



ANCHORAGE COALITION TO  
**END HOMELESSNESS**

## MEETING NOTES

### Emergency Cold Weather Shelter Plan Task Force Kickoff

Monday Aug 31, 2022

11:30 am – 1:30 pm

ACEH 3427 E Tudor Road, Suite A

**Meeting Objective:** Coordinate progress for development of emergency shelter plan

#### Meeting Agenda:

- Welcome
- Status of Immediate Unsheltered Response
- Confirm/Update Planning Assumptions and Capacity Needs
- Data
- Facilities and Site Evaluations
- Operations Issues/Plan
- Engagement with Persons with Lived Experience
- Communications with Public

#### Meeting Summary:

- *Housekeeping*
  - No meetings next week
    - Monday is Labor Day
    - Wednesday is special committee for Assembly Committee on Housing and Homelessness; going to review Mayor's plan for winter shelter
- *Status of Immediate Unsheltered Response*
  - Meg submitted camp abatement questions to Parks & Rec Director re: whether abatement is happening, closure date for Centennial, plan for cold weather shelter. No response yet.
  - Another question in to Parks & Rec about whether warming devices (propane standing heaters) can be added to pavilions.
  - ACEH also looking into cost to add laundering / clothing exchange.
  - ACEH also has money for restaurant meals. Looking to use for unsheltered folks not at Centennial who aren't getting regular access to meals.
- *Confirm / Update Planning Assumptions and Capacity Needs*
  - Current assumptions:
    - ~ 350 capacity (includes Centennial Park and other campers only); 150 capacity per site code limitation; 24/7 shelter with meal and showers; expect increased need at 10F, with rain, and when PFD runs out.
  - Updates since Monday:
    - Data group plans to meet soon and will provide more detailed assumptions to define population that will be served.



- **Summary:**
  - A few potential locations for non-congregate shelter, specifically hotels: (America's Best Value Inn, Alex Hotel, Barratt Inn)
  - A few potential standouts for congregate locations: Benson DMV, Arctic Rec Center
    - Benson DMV could also be daytime warming center
  - Comment: These seem like frontrunners. Would be good to narrow down the list and start to dig in more.
    - Comment: Until we see the administration's plan, we don't know for sure. If their focus is only on nighttime, we might then focus on daytime and warming.
    - Comment: Not likely to get answer on whether daytime is occurring or not until there is more information about cost from the ITB. But location for people to go during the day could be helpful in any case.
    - Comment: Could be good to look at costs for daytime only; nighttime only; or both, and then compare.
      - Though Task Force has identified 24/7 as a requirement. So could look at the costs for each part, but don't want to move away from group agreements on what is considered adequate shelter.
  - Administration plan/document will be released soon. Invitation to Bid (ITB) will be open for at least 10 days.
    - Q: Will IT specify locations to bid against?
      - Yes. Plan does designate two specific locations. ITB will have specific locations in it.
    - Q: Will locations be congregate or non-congregate?
      - One part of the plan includes 2 congregate facilities, for women & children only and for single adults males.
      - Plan for a non-congregate option through the winter too.
    - Q: Is it helpful for this group to put together non-congregate options or cost estimates for combined day & night facilities? To inform the decisions that AHD needs to make.
      - Yes, it will help. Helpful to see what the different options are.
    - Q: Does ITB include co-located warming center?
      - Don't have an answer to that question.
- **Next Steps:**
  - Task Force to evaluate non-congregate locations, including a deeper dive into three potentially viable sites.
    - **Action:** deeper dive into America's Best Value Inn; Alex Hotel; Barratt Inn
  - Task Force to explore daytime opportunities.
    - **Action:** deeper dive into DMV as either daytime/warming center or congregate shelter (daytime + nighttime)
    - Comment: In prior years, some work happened ahead of winter with existing facilities, to see if during the day they could allow people to be in the facility for warming.
      - Some providers that weren't open 24 hours in the past now are, such as Brother Francis.
      - **Action:** ACEH to review past work around daytime shelter

planning.

- Outstanding question: Is it worth identifying a congregate site via the Task Force, knowing the Administration has already identified congregate location(s).
  - Comment: All ideas should remain on the table until we see the Administration plan and have time to evaluate it.
  - **Action:** Arctic Recreation Center will require at least a 1-year commitment. Follow-up to try to estimate cost.
- Feasibility of sprung structures
  - **Action:** Felix will continue outreach to understand this option.
- Question: Who will do the deep dive into evaluating these facilities, and what do we mean by deep dive in this context? Especially as a group without the resources?
  - Answer: Can go to these groups sharing that there is a potential opportunity to identify resources; first need an understanding of options and cost estimate if it were to go through.
  - Understanding basics of what it would take to operate a building, relevant Title 16 requirements, etc.
    - AHD has published policies & procedures on shelter that can inform this process.
- *Operations Issues/Plans*
  - Operations sub-group formed on Monday. Includes: Meg, Celia, David with CSS, Terry, Josh with Covenant House, Lisa Sauder with Beans, Nancy Burke, Jessica Parks, Jason, Rob Marks
  - **Action:** Sub-group will develop budget plans/estimates for 150 congregate and 150 non-congregate, as reference points.
- *Engagement with Persons with Lived Experience*
  - Survey is ready to be deployed this week.
    - Survey will be anonymous, with no personally identifying information.
  - Fifth question has been added for respondents to identify their strengths.
  - Commitment to convey information learned during the Task Force to outreach workers, so that unsheltered individuals know the latest on closure of Centennial, plans for winter, etc.
- *Communications with Public*
  - Communications sub-group discussed communications plan for the public. Group includes Felix, Julie, Grace, and Owen (ACEH Comms)
  - Group will go through list of top 5 locations and identify community councils, HOAs, business groups, etc. and develop a targeted communications list.
    - Opportunity for a community briefing and Q&A via Zoom as well, to supplement targeted communications effort.
  - Group will also do a presentation to the HLC.
  - Group plans to hold individual meetings or district meetings with Assemblymembers, and will also extend this offer to the Mayor's Office.
  - Talked about holding a cookie & coffee chat with people currently experiencing homelessness (sheltered or unsheltered) to help inform the plan.
    - **Action:** service providers can reach out to Owen at ACEH if interested in hosting a meet & greet with people with lived experience to talk about the

emergency winter shelter plan, using survey as a guide.

- Covenant House happy to host one in their cafe
- Question: How can Municipality's Houseless Lived Experience Advisory Board weigh in here?
  - This group has not met yet.
- **Action:** Communications sub-group will share a one pager at the next meeting.
- *Next Steps*
  - Add HPRS Advisory Council meeting on September 22 to timeline for presenting/gathering feedback.
  - No meetings next week, but sub-groups will meet and report back the following week.
  - Task Force invited to come to special Assembly Housing & Homelessness Committee meeting. Wednesday, September 7, from 12:40-2pm at the Loussac Library.