



Mass Care Transition Update

June 22, 2021

Scope

Current MOA-funded shelter capacity	760 beds
Current demand/utilized capacity	662 beds (327 congregate; 317 non-congregate)

Timeline

The end of the federal disaster remains unspecified, but the Municipality has prioritized transitioning out of the current mass shelter situation to avoid a disruption of services in the fall while returning the Sullivan Arena to its original use.

Priorities

- *Step 1:* Transition out of the Sullivan congregate shelter by fall
- *Step 2:* Transition out of the current non-congregate shelter setup after congregate shelter transition has occurred

Step 1 Plan

The current administration's plan is not one-size-fits-all. Rather, this plan recognizes A) community concern with the impacts of large shelter facilities, and B) the need for multiple solutions and multiple partners working together to successfully transition out of a shelter the size of the Sullivan by fall. **The following summarizes the current administration's plan for Step 1: standing down the roughly 400-person Sullivan Arena shelter.**

Strategy	# Served
Transition to housing through a new Housing First Case Management contract	75
Transition to housing through existing community case management programs	75
Transition to existing shelter or temporary non-congregate shelters	90
Transition to assisted living/respice care	45
Transition to a new congregate shelter	125
Total	410

House 75 people in the near-term via Housing First Case Management Contract with Catholic Social Services. Full contract capacity for case management to house 300 individuals. The contract was finalized on June 17, and CSS is ramping up staff.

House 75 people via other case management efforts. Mass Care staff have housed 28 individuals from MOA-funded facilities in the last month. 10 more are scheduled to move

into housing next month. Note: Transitional providers are housing 136 people per month on average in 2021. Mass Care staff are working with ACEH in weekly problem-solving sessions to find solutions to rehouse the most challenging to house. ARPA funds support out-flow coordinator at ACEH to facilitate rehousing efforts at all shelters in the MOA.

Move 90 people from the Sullivan to non-congregate shelter or existing community shelters. Mass Care relocated 20 people to NCS over the weekend and are moving 10 more tomorrow. With the CDC reduction in recommended social distancing—down to six-foot head-to-head rather than six-foot all the way around each cot for asymptomatic clients—existing community shelters are regaining capacity. ARPA funds are supporting additional services for several traditional providers.

Transition 45 people to assisted living or similar facilities to address higher medical needs. McKinley Care is working on placing the first 20. Efforts here are being hampered by the time it takes to get people qualified for Medicaid.

Shelter 125 people at a new congregate shelter. The MOA has an option to purchase the former Alaska Club on Tudor Road. Although Mass Care has a targeted usage of 125 beds for this facility to mitigate off-site impacts, the architect has determined the sleeping space is scalable and could be reconfigured for up to 315 cots. Additional space is also available in the building for on-site medical clinics, case management, and other support needs. The current administration put forth the Alaska Club location after a long and diligent search process that emphasized a need to quickly transition a new facility into a shelter for 125 people while keeping costs low for taxpayers.

Step 2 Plan: Non-congregate shelter will be addressed following the stepdown of the Sullivan, including via housing 225 additional people through the Housing First Case Management Contract and housing additional people with existing providers as they increase capacity over time.

Long-Term Considerations:

- Higher demand for services expected in the fall and winter
- Need to prioritize housing and services to address size of shelter population in Anchorage
- Inadequate services to address behavioral health needs and substance use disorders in people experiencing homelessness in Anchorage
- Partnership with ACEH, HLC, and traditional providers is critical as they will remain in the operating environment after Mass Care has demobilized