

CODE PURPLE



Summary of Zoom Call 12/10

Please visit www.fhcodepurple.org for more information.

In previous years, Friendship House and their many Code Purple partners managed the New Castle County emergency winter shelter when the overnight temperatures dropped below freezing. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, they are unable to use the usual donated locations or rely on volunteers the same way. Because Friendship House is committed to providing winter shelter this year, they, in collaboration with the state, county, dedicated Code Purple partners, and many other agencies, will run winter programming out of the New Castle County HOPE Center.

Winter 2020-2021 Code Purple Plan:

- The county has purchased the former Sheraton Hotel on Airport Rd (now named the New Castle County HOPE Center) and FH will run Code Purple programming out of this location to house street-level homeless daily this winter. The address of the hotel is 365 Airport Road, New Castle DE 19720.
- Code Purple will begin December 15th and run through the end of March. At such a point, the County will take over trying to get folks into more significant housing. The County is retaining the hotel management staff to keep the place running.
- Code Purple will be every day and night this winter (not just when temperatures drop below freezing). Being able to offer 24 hour/ 7 day a week winter shelter during the pandemic is a huge gift and opportunity for our friends living on the streets.
- FH and Code Purple partnering congregations will not host street-level homeless at normal Code Purple locations; all guests will be placed at the hotel.
- However, Andrew's Place, the Sunday outside breakfast giveaway, and the Empowerment Center will continue to function at SsAM, following COVID protocols.

Code Purple Background and Other

The model of transforming a hotel for emergency shelter and services during the pandemic is being used nationwide by several cities. It is a model that requires collaboration, significant funding, an open mind, creativity and love for one's community. All of these things are at the table as FH is actively planning to use the Sheraton on Airport Road in New Castle as their location for winter shelter this season.

FH is anticipating a December 15 start date. They will pre-register people who are experiencing street level homelessness for space in the hotel now, starting with guests who frequent their Empowerment Centers. Referrals will be necessary to get a room.

Many logistics remain outstanding. For example, how they will feed guests in the hotel, transportation (day and night) to and from the hotel, and how referrals will work. Each room will have a refrigerator and microwave but food will need to be delivered and then microwaved. After the initial start-up, they will be looking for a caterer to provide two meals a day. There will be no communal dining.

Although the hotel will hold about 400 people, they will start with about 70. Suites and adjoining rooms will be given to families – right now there are no families on the list but this might change as folks lose their homes. Individual rooms will be assigned, with households being able to stay together.

Other agencies will be on board: Delaware Substance Abuse and Mental Health Agency; Faithful Friends to care for pets; Families with Children (if there is a need). Medical aid will be available through TeleMed. After the winter months, more agency participation will be needed as FH discontinues Code Purple. The goal is to get people into more significant housing as is currently being done by the state's voucher system.

Transportation will be provided by the two shuttles that came with the hotel purchase, along with DART. Shuttles will take folks who have jobs or appointments to the nearest Dart bus stop.

Those who are housed will be asked to "hunker in their rooms" and not congregate due to COVID. However, they will be encouraged to walk outside.

There will be the same code of conduct that FH had at its normal Code Purple programs. No smoking in rooms. Nothing illegal, but there will be no metal detectors. There will be a proactive relationship with state and county police and EMS workers.

There is no laundry room on site, but the county is looking to install washers and dryers – perhaps on each floor.

How Can SsAM Members Help? If COVID-19 guidelines allow, FH will offer volunteer opportunities. They will need hygiene items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap (regular and travel size). In addition, they will need non-perishable food items such as bottled water and individually wrapped snacks (pretzels, granola bars, fruit snacks, etc.) As well as new socks, underwear, and winter items (coats, gloves, and hats.) A list is attached to this report (it may change going forward)..

Folks can offer to volunteer in other ways by contacting volunteer@friendshiphouse.de.org or to provide supplies.

Financial support will also be needed by sending a donation to: Friendship House, PO Box 1517, Wilmington, DE 19899.

Kim Eppenhimer ended the presentation by stating, "We also will need your prayer and patience. This process is only possible because we are working in collaboration with other organizations and the New Castle County Council. This is a huge undertaking, and one we are so honored to be able to do this. We will continue to share information as we learn more and create a plan of action."

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:

Travel or Full Size Hygiene Items: - Tooth Brush - Tooth Paste - Deodorant - Bar Soap Non Perishable

Food Items: - Cases of Bottled Water - Individually Wrapped Snacks (Pretzels, Granola Bars, Fruit Snacks, etc.)

Clothing: - New Socks & Underwear - Winter Coats - Hats & Gloves

FRIENDSHIPHOUSE | PO BOX 1517 WILMINGTON, DE 19899 | (302) 652-8133

Please bring donations to Administrative Office, 1503 W 13th St., Wilmington, DE 19806

Weekdays 9am-3pm

or Boxwood Empowerment Center 701 S Maryland Ave Wilmington, DE 19804 Weekdays 9am-11:30am