



ANCHORAGE COALITION TO
END HOMELESSNESS

MEETING NOTES

Emergency Cold Weather Shelter Plan Task Force Kickoff

Wednesday Sep 14, 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
- Engagement with Persons with Lived Experience
- Communications with Public
- Administration Proposed Plan Updates
- Facilities and Site Evaluations
- Data
- Operations Issues/Plans
- Menu of Potential Options
- Wrap Up & Next Steps
- Adjourn

Meeting Summary:

- *Administration Proposed Plan Updates*
 - Recreation centers are no longer being considered by the administration.
- *Menu of Potential Options*
 - Projected need: 350 unsheltered individuals; with PFD's depositing 9/20 and paper checks available first week of October, assumed to have a 75% or lower initial occupancy in the first couple weeks (~263 people)
 - Recap of components to emergency shelter defined by the task force: 24/7 access, meals, showers available, limitation of 150 in Title 16 (could be changed by Assembly approval); add required use of HMIS data entry and room on site for warming tent?
 - Non-MOA Sites
 - No private locations confirmed for immediate lease to MOA for non-congregate or congregate sheltering purposes
 - Potential options with later start dates include Arctic Recreation Center (requires 1-year lease, has current programming) and former Alaska Native Charter School (\$15K/month + utilities, waiting on potential purchase status, has unresolved compatibility issues)
 - Housing options not immediately available with November-December activation
 - MOA Sites (*sites with most potential for September launch*)
 - Recreation centers withdrawn from consideration by Mayor on 9/13/22 (\$1.352M cost for both sites for 3 months, withdrawn due to considerable

- pushback)
 - Ben Boeke ice arena: Current “home” of Wolverines hockey, low density facility for surge purposes, but shut down in summer of 2020 due to lack of need for quarantine/isolation
 - Dempsey Anderson ice arena. Consider temporary use of Dempsey with demobilization ASAP. Also need to investigate security measures given proximity to Romig Middle School.
 - Sullivan Arena: Damage at Sullivan due to earthquake, not from mass care use
 - Dena’ina and Egan Centers: Both have winter bookings
 - Golden Lion Hotel: Non-congregate and MOA owned housing assumptions apply
 - All MOA sites meet task force criteria
 - Budget estimates were shared for MOA-owned congregate, leased congregate and non-congregate shelters, leased hotel housing, purchased hotel conversion housing, and MOA building housing. The estimates were built on assumptions and Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) costs were provided.
- Other Options
 - Navigation Center (Assembly action delayed further appropriation consideration to 10/11)
 - Mini grants (Scattered site model, allowing providers to scale up current operations)
 - **Action:** ACEH to research information on mini grants and report back to task force
 - 20 portables at 1-2 locations (No MOA or other location yet identified, safe heating system, separate sanitation system required, pallet shelters likely challenging with supply chain issues extending timeline to stand up). Potential for high security risks.
 - **Action:** ACEH to email Cathleen McLaughlin to learn more about pallet shelters project
- It was suggested that the task force consider the use of the University of Alaska-Anchorage and Alaska Pacific University dorms.
- Municipal-owned facilities are more likely to be turned on within 15 days. For non-municipal owned facilities, it typically takes 30 to 60 days to release an invitation-to-bid (ITB) or request for proposal (RFP) to operate the facility and then obtain Assembly approval.
- There was discussion on taking a distributed approach to sites that are geographically diverse, a component the facilities work group considered during site evaluation, which would look at workable capacity for each site with maximum capacity spread over multiple sites. Additionally, the task force should consider feasible sites with existing capacity to build on.
- If a location such as the Dempsey Arena is identified, a demobilization plan should be recommended to the Assembly, too.
- The task force reviewed the following sites (MOA and non-MOA) as potential recommendations based on the following tiers:
 - Tier 1: Physically appropriate, can be turned on by 9/29 by municipal approval
 - MOA sites:
 - Golden Lion: Physically appropriate for non-congregate or housing, 85 rooms, 170 people with roommates, near transportation, dangerous intersection
 - Dempsey Ice Arena: Cots available through MOA, only operate

- one ice rink at a time, has showers, 245 people
 - Ben Boeke Ice Arena: Home of the Wolverines, downtown
 - Egan Center: Only use on convention center, carpeting throughout, shower trailer indoor accessibility, concentration of services downtown
 - Den'aina Center: Only use on convention center, no showers, carpet in facilities increases repair costs, concentration of services downtown
 - MAC Eagle River: No, needs to be in Anchorage
 - Recreation Centers: Fits criteria but significant community impact
- Non-MOA sites:
 - Covenant House for 18-24 y/o with 25 beds (non-MOA)
 - Beans Café for 40 people (non-MOA)
 - MAC hockey rink in Eagle River (non-MOA)
- Tier 2: Physically appropriate with owner interest
 - Salvation Army gym (non-MOA)
- Tier 3: Reason to believe the site is physically appropriate with potential owner interest
- A priority of the task force is to minimize displaced user groups that will be caused by the selection of certain sites. Thus, the task force is to consider where displaced user groups can be accommodated in other locations.
- **Requests from Communications Work Group:**
 - There have been media requests to speak on the work of the task force. As such, the work group requests that the task force identify a spokesperson to speak to the media on the decisions and recommendations made, preferably a service provider, shelter operator, or Lisa Aquino whose name was previously suggested.
- **Action:** ACEH to capture availability of landlord housing project
- **Action:** Meg to develop a draft of tier one recommendations by the end of this week and provide to Assembly
- *Next Steps*
 - Meg will provide the Assembly with a list of Tier One recommendations by the end of this week.
 - Task force subcommittees to draft a summary of work done thus far by 9/19