

From: [Rivera, Felix](#)
To: [Turner, Travis A.](#)
Subject: Fw: Questions for 11.15 H&H Committee
Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:43:01 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Can you put this email string on the committee website?

Thank you,
Felix Rivera
Midtown Assembly Member
felix.rivera@anchorageak.gov
(907)-764-0841
He/Him/His

Dena'inaq elnen'aq' gheshtnu ch'q'u yeshdu. (Dena'ina)

I live and work on Dena'ina land. (English)

From: Johnson, Alexis D. <Alexis.D.Johnson@anchorageak.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 7:47 AM
To: Rivera, Felix <felix.rivera@anchorageak.gov>; Shawn Hays <shays@henninginc.org>; Rash, Kimberly B. <kimberly.rash@anchorageak.gov>
Cc: Kohlhase, Kent E. <kent.kohlhase@anchorageak.gov>; Costello, Mia <Mia.Costello@anchorageak.gov>; Braniff, Michael M. <michael.braniff@anchorageak.gov>; Espe, Tristanna L. <Trista.Espe@anchorageak.gov>; Bird, Mario L. <Mario.L.Bird@anchorageak.gov>; Clark, Valarie R. <valarie.clark@anchorageak.gov>
Subject: Re: Questions for 11.15 H&H Committee

Hi all,

please see answers below. I am so sorry I couldn't be there.

Best,



Alexis Johnson

Housing & Homeless Coordinator
Anchorage Health Department
825 L St, 4th Floor,
Anchorage, AK 99501

mobile: [907-343-9841](tel:907-343-9841)

website: [More Information](#)

Experiencing Homelessness? : [Resource Guide](#)

Need to report a camp or request cleanup? : [Click Here](#)



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

From: Rivera, Felix <felix.rivera@anchorageak.gov>
Date: Monday, November 13, 2023 at 7:57 PM
To: Johnson, Alexis D. <Alexis.D.Johnson@anchorageak.gov>, Shawn Hays <shays@henninginc.org>, Rash, Kimberly B. <kimberly.rash@anchorageak.gov>
Cc: Kohlhase, Kent E. <kent.kohlhase@anchorageak.gov>, Costello, Mia <Mia.Costello@anchorageak.gov>
Subject: Questions for 11.15 H&H Committee

All,

Here are questions that will help to guide the discussion on ECWS on Wednesday.

No need to provide me with answers in advance.

See some of ya'll on Wednesday!

2023-2024 Emergency Cold Weather Shelter Plan Implementation Update:

- Warming Areas and Additional Shelter:
 - What are the plans for warming? - **Proceeding with Graceful Touch as a 50 person warming facility. We have spoken to them, they need at minimum a week to turn on. We will need an appropriation of \$226k for a 5 month contract with them for 50 person warming facility.**
 - Will warming be able to be stood up before cold temperatures set in on Friday and throughout the weekend? **December 1 timeframe. Possibly sooner with assembly appropriation and contracts expedited.**
 - If not, will the administration consider declaring a civil emergency to expedite meeting this need? **I don't foresee an emergency being declared.**
 - What are the plans for additional shelter? - **50 person increase at SWS, currently being filled by ACEH, and Henning.**

- Third Party Oversight:
 - Has third party oversight been awarded? **Yes, to RRS**
 - Has third party oversight begun? **No- Very soon.**
 - If not, why not? - **Delays in contracting process. Currently with Purchasing Dept**

- Abatement:
 - Are there any abatements planned currently? **Williwaw has been posted and will proceed tomorrow. 8-10 Campers. Who have refused shelter. AHD outreach is onsite today for one final attempt at transport to shelter.**
 - With the additional 50 beds coming online at the congregate facility, will any abatements occur? **No additional abatements will occur. Give the recent weather, I would guess that the 50 shelter beds won't remain available for 10 days if we do post an abatement anywhere.**
 - If an additional 50 non-congregate beds come online, will any abatements occur? **Not likely.**
 - If not, why not? **I would guess the likelihood of shelter being available after 10 days of a abatement notice to be very low. It's probably not worth asking people to move in this weather if we can't abate 10 days later.**

- 2023/2024 Budget Needed:
 - Does AHD have a budget number for January through April 2024 ECWS? 574 Beds x \$90/ person x 120 days = **6.2 Million for Alex, Aviator & SWS – This doesn't account for increases at Covenant House, or BFS.**
 - What is the current burn rate? Are we on track? **We are full meaning we are burning at the highest rate.**

- Have navigation services been turned on at the congregate facility? **Yes, they have. We are currently in a stabilization period where people (both staff and clients) are getting acclimated to their surroundings. We are doing assessments for each person who comes in and staff are engaging with clients and forming relationships with them.**
- What navigation services, specifically, are there currently? **Currently, there are housing specialists at the sites providing navigation services. Navigation services are housing focused. Also, there is a mobile clinic for health services. Scheduled services include training outreach, SNAP outreach, and AK Behavioral Health.**
- What navigation services, specifically, is the operator trying to bring online? **Additional medical services, job fairs, training, and housing providers.**
- What providers, specifically, will be providing those navigation services?

NeighborWorks Alaska, Catholic Social Services, Partners for Reentry, Anchorage Neighborhood Health, Downtown Hope Center, in addition to our housing team.

- What is being done to help people move on in their housing / services journey at ECWS? **Support staff- engage with clients, conversations that are housing focused. Housing Specialists navigate to housing and supportive services.**
- How many current ECWS clients have access to vouchers? **14**
- What barriers are preventing ECWS clients from utilizing their vouchers?
 - **One client is a registered sex offender who has very limited options and has turned down four available housing options.**
 - **Several have no income and landlords will not rent to them because even with a voucher, they want tenants with income.**
 - **Several have unaddressed mental health challenges and do not engage with our housing specialist team.**
 - **Several have prior evictions and/or criminal records and their applications are being denied by landlords.**

How many current ECWS clients have been able to access housing?

- **Two from Alex**

How many ECWS clients have some kind of income?

- **116**

Have clients at ECWS been entered into AKHMIS and had a CE assessment completed?

Yes

Thank you,

Felix Rivera

Midtown Assembly Member

felix.rivera@anchorageak.gov

(907)-764-0841

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