

MOA Task Force on Sanctioned Camps

Support Services subgroup Meeting Notes June 9, 2023

- David Rittenberg, Catholic Social Services, Sr Dir Adult Homeless Services
- Jenn Miller, ShoweredinGrace, 1st United Methodist Church
- Betty Hertz, Community Member, volunteered at Centennial 2022 and Emergency Cold Weather Shelter volunteer
- Silvia Villamides, Exec. Director AKHR (Alaska Hospitality Retailers), President Downtown Community Council
- Izzy Gingell, Community Member, Muldoon, operated Food Bank in Fairbanks
- Michele Brown, Sr Fellow Rasmuson Foundation, working on homelessness
- Kris Stoechner, Midtown Community Council
- Group Notetaker and lead: Betsy Baker, Community member, Emergency Cold Weather Shelter volunteer

Overall goal: Sanctioned camp residents and their surrounding neighborhood members feel and ARE safe, respected, respectful, and welcomed/welcoming, with possibility of nurturing mutual community.

Support services recommendations fall into **two “baskets”**: 1) Basic onsite needs and 2) Connecting residents to services available at other locations such as the Third Avenue Navigation and Resource Center (3NRC), The HOPE Center, Brother Francis Shelter (BFS), and Streets to Success.

1) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROVIDING BASIC ONSITE NEEDS

A) **Staffed desk for welcome and general information**, with intake form, opt-in form for HMIS, etc. and organized site selection. *(Forms and details to be determined by operator with Muni legal?)*

- Staffing level: 1 staff person per 20 residents. 3-4 staff during day, 2-3 at night.
- Check in (and check out?) system (for services, day work, etc.)
- Use relocatable unit for check in, dry workspace, and locker service
- Projected costs:
 - Staffing: \$??
 - Other (e.g., paperwork, relocatable): \$??

B) Food and potable water

- Require food provider to have commercial kitchen license, food handlers, etc.
- Operator should have a plan for non-residents showing up seeking food
 - Wristband system was used at Centennial
 - Balance being a place of yes with discouraging regular expectation of meals for non-residents
 - Fairbanks food bank had good experience with Vouchers from local restaurant partners
- Projected costs:
 - Meals: est. \$15/pp/day for three meals/day
 - Water? Ensure potable water hookup or other source: \$??

C) Toilets and Showers

- Bathrooms: Porta Potties or bathroom trailers (One toilet for every ten people?)
 - Handwashing stations: Example: \$ 400 for [portable handwash station](#)
- Showers: If at all possible, offer on site
 - Portable three-unit shower trailer:
 - Requires onsite electricity, which is available.
 - Water costs depend on availability of water on site, whether Muni has water truck, etc.
 - Not winter capable (would work inside a large building)
 - CSS shuttle can also bring folks to 3RNC HOPE Center for showers (but try to avoid large influx)
- Projected costs:
 - Bathrooms/Toilets: \$??
 - Showers: \$??

D) Clothing, Storage, Warmth

- Provide gym bag for personal items
- Storage: lockers in relocatable or Conex until pallet homes are in service
- Clothing: Devise system for connecting donations to site, put out a list of what is needed to non-profits, community councils, and congregations
- Warming/Cooling in a tent or relocatable, which could also serve as a dry workspace for staff.
 - Projected costs:
 - Bathrooms/Toilets: \$??
 - Showers: \$??

E) First aid

Clearly define first aid in an MOA contract with provider such as Sala Medics to have professionals (EMTs, Medics) administer onsite care 3 or more days per week and/or as needed.

- Projected costs:
 - Provider contract: \$??

F) Electricity, WiFi

Electricity at minimum for charging stations, with monitor (or self-monitored) (e.g. numbered power strips)

WiFi: hardware and protocols, logins etc.

- Projected costs:
 - Charging Stations: \$??
 - Wifi hardware: \$??

G) Transportation

- Bus passes where appropriate e.g. for confirmed appointments
- CSS can commit to provide its shuttle between camp site and 3NRC, HOPE Center, etc., for connecting with service providers, but not for general mobility
- Consider options for residents requiring more assistance (e.g. hearing or communication impaired)
- Projected costs: \$??

● RECOMMENDATIONS Re: CONNECTING RESIDENTS WITH SERVICES

- A. Bringing service providers or case managers on site is not feasible for staffing, case load, and other reasons (and was not done at Centennial)
- B. 3NRC hosts some two dozen service providers in a single location
- C. CSS can commit to provide its shuttle between camp site and 3NRC, HOPE Center, etc.
- D. Options for augmenting services:
 - a. Consider having someone (?? SPECIFY WHO) do coordinated entry assessment on site, to connect residents to existing case managers who can direct them to specific services.
 - b. ACEH Outreach popups are another model to augment shuttling residents to 3NRC

- c. With effective intake, camp staff can communicate on a regular basis to the service providers how many residents need to be connected with which category of services.
- E. For onsite staff, consider how to work with communication challenges and the need for translators and relationship building with individuals,
- F. Work to make connections easier for camp residents to connect with services providers **and** between service providers, volunteers, etc.
- G. Types of services to be connected to:
 - a. Medical Appointments
 - b. Permanent housing assistance with guidance
 - c. Job training and education with guidance
 - d. Food Stamps
 - e. MCD/MCR
 - f. Social Security benefits
 - g. BIA/Alaska Native benefits
 - h. Offer a way to get to their families or hometown – if that’s what is keeping the individual homeless.

CLOSING OBSERVATIONS:

Note to team: I’m leaning toward simply providing these comments orally and not including them in the presentation. Thoughts?

The Muni and the Site Operator must Communicate clearly who will be able to reside at the Sanctioned Camp

A key decision for the Muni and the Operator of the Cuddy Temporary Sanctioned Camp is determining who will be able to stay at the camp. A clear process is essential for communicating this information to those seeking shelter as well as the surrounding community.

This question most likely falls under the Operations and Management subgroup, but potentially impacts “Safety and Security” as well as “Support Services”.

Options: (Self)Selection or Walkup First Come/First Served

Low barrier services like a sanctioned camp are typically available on basis of residents self-selecting to live there. Space constraints, and the presumed goal of reducing the number of potential residents showing up at the site when there is no space, suggest that a combination of the following approaches may work best:

- Option 1) work with ACEH outreach teams to select or reach out to folks to access this camp. If outreach team knows how much space is available, they could offer it.

- Option 2): walkup on a first come, first served basis, but this could pose an issue with the limited number of spaces. The Brother Francis Shelter uses a rolling bed system, so that when beds open up, those waiting for a space are taken in.

The Muni's legal team should be involved in the decision. Regardless of which option is chosen, the site operator and Muni need to develop a clear COMMUNICATION PLAN to potential residents and to neighbors and could work with ACEH Outreach to distribute it widely.

- Consider a goal of striking a balance between a completely open entry policy or having some barriers to entry such as a process that ensures resident dignity and well-functioning management of the site and services.

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