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Emergency Cold Weather Shelter 3rd Party Oversight

Weekly Report for Week 24

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 29 – May 5, 2024

Date Submitted: May 8, 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 24. This report is for the period April 29 – May 5, 2024 (with some data from May 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).

The current census of ECWS sites as of May 7, 2024:

CWS - 200 (CWS is maintaining a census around 200 since the decompression of the other 2 ECWS sites)

Aviator – 180 (This ECWS site decompressed from 210 to 180 since April 30, 2024) Closure remains set for May 31, 2024 with reductions during the month of May expected to be through attrition.

Alex - 0 (Complete closure of the Alex as an ECWS site was set and occurred on May 7, 2024. RRS will report on how many were housed below and will confirm and add to the housing numbers in RRS's Final 360 Assessment).

2. **Key topics:**

A. **Maintenance and plumbing repairs at CWS.**

Previously reported maintenance and plumbing repairs at CWS are complete. Both the women's and men's bathrooms are available. Men and women are now able to shower at CWS. 4 Porta potties continue to be on site but are scheduled to be picked up by the supplier. RRS recommends that a thorough report of the long-term viability and capacity of the sanitation system at CWS be done if CWS continues to be the site of a low-barrier shelter.

B. **Client engagement, stabilization, and exit plans.** RRS is receiving calls and texts from individuals who were previous ECWS clients who now are living in vehicles or outside. Very few client contacts have been from current clients of the ECWS programs. As noted in Weekly Report #23, the growing frustration of individuals not currently in ECWS is that they do not know where they are allowed to camp, sleep outside without a tent, or park in order to live in their vehicle. For a few, closure of the ECWS system and having nowhere to go has prompted them to return to family, but most do not have that opportunity. RRS will continue to engage with clients and those currently unsheltered during this last month of ECWS operations to gain more information on how significant this gap in services is, and will address this gap in RRS's Final 360 Assessment.

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

Henning, Inc. has agreed to work with RRS and provide final and confirmed client exit from shelter data for RRS's Final 360 Assessment. RRS will be meeting with Henning, Inc. on May 20, 2024 to work through the data.

4. **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.

5. **Incidences** – No overdoses or significant incidences were reported.

C. Shelter Operations

1. **Alex – Non-congregate (Closed)**

It has been reported to RRS by Alex shelter management that 112 individuals have been housed from the Alex. This includes individuals who were housed through the 'Next Step' program as well as through other housing programs and usage of vouchers.

2. **CWS – Congregate Shelter (Being used at Capacity)**

CWS continues to be operated at or near capacity. CWS reports that no one has been turned away if they are eligible for a bed because there has been a high daily turnover rate

(ie. 17 cots were opened and filled on April 30.) It was reported to RRS on 5/6/2024 that as of that date, all cots were occupied but due to high turnover, no one was turned away.

3. **Aviator – Non-congregate.**

The census is now 180, 30 less than last week. 3 individuals were transferred to Complex Care and others have found housing with the assistance of the housing specialists. To date, it is reported 73 individuals have been housed through the Aviator program to date.

D. Recommendations, Conclusions and Summary

Anchorage's ECWS program for the winter of 2023-2024 is ending May 31, 2024. Lessons learned, strengths and weaknesses, gaps in services, and recommendations will be addressed in RRS's Final 360 Assessment which will be completed within the month of May.

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