



Emergency Shelter Task Force Charter

Task Force Purpose:

The Emergency Shelter Task Force (“Task Force”) is charged by the Anchorage Assembly with recommending options for emergency shelter for the winter of 2022-2023 (approximately October to April) for adults experiencing unsheltered homelessness in Anchorage. A separate body will address immediate emergency shelter needs and provide updates to the Task Force for awareness and opportunities for alignment.

Milestones and Deliverables:

- 8/22: Kickoff Meeting
- 8/24: Establish planning assumptions
- 9/7: Special Housing / Homelessness Committee meeting to review Administration’s plan
- 9/19: Finalize possible alternatives for recommendations
- TBD: Public engagement session(s)
- 9/21: Present draft recommendations to Assembly Committee on Housing and Homelessness
- 9/22: Present draft recommendations to COC Advisory Council
- 9/23: Facilitate Assembly work session
- 9/27: Present recommendations in writing to the Anchorage Assembly and the Mayor to include options considered, options recommended and rough order of magnitude costs and timelines.

Goals and Desired Outcomes:

Recommendations:

- Reduce the risk of exposure to winter conditions to persons experiencing homelessness.
- Are feasible to implement for this winter.
- And planning process support a long-term strategy for emergency cold weather shelter and other emergency shelter situations.
- Leverage moving people to being housed.
- Will be seriously considered by the Anchorage Assembly and Mayor.
- Have public support.

Approach:

- Meetings will be open to the public via TEAMS with opportunities for the public to provide feedback, concerns and suggestions. Recordings and documentation of meetings will be posted on the ACEH website.
- Employ quality decision making principles to develop and evaluate options, review data and information and agree on recommendations.
- Agree on the parameters that define the expected emergency cold weather shelter needs including subpopulations and capacity.
- Identify multiple potential options that could be implemented to provide emergency shelter for this winter.
- Establish the rough order of magnitude costs and timelines for the alternatives.

- Agree on criteria, including consideration of best practices and local ordinances, to evaluate alternatives.
- Evaluate alternatives and develop recommendations.
- Proactively communicate and engage with key stakeholders including persons currently experiencing homelessness, local community councils, and service providers.
- Learn from the experiences of other communities.

Participant Expectations:

- Participants represent a cross-section of local government and policy makers, service providers, subject matter experts, and people with lived experience.
- Participants commit to attend meetings Monday and Wednesday each week and to complete work between meetings in support of the task force objectives.

Participants

- Aris Brimanis / Terry Bookey – SALA Medical
- Brian McCutcheon/Michelle Baker – SCF
- Chris Schutte – Private Contractor
- Darrel Hess - Ombudsman
- Dave Kuiper – Christian Health Associates
- David Rittenberg– CSS
- Elizabeth and Lynda – House of Transformation
- Emily Edenshaw – ACEH Board Member
- Felix Rivera – Anchorage Assembly
- Grace Gallagher – Data Experience and Community Member
- Jessica Parks – AC Advisory Council Chair
- Johnathan Pistotnik – Re-entry Coalition
- Josh Louwerse/Alison Kear – Covenant House
- Julie Graham – community member, Central Lutheran Church
- Karen Clemens – Partners for Progress
- Kenny Petersen – Community Member and Faith Community
- *Lisa Aquino – Neighborhood Health Center
- Lisa Sauder – Beans Café
- Meg Zaletel/Celia McLeod/ Terria Ware/ Owen Hutchinson – ACEH
- Nancy Burke – United Way of Anchorage
- Prince Nwankudm / Adaeze Woku – RACS
- Robert Marx – RuralCap
- Roger Branson – Lived Experience and Mental Health Advocate
- Andee Nester/Patricia Main – Anchorage Health Department
- Taryn Link – Dept. of Corrections
- Taylor Donovan – CITC
- Shelley Rowton – Assembly Legislative Services
- Belinda Breaux – Facilitator

* call for decision points or specific meetings