

# **Restorative and Reentry Services, LLC**

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## **Restorative and Reentry Services, LLC's Weekly Report #26**

### **For the Period – 4/28/2025 – 5/4/2025 Under**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Party Oversight Contract**

**Project Name: 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Emergency Cold Weather Shelter Oversight**

**Submitted to: Farina Brown, Thea Bemben, (Special Assistants to the Mayor), Becky Windt Pearson (Municipal Manager), Anchorage Assembly, Anchorage Health Dept., and Shelter Operators (Catholic Social Services, MASH, and Henning, Inc.)**

**Date: Reporting period April 28 – May 4, 2025**

**Date Submitted: May 23, 2025**

**Submitted by: Cathleen McLaughlin and Emily Robinson**

#### **A. Background**

As required under the Contract For Professional Services with Restorative & Reentry Services, LLC (RRS), fully executed on October 31, 2024, RRS submits its Weekly Report for Week 26. With the de-compression and end of the ECWS season, RRS will be preparing its Final ECWS 360 Assessment.

The Emergency Cold Weather Shelter (ECWS) non-congregate programs, based on contracts in place, ended April 30, 2025. As of April 30, 2025, MASH de-compressed and closed 132 beds at Alex 1. With an extension, Henning, Inc. will de-compress beds at Alex 2 and Merrill Field through May 15, 2025.

The congregate shelter operated by Catholic Social Services (Cold Weather Shelter - CWS) will remain open with a capacity of 200 beds. During this reporting period, MASH decompressed Alex 1 through the process described in RRS Report #25. The final closure of Alex 1 occurred on April 30, 2025 as planned with 20 clients discharged on the final day. All clients of Alex 1 were given the choice to fold into other shelter beds, be referred to other shelter sites outside of ECWS programs, return to family or self-discharge to locations not shared with ECWS shelter programs. A total of 27 who utilized Alex 1 moved into permanent housing.

De-compression of other non-congregate shelter sites was planned as follows:

1. Alex 2 and Merrill Field, operated by Henning, Inc., were scheduled to reduce from 158 to 0 by May 15, 2025 with the 42 beds at Henning House not scheduled for de-compression at this time. (NOTE: As of the time of the submission of this report, the Henning House was approved to house 94 through June 30, 2025).
2. Shelter clients assessed as being highly-vulnerable at the Alex and Merrill locations were given preference to transfer to open beds in the ECWS system or transferred to other shelter sites such as Complex Care (when beds became available).

## **B. Contract Compliance**

	Non-Compliance	Pending/Progressing	Compliant	Comments
<b>Catholic Social Services</b>				
Integration, collaboration, contract compliance		X		3.6 Contract language requires client intakes within 48 hours of entry by a housing specialist and a case manager.
Health, Safety, Client Concerns			X	(Note: Plumbing at CWS has been a continual challenge with intermittent closing of the showers and client bathrooms. Use of the outdoor porta potties has increased. RRS reports that since this building issue is not in CSS's control, CSS remains compliant despite this health risk of not have sufficient sanitation at CWS)
Transportation		X		3.7.1 Contract language requires daily bus passes for any client who requests a bus pass. (on-going)
Data Reporting			X	Compliant based on data system process discussed in meeting between CSS & RRS conducted on 4/10/25.
<b>Henning, Inc.</b>				
Integration, collaboration, contract compliance			X	
Health, Safety, Client Concerns			X	
Transportation	X			Client transportation is not being provided per 3.7.1 contract language. Bus passes have not been available to clients as required.
Data Reporting			X	
Warming			X	
<b>MASH</b>				
Integration, collaboration, contract compliance			X	
Health, Safety, Client Concerns			X	
Transportation			X	
Data Reporting			X	
<b>ESS</b>				
Quality			X	
Quantity			X	

## **C. Shelter Operator Highlights**

The following information has been voluntarily shared by program operators. The information below does *not* account for *all* program data.

- MASH - Alex 1
  - Data provided regarding decompression of Alex 1 is that decompression began April 14, 2025 with the focus on a mindful and orderly process of transfers and discharges of clients to alternate shelter sites, Complex Care, and into housing.
  - Preliminary data showed the final 139 clients exited Alex 1 to housing (12), other shelter sites (67), family (1), hospital (2), Complex Care (2), shelter warming (32), and unknown (22).
- Henning, Inc. (Alex, Merrill Field, Henning House): (Data not received)
- CSS – CWS (Data was not received)

## **D. Client Feedback**

RRS met with clients individually. Client feedback:

- Strong messaging continues by RRS and non-congregate shelter staff for clients to proactively exit shelter into stability with an emphasis in utilizing rental assistance funds that were approved by the Assembly on April 15, 2025 (on-going).
- Consistent and available transportation has been and remains a challenge (on-going).
- Clients have taught RRS that with seasonal shelter, some shelter clients have normalized using shelter in the winter and living outdoors in the warmer seasons. Understanding this pattern and breaking the cycle (annual shelter to outdoors – outdoors to shelter) is possible with year-round shelter opportunities.

#### **E. Incident Report/Discharge Data**

Incident report data provided to the Anchorage Health Department and RRS reflects the top reasons for discharge/incidents continue to be:

1. Discharges - Missed curfew, violation of rules, and unsafe or aggressive behavior.
2. Incidents – Most that were reported related to activities and behavior around the use of street drugs. (Note: CWS re-directed some staff to the areas where unhealthy activities were increasing (such as the parking lot at CWS or at or around the outdoor porta potties) in order to more pro-actively address this issue. No overdose deaths occurred during this reporting period.

#### **F. Actions and Events During this Reporting Period**

1. Warming was open from 8:00 pm-8:00 am daily throughout this reporting period. Warming served 41 - 60 unique individuals each day. Due to a continuing high need, warming has been extended to May 30, 2025. RRS and Henning, Inc. will be verifying data regarding the usage of the warming site in order to inform policy makers of the usage of warming.
2. RRS continued to work closely with MASH and Henning, Inc. to streamline the decompression processes, identify highly vulnerable, and meet with clients in person or by phone to discuss transitions from to the Alex Hotel.
3. Some living outdoors did transition into the shelter system, with coordination by and between shelter operators, the APD HOPE team, the Mayor's office, RRS and the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH). RRS continues to attend the weekly outreach meeting with the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness in continued coordination between outreach teams and shelter. (on-going)
4. Over this reporting period, planning continued for the Rapid Rehousing Rental Assistance funds. (See Report #25) Release of the Rapid Rental Assistance application is now anticipated to be May 8, 2025.

#### **G. RRS's Recommendations, Conclusions and Summary**

1. High-users of warming need to be outreached by community providers in order to link those who are ready and willing to existing community programs. (Some outreach has occurred but more is needed).

2. RRS incorporates, by reference, the recommendations made in prior reports.

**Respectfully Submitted, Cathleen N. McLaughlin, J.D./M.B.A., Emily Robinson, MS**