



ANCHORAGE COALITION TO  
**END HOMELESSNESS**

## **MEETING NOTES**

### **Emergency Cold Weather Shelter Plan**

#### **Task Force Kickoff**

Monday Aug 29, 2022

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

ACEH 3427 E Tudor Road, Suite A

**Meeting Objective:** Organize work efforts

#### **Meeting Agenda:**

- Welcome
- Status of Immediate Shelter Activities
- Organizing the Work
- Confirm/Update Planning Assumptions and Capacity Needs
- Facilities and Site Evaluations
- Engagement & Communications
- Data Dashboard Issues and Opportunities
- Wrap Up & Next Steps
- Adjourn

#### **Meeting Summary:**

- Status of Immediate Shelter Activities:
  - Once per week, there are pop-ups at the Pena Park Pavilion by Centennial Park and will potentially expand to other locations based on where people are experiencing unsheltered homelessness with the addition of propane heaters for people to warm up at. At the pop-ups, the following items are given out: Incentive bags with premade lunches, water, and clothing.
  - There are discussions on whether the restaurant program can be leveraged with the pop-ups as the program experienced great success in the summer. Breakfast burritos and coffee could be given out. Additionally, a possible clothing exchange is in discussion.
- Organizing the Work:
  - Meg reviewed the HUD matrix tool. ACEH will continue to keep the matrix up to date.
  - The following are planning assumptions:
    - ~ 350 individuals (*including Centennial Park and other campers only*)
    - 150 capacity per site
    - 24 hours, 7 days a week shelter with meals and showers

- There will be 200 people in immediate need of shelter after the Centennial Campground closes.
- The Plan B surge will require additional capacity for significant cold weather scenarios. Something to identify is the potential trigger for activation; in other emergency plans that Meg has reviewed, five consecutive days of precipitation are a trigger. While an early PFD may provide temporary relief, it may also cause a surge in November or December.
- The following are areas that present attendees at the last meeting identified as areas they could support with volunteers listed:
  - Data
    - Celia MacLeod
    - Taylor Donovan
  - Communications with the public and community councils + buy-in and collaboration from policymakers
    - Grace Gallagher
    - Felix Rivera
    - Darrel Hess
    - Owen Hutchinson
  - Facility review
    - Chris Schutte
    - David Rittenberg
    - John Weddleton
    - Lisa Sauder
    - Individual with real estate expertise for negotiations should be added to this team
  - Engagement with unsheltered individuals
    - Roger Branson
    - Emily Edenshaw
    - Taylor Donovan
    - Bob Marx
  - Operations (staffing, transportation, service providers, RFP's, etc.)
    - Terry (*need to get last name + organization and add to participant*)

*list)*

- David Rittenberg
  - Celia MacLeod
  - Lisa Sauder (tentatively) or someone from Bean's staff
- Confirm/Update Planning Assumption and Capacity Needs:
    - Some projects have been identified and will be reviewed to give a better understanding of the subpopulations. Any subpopulations of at least 150 will likely require another facility.
    - The data analysis from the Aviator inflow and outflow shows steadiness without much variation.
    - Other impacts to think about that would affect planning assumptions:
      - Early release of PFD's at the end of September
      - Advance notice of Centennial Park closures (results in people searching for alternatives sooner)
      - Coordination of warming location(s) during cold weather
  - Facilities and Site Evaluations:
    - The facilities work group completed an initial screening of possible emergency shelter sites based off a matrix developed during the facilitated group sessions. John Weddleton reviewed the matrix and the evaluation criteria.
    - It was suggested that the group consider resources owned by private entities that could also be used as interim locations (green houses, underground parking garages, etc.) to warm people while securing other warmer locations.
    - Other criteria not listed on the matrix include municipal approval per Title 16. There is a distinction between warming and overnight accommodation due to disapproval by the Fire Marshal.
    - Most of the spaces have very few restrooms so the group is considering options that would maximize the space with the addition of external uses such as showers and bathrooms.
    - Belinda suggested splitting the criteria into two categories:
      - Screening or go/no-go criteria – Available? Suitable for occupancy with minimal modifications?
      - Ranking criteria
    - After splitting the categories, the group should reduce the list down based on the screening criteria and focus on further exploring the locations with potential. Meg estimates the list will be under 10 after further screening. It was suggested that

there be a zoning review included, too.

- The following additions to the matrix for further screening were suggested:
  - Vacant Sherwin Williams building on Commercial Drive (bathrooms, 5 showers, kitchen, 6000 sq ft, owned free and clear)
  - Existing cleared out parking lots
  - Former Native hospital site as land opportunity with Spud Farm (outside of Selawik, AK as an example)
- If there is a building identified without a sprinkler system, advocating with the Fire Marshal will be necessary; Kevin Cross could lead that effort.
- Meg reported that after inquiring with the Administration on their winter sheltering plan, she learned from Alexis Johnson, the Mayor's Chief of Staff, that information for an invitation to bid will be released this week.
- Engagement and Communications:
  - There are four questions that will be put into a survey for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness:
    - Do you have any safety concerns utilizing a shelter? (*need distinction between non-congregate and congregate*)
    - Is there a location that you feel most comfortable at?
    - If there is a food service available, regardless of whether you are staying at a shelter, would you utilize it?
    - What services do you need most right now?
  - The weekly summary will include a public facing spreadsheet with actions completed this week
  - Hearing the administration plan for winter shelter is imperative to determine how the plans may coincide.
  - The following are items to be added to the timeline in the task force charter:
    - September 1<sup>st</sup> or September 7<sup>th</sup> – Assembly to review Administration's plan at Assembly Committee on Homelessness meeting
    - September 21<sup>st</sup> – Housing and Homelessness Committee meeting to review task force recommendations (*Meg would like 3 to 4 task force members to accompany ACEH to present at this meeting to reflect that the task force is a community effort*)
    - September 23<sup>rd</sup> – Tentative Assembly work session to review appropriations or other resolution documents
  - Meg will share the link with the Fairview Community Council for the task force

website to be shared with other community members.

- Data Dashboard Issues and Opportunities:
  - There are efforts happening to investigate opportunities to show capacity on a real time basis to provide accurate information.
  - Another detail to be ironed out where people will be referred to if two facilities are stood up but neither operate 24 hours per day.
  - Hard copies of data from Centennial Park are being collected and will be entered electronically once received.
  
- Next steps:
  - **ACEH:** Get an update from the Healthy Spaces team to ensure that camp abatement is not occurring as there have been a couple reports of clean-ups happening by the Healthy Spaces team. There may be some confusion on what can and can't happen. ACEH can email Parks and Rec to get some information on this and whether advance notice will be given on Centennial Park closure.
  - **ACEH:** Send out the facilities matrix with information on triggers
  - **ACEH:** Give update on HMIS population data adjustments for assumptions on subpopulations
  - **ACEH:** Initiate emails between work groups to begin connecting them
  - **ACEH:** Follow up with Andy Nester with referral information
  - **MEG ZALETEL, JOHN WEDDLETON, CHRIS SCHUTTE:** Complete further screening of the facilities matrix using screening criteria, reduce and rank the list for review at next meeting
  - **ANCHORAGE HEALTH DEPARTMENT:** Determine the plan for reductions in rooms by month at the Aviator
  - **FELIX RIVERA:** Get updates on sprung structure, current lead and set up time, and feasibility
  - **BELINDA BREAUX:** Set up the facilities screening spreadsheet
  
- Next Meeting Agenda Items:
  - Update on immediate unsheltered response
  - Review HUD matrix and planning supports
  - Review reduced facilities list and criteria, identify next steps
  - Summarize Operations Work Group scope
  - Unsheltered survey engagement update
  - Public communications update
  - Data dashboard update