in the area of housing and homelessness by Commissioner Daniel.

Dallas County Homeless Advisory Committee: Erin Moore, Commissioner Daniel Office

The Dallas County Homeless Advisory Committee was held on September 20, 2021. Dr. Philip Huang Director of Dallas County Health and Human Services discussed the movement of the Community First development in Dallas County. Properties and partners for the Dallas County project are being explored but nothing has been solidified.

About a month ago a contract was signed for a Community First south of the Dallas County line in Ellis County.

There was also an update on the Hepatitis A outbreak in shelters and the homeless population. There are 160 cases in Dallas County which is double the recent numbers. There will be 3000 doses of Hepatitis A vaccines which are being made available to the homeless encampments.

Federal and State Legislative Update: Janie Metzinger, NTBHA

Ms. Janie Metzinger reported that the legislature is meeting again focusing on redistricting. Texas gained 2 additional members of the House of Representatives. They are looking at population increases and decreases in Texas to determine how to draw the most representative districts throughout the state. Ms. Metzinger reported that the Dallas County and Tarrant County population has shifted a little bit. The places that gained population are between Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston and Austin/San Antonio area. These areas will be where the most change in district lines will be seen.

Ms. Metzinger stated that another topic of the special legislative session includes the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds being divided up. She stated that the legislatures are looking at money for some mental health and substance abuse treatment money but she wasn't sure if there will be housing money. Edd Eason with CitySquare reported that a lot of the ARPA money will be distributed to the municipalities through Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG). He stated that they have not codified what the actual distributions will be but they have provided preliminary indications how

much money will be distributed. Mr. Eason stated that most of the money will be for rental assistance and services. Ms. Metzinger stated that there will be extra money for TBRA.

Sandy Rollins with Texas Tenants Union reported that she is working with a coalition of groups put together by Texas Housers and Texas Homeless network to recommend \$5 billion of the states almost \$16 billion go to housing in three categories for home ownership, eviction prevention and alleviating homelessness. There is a letter that is still being finalized and if anyone wants to sign on to it they can reach out to David Wheaton with Texas Housers.

Ms. Metzinger stated that she has a tracking chart for the bills making it through Congress. Most of the bills are companion bills which have a House and Senate sponsor. The bills go through the House first then to the Senate. In the House most of the bills are going through the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, a few going through Ways and Means committee, and a few others going through The Judiciary committees. In the Senate, bills are going through HELP (Health Education Labor and Pension) committee. Ms. Metzinger stated she will send the tracking chart to the group.

RESOURCES

Shelter Discussions:

Report unavailable

NTBHA: Eric McCarty

Eric McCarty reported that Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) has not received any notices of funding availability. They are expecting the funding availability soon for Dallas County and the surrounding counties. Mr. McCarty stated that they have submitted everything for the new contracts but have not yet been approved. There is a wait list of 85 individuals that have not received services. NTBHA is having conversations about how to service those who have not received services while still being able to offer an additional 12 months of services for those who received the initial 24 months of assistance. At this time they are waiting for a response on the approval of contracts and notices of funding availability so that they can proceed with all services.

Housing Navigator: Kimberly Rawls, Dallas County

Kimberly Rawls reported that all 13 county beds are occupied at St. Jude Forest Lane. The Frequent Users System Enhancement (FUSE) project data is in the packet with full details. Ms. Rawls reported that they are continuing to screen individuals into the program and are working on scheduling releases to enter the program.

Two boarding homes reapplied for the Hillcrest Grant in July 2021. They are waiting for the notice of award to be released. They are expecting that notice to come out between October and November.

The Dallas Connector Project provided 17 individuals rides through the FUSE program.

Housing Authority Report- Brooke Etie, Dallas Housing Authority (DHA).

Brooke Etie reported that Dallas Housing Authority (DHA) is in the process of working with Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance (MDHA) and the City of Dallas to administer several millions of the ARPA and ESG funds through the rental assistance program with the 2700 families that they are working to house who are currently homeless. Ms. Etie reported that they have already started administering the emergency housing vouchers. DHA has started receiving referrals from service providers within the continuum of care for the 490 vouchers they were awarded. They have several vouchers that are ready to be issued but are having challenges in doing briefings that are normally done in person. Due to COVID they are attempting to come up with ways of completing the briefings so the vouchers can be issued.

Ms. Etie stated that they are working with MDHA and the Apartment Association in doing landlord recruitment.

PROJECTS AND INDUSTRY UPDATES

CARES Act/ARPA Funds: Hector Faulk, Dallas County

Hector Faulk reported they have sent in the strategic plan for ARPA funds to the US Treasury. One of the categories that they are focused on is aid to impacted communities. The aid to impacted communities is a three part approach which

includes the EHAP program, the \$23 million Dallas County has committed to the Dallas Real Time Rapid Rehousing program, and continuing to explore ,through the executive team, additional ways to provide services to the communities through business assistance and nonprofit assistance. There is a public comment portal and a nonprofit assistance portal that is currently accepting proposals. They are encouraging nonprofits in the community to provide them with proposals so they can get a better idea on what the community is doing so they can strategically plan the ARPA funding. They have received about 50 to 60 public comments. At this time CARES is wrapping up and the focus is now on ARPA.

Coordinated Access System: MDHA

Report unavailable

Homeless Jail Dashboard: Kimberly Rawls, Dallas County

The data for the homeless jail dashboard is in the packet in full details. Pages one and two reflect the overall jail population bookins. The overall jail bookins decreased by 101 individuals. The overall suspected mental health bookins decreased by 57 individuals. The overall homeless population decreased by 29 individuals and the homeless with suspected mental health bookins increased by 2 individuals. The average length of stay for homeless bookins increased slightly. The offense categories stayed the same with the exception of an increase to the assault category and decreases to the burglary, drug and alcohol and the theft categories.

Edd Eason asked if the courts are back up to speed in processing individuals who are scheduled for hearings. Ms. Rawls stated that jury trials are taking place. Charlene Randolph with Dallas County Criminal Justice department stated that although jury trials are taking place, they are not back to pre-COVID levels due to spacing.

CitySquare: Edd Eason, CitySquare

Edd Eason's detailed report is in the meeting packet. City square is applying to MDHA for 8 navigators and case managers to help move people experiencing homelessness into units using 50 vouchers per year of the emergency vouchers that are being made available through the housing authority. The award will come later this fall. Negotiations are still ongoing on the Miramar Hotel with the City of Dallas on some contract items. There will be a community meeting held in October in Dallas City Council District 1 to receive input on a good neighbor agreement. They are hoping for contracts to be executed by the end of the year, to start renovation shortly after the first of the year, and hopefully move in individuals into the 40 units by April 2022.

Edd Eason reported that he will continue to work with Madeline Reedy, his replacement at CitySquare until he reaches his anticipated retirement date. The CitySquare report for The Housing Work Group will be completed quarterly rather than the monthly reports.

Dallas Connector: Daniel Roby, Austin Street

Report is in the meeting packet. Mr. Roby was unavailable to provide a verbal report.

Pretrial Diversion and Mental Health Screening: Laura Edmonds, Dallas County

Laura Edmonds reported that the mental health pretrial process continues to go well. They are currently organizing the data of the number of warm handoff jail releases that have been done. So far there have been 500 individuals that have been assisted with facilitation of the release from jail to community services. Ms. Edmonds acknowledged NTBHA and the Dallas Connector program on their collaboration and partnership with the program.

Homeward Bound: Dave Hogan, Homeward Bound

Dave Hogan reported that a few weeks ago there was an outbreak of COVID in the Detox Unit, causing it to shut down. The outbreak has been resolved and all units are back up. The Deflection Center is now in the construction phase. Mr. Hogan stated that he will be moving on location and will be able to keep up more closely with the updates. The anticipated completion date is end of November or early December.

Metro Dallas Youth Committee: Mayra Fierro; Metro Dallas Youth Committee

Point in Time Youth Count Information was provided to the group in the meeting packet.

Family Housing: Ellen Magnis, Family Gateway

Ellen Magnis explained that there has been a spike in calls in August. Ms. Magnis explained that the calls have been fluctuating due to stimulus money distribution, unemployment benefits and eviction moratoriums. Ms. Magnis stated that there has been an increase in the need of shelter from the average 30 families a month to more than 60 families a month starting about June. The downtown shelter is full, the hotel to the north is full, and they are overflowing with about 60 families. There are 100 new housing vouchers allocated for families. Family Gateway and Under One Roof are currently managing 50 vouchers each at this time. They are about to see a big migration out of shelters for families due to the housing vouchers. Family Gateway is working in an integrated service model with Salvation Army. They are taking Salvation Army's former 12 beds unit for women and children and expanding it to 20 rooms for families. They will be able to move 20 families from their overflow hotel into Salvation Army over a two week period. The August call volume increased to 3000 calls from an average of 300-400 call but most of the calls were from families wanting to be put on the list to receive a voucher from the 100 allocated housing vouchers for families.

Mattingly Report: Jim Mattingly

Report unavailable

Updates

Ashley Brundage reported that information for ARPA funding and the Build Back Better and Good Jobs Challenges have been posted out to the community. She stated that she is a part of a group of people working to find out who is interested in applying so that they can make sure that Dallas presents a united front with a collaborative application. So far they have heard from two different groups.

Ashley also reported that Ganesh Shivarmaier from Dallas County Health and Human Services presented on the Eviction Diversion Program (EDP) at the Eviction Prevention meeting that was held on September 21. It was reported that Ashley Flores from Child Poverty Action Plan (CPAL) gave an update on a new and better eviction filing dashboard that would cover Dallas, Collin, Denton and Tarrant counties that CPAL has been working on.

Next Meeting: October 27, 2021

Dallas County Administration Building, 411 Elm Street, 1st Floor, Allen Clemson Courtroom



Dallas County Criminal Justice (DCCJ) Housing Navigator September 2021 Report

St. Jude Project

- The St. Jude staff is working to fill one vacancy.

FUSE Project

September 2021 Jail FUSE Data

Total Clients Triage for FUSE			356
Referral Source			
Jail FUSE Navigator Triage	321	NTBHA Living Room Referral	6
Defense Attorney Referral	15	Shelter/Street FUSE Navigator Referral	1
Another Referral Source	9	Pretrial Referral	4
Client Triage/Referral Outcomes			
Released to Another Program or Agency	11	Referral Banned from Shelter	0
Client Refused to be interviewed or Participate or Interview attempt	7	Client didn't qualify for FUSE	127
Immigration Hold	0	Client report not being Homeless	4
Released (i.e. Posted Bond)	58	Qualified referred by Shelters/Street Outreach	0
FUSE bond denied	1		
Pending Client Referrals			
Waiting on info, Waiting on Bond to Post, and pending attorney response	141	In Quarantine/Medical/Interview Pending	7
Total Released from Jail to FUSE			18
Shelter Assignment			
Austin Street Center	5	The Bridge	3
Salvation Army	7	Referred to Street Outreach	0
Other	3	No Response	0
Shelter Connection Rate			
Austin Street Center	2	The Bridge	1
Salvation Army	2	Other	1
No Response	0	Client Abscond/Did Not Connect	12
Housed or placed on the Housing Priority List or Info sent to MDHA			4

Housing Services for Homeless Criminal Justice-Involved Clients (HSH-CJC) Grant

- Two boarding homes reapplied for the Hillcrest grant in July 2021. I also continue to research other grant opportunities. Notice of award for the Hillcrest grant is expected for either the end of October or November 2021.

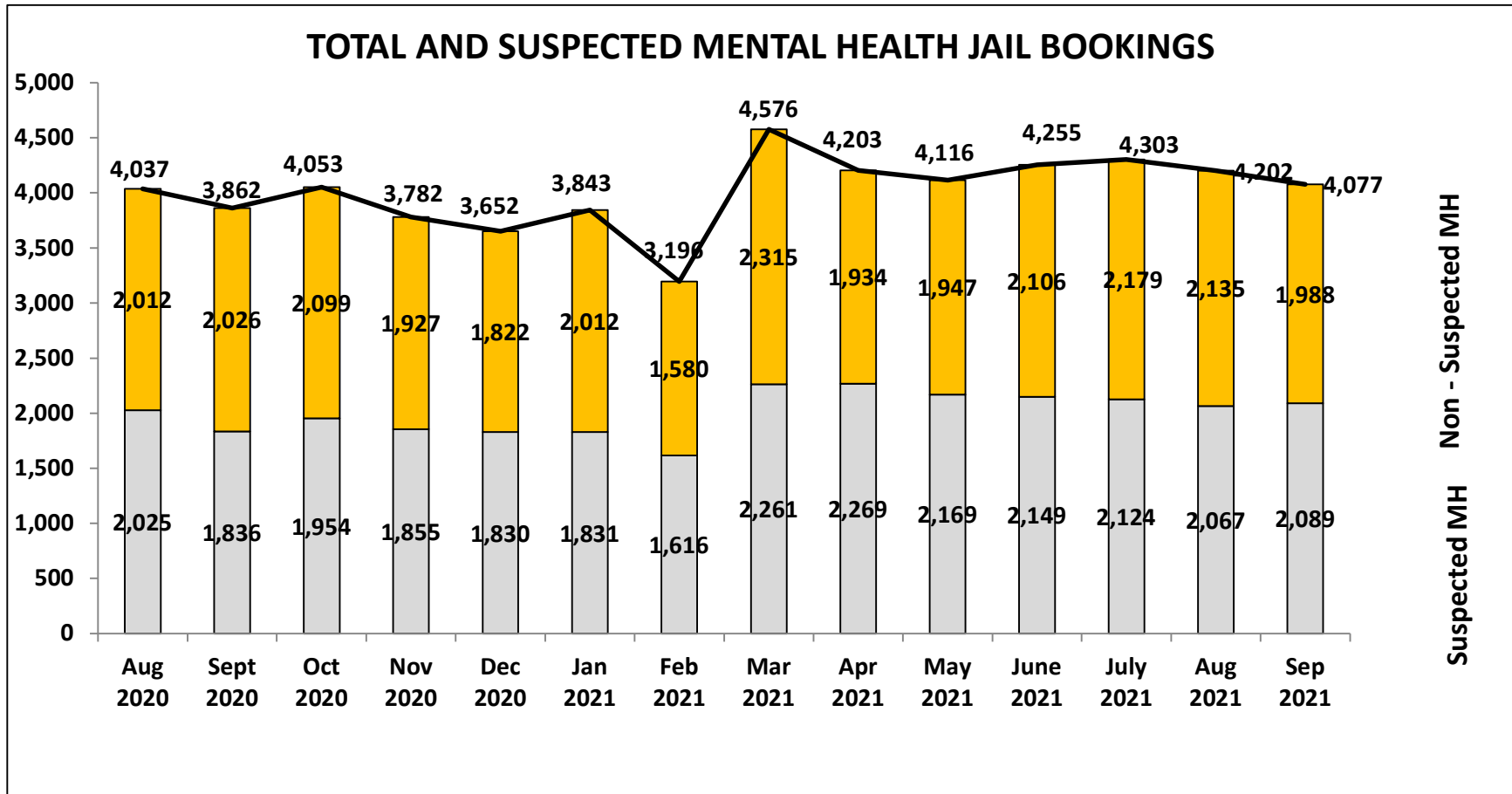
Dallas Connector Project (DCP) Dallas County Client Utilization – Transport to the NTBHA LR from the Jail and or the LR to the FUSE Shelters

September 2021	
Total Client Activity	
Transported by the Connector	18

The NTBHA Livingroom (LR) Staff conducted jail releases for individuals going to the Livingroom and Austin Street's report would contain the September 2021 jail data.

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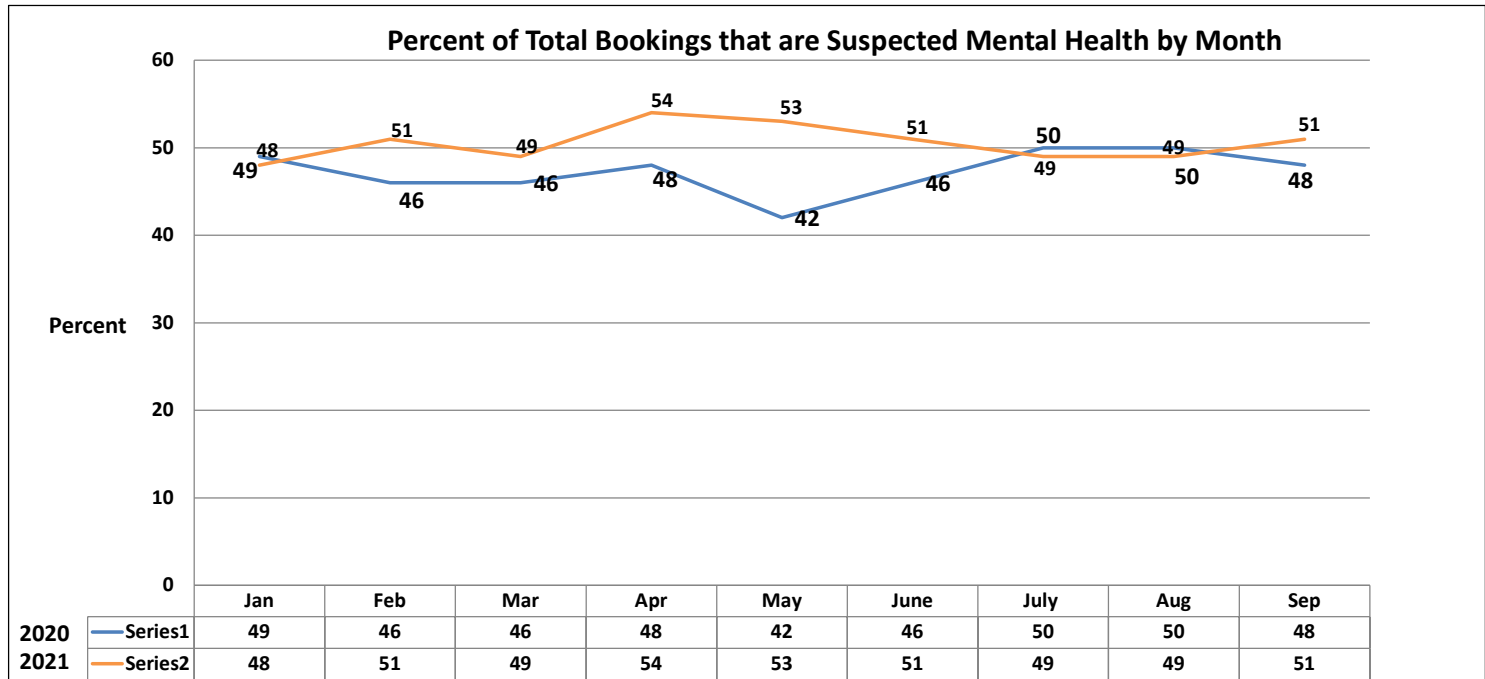
Sep 2021 Homeless Report Snapshot



DALLAS COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HOUSING WORK GROUP

Month-to-Month Category Total Differences

Months	Total Monthly Bookins	Total Suspected MH Bookins
Aug to Sep	4202 to 4077 - Decrease 125	2067 to 2089 - Increase 22



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Homeless Breakdown and Avg LOS - Aug 2021 vs Sep 2021

Month/Yr	Category	Total Bookings	Percent	Percent Note
Aug 2021	Suspected MH	2,067	49%	% of total bookings [4,202]
	Homeless	381	9%	% of total bookings [4,202]
	Homeless w/Suspected MH flag	281	74%	% of total homeless [381]

Month/Yr	Category	Total Bookings	Percent	Percent Note
Sep 2021	Suspected MH	2,089	51%	% of total bookings [4,077]
	Homeless	398	10%	% of total bookings [4,077]
	Homeless w/Suspected MH flag	283	71%	% of total homeless [398]

Month/Yr	Avg LOS Total Bookings [days]	Avg LOS Homeless Bookings [days]
Aug 2021	7	10
Sep 2021	7	10

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Homeless Primary Offense Categories - Aug 2021 vs Sep 2021

Offense Categories	Aug 2021 total	Aug 2021 %	Sep 2021 total	Sep 2021 %
Arson	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Assaultive	51	12.8%	57	14.3%
Burglary	17	4.3%	12	3.0%
Criminal Mischief	5	1.3%	8	2.0%
Criminal Trespass	58	14.6%	53	13.3%
Drug/Alcohol	82	20.6%	63	15.8%
Evading	17	4.3%	17	4.3%
False Info/Fail to Identify	17	4.3%	10	2.5%
Fraud	6	1.5%	4	1.0%
HOLDS	54	13.6%	68	17.1%
Murder	1	0.3%	0	0.0%
Other	25	6.3%	36	9.0%
Prostitution	3	0.8%	0	0.0%
Resist	10	2.5%	4	1.0%
Robbery	7	1.8%	9	2.3%
Sexual Offense	2	0.5%	10	2.5%
Theft	18	4.5%	35	8.8%
UUMV	8	2.0%	12	3.0%
TOTAL	381	95.7%	398	100.0%

HOLDS: Citation/Tickets, Insufficient Bonds/Insufficient Bond Warrants, External Holds (Transfer to another county), and Parole Violations

Other: Offense categories with one or two charge occurrences of monthly bookin totals (i.e. Terrorist Threats, Child Endangerment, Stalking, etc.)

UUMV: Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle (i.e. Joyriding)

Family Gateway - Access Point Report September 2021

Family Gateway is the MDHA-designated Access Point for families with children experiencing or near homelessness for the Continuum of Care. This report contains:

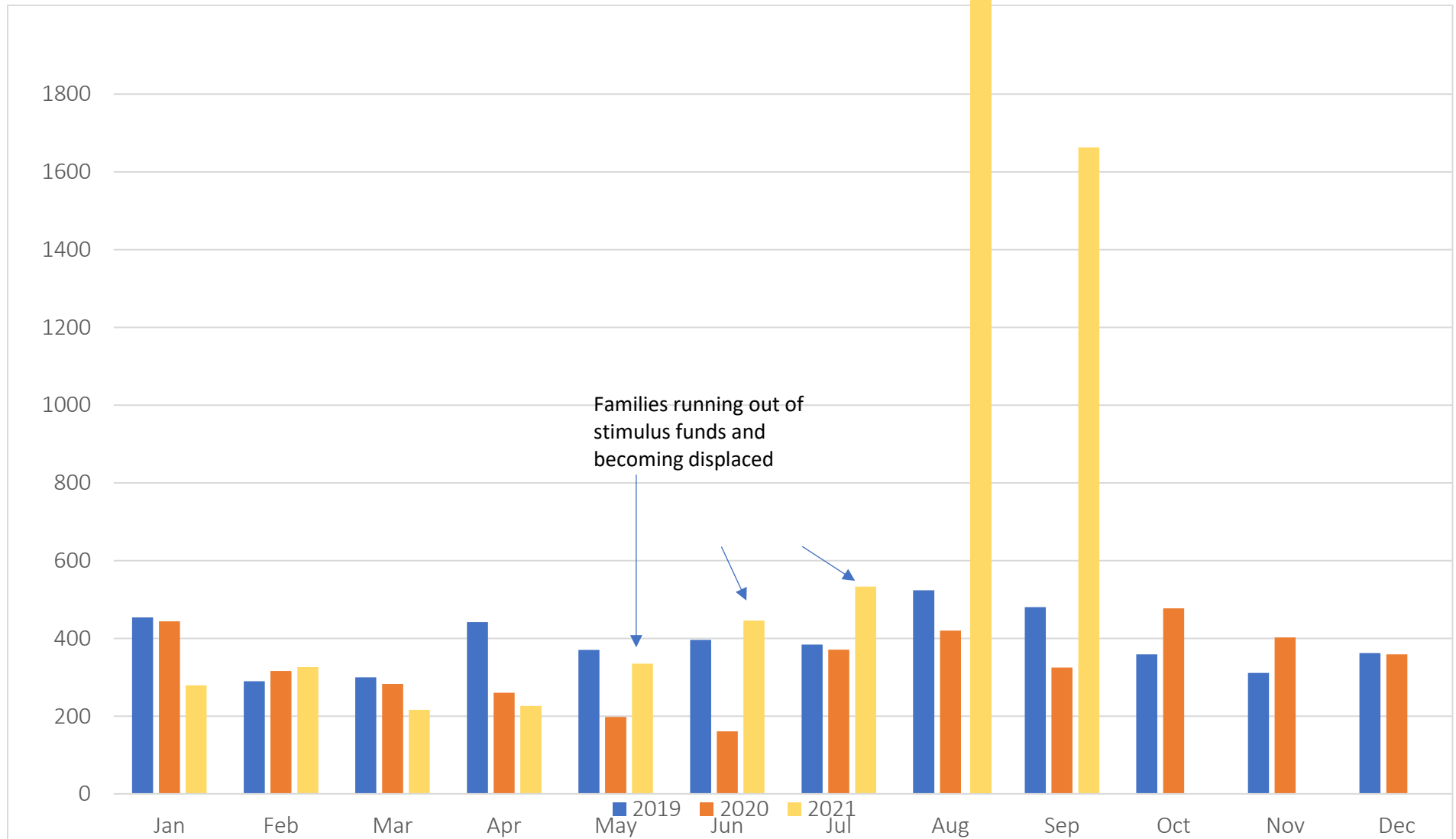
Call Center Volume – We operate a 24 x 7 call center for families in crisis to answer the MDHA Homeless Crisis Helpline (1-888-411-6802 - option 3 for families with children). This is staffed by our team from 7 AM – 7 PM, with answering service providing pre-screening and triage to shelter (and activation of crisis team and shelter security for incoming) from 7 PM – 7 AM.

Pre-Screening Results – Every caller/walk-in/website inquirer receives the same pre-screening questions to help us determine the urgency of need so that the appropriate intervention can be matched. Non-urgent callers receive a Resource Packet to connect them to community resources. Those not residing in Dallas or Collin County are directed to 211 for services. Urgent families needing same day care are directed (or brought by Uber at our expense) to the Family Gateway Resource Center for a deeper assessment that includes a Diversion conversation. Diversion in this context means diverting a family from shelter by connecting them to a less intensive and less-expensive intervention, such as landlord mediation for payment plans and removal of late fees for eviction prevention, connection to eviction prevention resources (our own and those of partners), transportation (bus or train) to confirmed placement with extended family willing to take the family in, deposit + short term rental assistance, etc. If a family requires emergency shelter, we triage them to the appropriate family shelter in our community after confirming placement, to include:

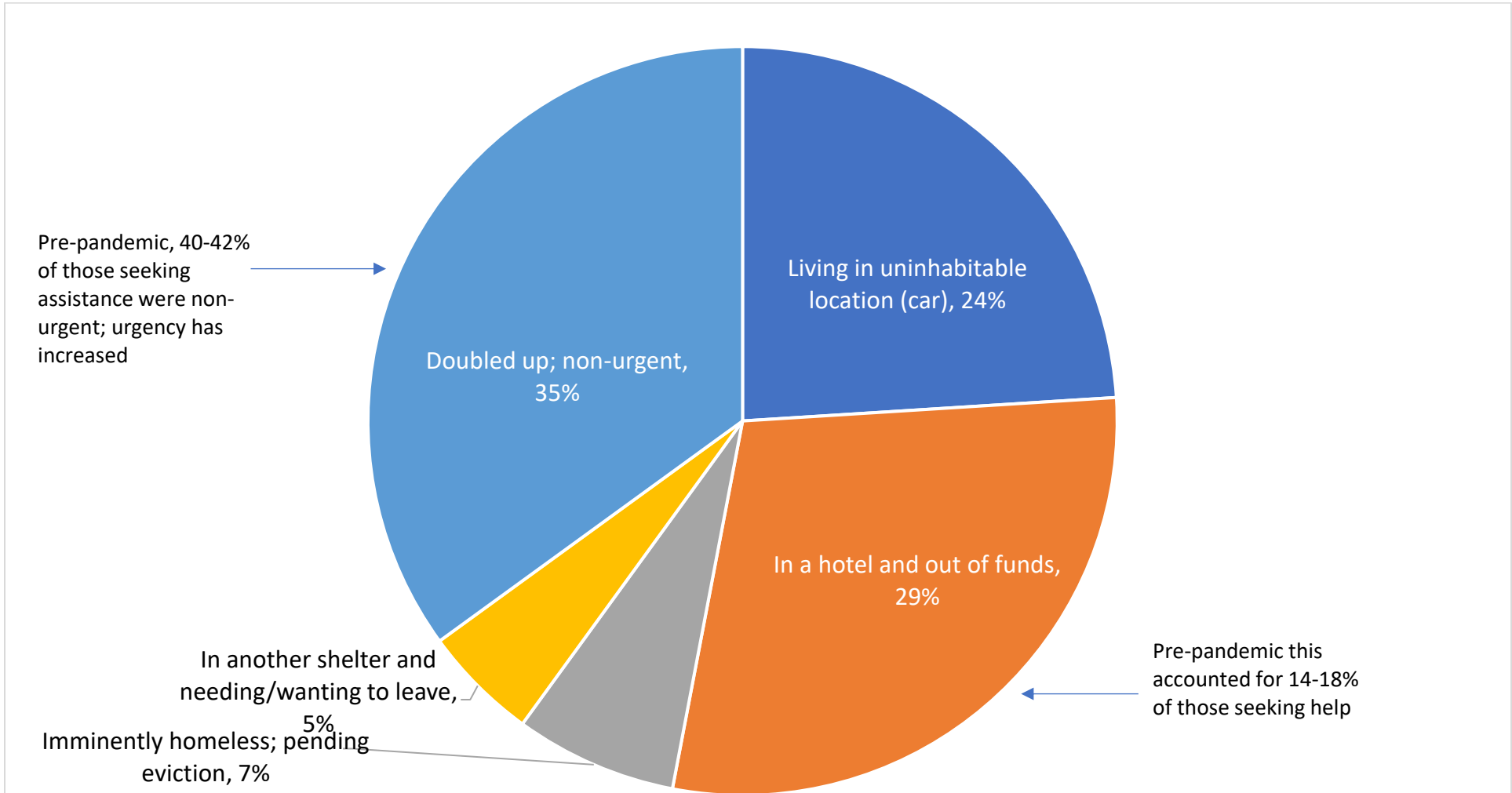
- **Salvation Army** – Single mothers with children; no boys over 17; may enter without IDs and birth certificates. This will change in mid-Sept. 2021 in an integrated service model pilot project with Family Gateway, to expand from 12 beds to up to 60 beds.
- **Union Gospel Mission Center of Hope** – Single mothers with children; no boys over 12; no prior history of domestic violence or mental illness; requires IDs for all adults and birth certificates for all children (or proof that these have been applied for). Recently re-opened for intake for new families with negative COVID-19 test within 48 hours of entry but requiring vaccination and proof that any prescribed medications have been taken consistently for 2 weeks prior to entry.
- **Dallas Life** – Single parents or married couples with kids (if marriage can be proven); requires IDs for all adults and birth certificates for all children (or proof that these have been applied for), immunization records for all children and proof that medications have been taken consistently for 2 weeks prior to entry. Closed to new intakes since March 2020. Require vaccine for entry.
- **Family Gateway** – All types of families with children, including unmarried and married couples (opposite or same sex) with children, single parents with children, tri-generational or skipped generation families (such as grandparents raising grandkids), etc. No age restrictions on boys. At least one child needs to be under 18. Exceptions: medically or developmentally dependent children over the age of 18. Will accept pregnant women with no other children if maternity shelter cannot be secured. May enter without IDs and birth certificates.

Hotel overflow – When all family shelters are full or when there is a mismatch of family type to an open shelter room, we overflow into a hotel setting.

Call Center Volume – Note call suppression while stimulus/extra unemployment and eviction bans in place during 2020; call volume to start 2021 is lower than normal as eviction bans are extended and new stimulus and unemployment benefit funding is in place; we saw call volume shift in May 2021 as benefits expire and eviction bans lift. Aug 3000+ calls due to announcement of PHA of availability of Emergency Housing Vouchers.



Pre-Screening Results to Determine Triage of Most Critical First (2021)



Hotel Overflow # of Families Served in this Setting in a Given Month

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2019	23	1	2	0	1	1	16	46	23	25	45	81
2020	80	47	53	49	38	33	58	63	56	77	63	68
2021	68	51	59	58	52	84	39*	66	119			

*In July, we began counting the Candlewood space as shelter rather than overflow hotel space.

As of Oct 12, we have 53 families at the former Candlewood Suites and 35 families at the downtown shelter which we staff with 24 x 7 security and case management from 7 AM – 11 PM. In addition, we currently have 45+ additional families in a second hotel space awaiting entry into our downtown emergency shelter or into the former Candlewood due to the recent surge of need for emergency shelter for families with children. We expanded into The Salvation Army's space in October to alleviate some pressure on overflow hotel needs.

In May, after searching for alternative solutions for families in crisis, 32 new families required shelter; for the last four months, we are averaging 60 new families per month needing shelter. We are beginning to see the effects of spending down of stimulus money and loss of extra unemployment benefits. Because we are not seeing an increase in families during the eviction process (but only after they are in hotels and cars), we would like to partner with those closer to helping with evictions to see if we can intervene earlier.

Key Federal Metrics	Benchmark	Jan 2021	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
Average length of stay in shelter (days)	30	58	50	45	61	65	68	70	69	65
Shelter utilization as compared to 100% capacity	100%	66%*	75%*	78%*	88%*	80%*	96%	98%	100%	100%+
% of those who exited from shelter who moved to + housing	65%	90%	85%	90%	100%	95%	92%	80%	99%	97%
% of families in housing with increased income	20%	52%	62%	59%	34%	54%	65%	59%	56%	52%
% who exit our housing to a destination other than homelessness	77%	98%	100%	96%	100%	99%	100%	100%	98%	99%

*Intentional reduction in shelter capacity because of COVID-19 protocols; usage of hotel space for working families.