

Restorative and Reentry Services, LLC

3734 Mount Blanc Circle

Anchorage, Alaska 99508

Email: cathleen@restorativeentryservices.com

monica@restorativeentryservices.com

(907) 342-5380

Emergency Cold Weather Shelter 3rd Party Oversight

Weekly Report for Week 20 - Corrected

Project Name: 3rd Party Emergency Shelter Oversight

Submitted to: Anchorage Assembly, Anchorage Mayor's Office, Anchorage Health Dept., and Shelter Operators (Henning, Inc. and The Alaska Hotel Group)

Date: Reporting period April 1 - 7, 2024

Date Submitted: April 10, 2024

Submitted by: Cathleen McLaughlin, JD/MBA

Monica Gross MD, MPH

A. Background

As required under Contract #2023003145, fully executed on November 17, 2023, RRS submits its Weekly Report for Week 20. This report is for the period April 1 - 7, 2024.

B. Actions and Events During this Reporting Period

1. RRS focus is on operations at the 3 Emergency Cold Weather Shelter sites (CWS, The Alex Hotel, The Aviator).

2. **Key topics:**

A. **Client engagement, stabilization, and exit plans.** The Emergency Cold Weather Shelter (ECWS) project is ending on May 31, 2024. RRS, as well as shelter staff, continue to encourage shelter clients to look towards this reality and make some plan for themselves. As noted in the decompression plan below, ECWS sites are slowly beginning to reduce usage of the 2 non-congregate sites in an effort to make complete closure on May 31, 2024 the least abruptive as possible.

Clients who have contacted RRS who do not have exit-from-shelter plans, do express worry that they will lose the stability that they have had while being in shelter and, it will be lost if all shelter sites close. Some clients have openly stated that returning to survival-mode outside

after May 31, 2024 is a disappointment. As noted in Report #19, ECWS stakeholders are all mindfully attempting to address these client concerns. Within the last few days, RRS has listened to many clients who are unsure where they can set up their tents. Without guidance, clients will 'go where they know' upon shelter exit.

B. **All 3 ECWS sites continue to be well-operated.** RRS will not reiterate what has been reported in prior reports except to state that all 3 sites have policies, processes, and practices that cause the ECWS to be well-operated.

C. **Review of exit data by RRS.**

During this reporting period, 5 clients were housed from the Aviator and 6 were housed from the Alex.

D. **Decompression of ECWS Sites**

Under the decompression plan, CWS will continue to accept clients up to 200. As of April 10, 2024, the Alex has stopped taking new clients and is currently at a census of 72. The Aviator is accepting new clients from CWS but will go down from 274 spots to 246 on April 15, 2024, and then reduce down to 168 on May 1, 2024. The reduction in room usage is happening through a process of attrition, ie., after clients exit, the room is taken off-line, rather than proactively removing clients from rooms. RRS supports this decompression process because it is the least disruptive.

As of April 1, 2024, the owners of the Alex and Aviator have entered into an agreement with the Anchorage Health Department (AHD) whereby AHD will only be charged for rooms used. RRS strongly supports this change in the shelter contracts because AHD will only be paying for rooms actively utilized, not empty rooms.

E. **Client Call Log** – This workbook continues to be used as the daily call log for RRS. It is submitted to AHD daily. All matters brought to RRS's attention by clients and community members were timely noted and addressed by RRS, AHD and the shelter operators.

F. **Incidences** – One overdose was reported from CWS which required CWS staff to perform CPR, administer Narcan, and have AFD respond. No overdoses or significant events were reports at Alex or Aviator.

C. Shelter Operations

1. **Alex – Non-congregate**

The Alex continues to be operated well. Next Step program continues as planned and scheduled. No clients in the Next Step program have exited the program.

2. **CWS – Congregate Shelter**

CWS continues to be operated well. The only client concerns RRS received related to CWS clients wanting to be moved to the 2 non-congregate sites and felt they were being overlooked. All of these concerns were addressed by RRS and Henning, Inc. and resolved appropriately.

Anchorage Neighborhood Health is coming to CWS and did provided services at CWS Thursday, April 4, 2024.

3. Aviator – Non-congregate.

The Aviator continues to be operated well. Individuals at CWS continue to be moved to Aviator at this time. However, as noted above, the census at Aviator will reduce from 274 client spots to 218 on April 15, 2024 so the number of transfers from CWS to the Aviator will slow as that date nears.

D. Recommendations, Conclusions and Summary

RRS continues to recommend that ECWS stakeholders build positive momentum around shelter services, exit plans and solution-based practices. Complete closure of ECWS sites is currently set for May 31, 2024. RRS recommends that all stakeholders in shelter services consider having a year-around low-barrier shelter for those clients who do not have the means or capacity to safely shelter on their own. For many, the ECWS has provided them more stability than they have had in years. Some have noted this winter was the first time they had used shelter and become stable because they started trusting the process and staff at the ECWS sites. RRS recommends that all stakeholders in shelter services find a path to allow this momentum to continue.

Any questions, please contact RRS through phone, text, or email at any time.

Respectfully Submitted, Cathleen N. McLaughlin, J.D./M.B.A. Monica Gross MD, MPH