



COMMUNITY, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE – DEC. 2, 2021

Please see this week's Community, Housing, and Human Services department update.

Operational.

NHHS/CHHS Staffing Update:

- Eric Finch, who has been leading the team assembled to support CHHS staff, will continue as the Neighborhoods, Housing, and Human Services Division lead while the next director is identified. While working alongside the broader team with Kirstin Davis, Marlene Feist, and Kris Becker, two Homeless Program professionals and one Housing Program professional have been hired and interviews have been conducted with CHHS director finalists to provide additional resources. Eric's time will overlap with the onboarding of the new director to ensure continuity of momentum and work. Recruitment, interviewing, hiring, and onboarding will be completed as efficiently as possible and could extend well into the summer.
- A Program Professional started this week, whose focus will be on HOME and housing programs.
- Discussions continue for a CHHS Director candidate.
- The NHHS team continues to meet community needs providing assistance with City services, engaging with neighborhoods, and providing homelessness and housing assistance and resources.

Status:

- Volunteers of America this week moved its young adult shelter from downtown into a permanent location at the former Spokane County Clean Air Building at 3104 E. Augusta Ave. near Spokane Community College marking an important milestone in the City's work to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. The shelter will operate seven days a week from 7 p.m. until 7 a.m. at a 44-bed capacity. The proximity SCC is ideal as wrap-around case management services will be offered to help reduce homelessness. The young adults being moved out of the low-barrier shelter system also frees up capacity for others to come in behind.
- Shelter vaccine clinics are scheduled for the next seven weeks, with the exception of Christmas week, at Cannon and House of Charity. Some community members have reached out to providers about how they can volunteer at shelters during the holidays or thank shelter workers. Positive COVID-19 cases in shelters continues to decline overall.
- The next Mayors Advisory Council on Downtown Environment meeting consisting of community partners is Dec. 10.
- CHHS staff, in collaboration with the County and other regional organizations, is evaluating options to identify a sustainable solution for grant funding to cover ongoing operational needs.
- The CMIS team has launched into federal reporting season and that will include reports the System Performance Measures, PATH Annual, Runaway Youth Homeless, Longitudinal Systems Analysis, and Point-in-Time Count. For key partners, the CMIS team is in the testing phase of the

new Coordinated Entry Annual Performance Report, taking the department one step closer to submitting the data for the CoC's UFA APR.

- Point-in-Time Count planning continues, and the annual event will start on Jan. 27.
- CHHS received proposals for the Flexible Surge Capacity. Negotiations continue.
- A kickoff event for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP) will be Dec. 7 to announce and celebrate the grant and next steps. The Spokane group is preparing the Planning Grant application. Temporary seasonal staffing resources are being used to bridge institutional knowledge and get YHDP program initiated and train new staff.
- Annual Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant contracts to provide funds for basic operation and administration salaries at four community centers and to purchase parking lot surveillance cameras at Northeast Community Center are being renewed.
- Built for Zero case conferencing meetings with providers continue and are on track for Jan.-Feb. for by-name list launch for single adults. Single adults case conferencing meets every two weeks with CMIS-participating providers to discuss clients who are in one of two priority areas, chronic unsheltered and chronic sheltered, and steps will be taken to move them toward housing. A similar meeting occurs for veterans on the opposite weeks of the month and for youth every Thursday.
- Funding distribution updates for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program are posted on the [City's website](#) twice a month. The rate of distribution has increased significantly the past two months. LiveStories and Family Promise continue to receive applications for existing funds, and an RFP will be issued regarding distribution of future funds. RFP for future rent assistance will be released on Monday. There will not be a gap where tenants/landlords are not able to submit for rent assistance.
- The CHHS Board agreed to forward to City Council its Affordable Housing Committee's recommendation to approve both contracts for SNAP's Single-family and Essential Repair Programs. The recommendation for 2022 is to use the same funding and performance measures found in its 2021 contracts.
- The CHHS Board agreed to extend the term of Chair Adriane Leithauser from April, 2022, to the end of 2022 which will now be considered by the City Council and Mayor's Office.

Training and Team Building.

Status:

- The CMIS team has been resourced with data and project management staff.
- CHHS office improvements continue to be made to maximize workplace needs with the recent hiring of staff.

Policy and Planning.

Status:

- A budget ordinance to fund \$250,000 improvements for the Cannon Shelter, including upgrades to the electrical system and a small quarantine structure, was approved by the City Council. The funding was given to CHHS from the City's General Fund Reserves earlier this year specifically as part of the planned shelter at Cannon. It was not part of the department's annual allocation, and therefore has no budgetary effect for existing services. Since Cannon is a city-owned building, it is better that the maintenance of the building be handled by Facilities rather than CHHS, which does not manage City buildings.
- Department of Commerce T-RAP 2 Rent Assistance funds were approved for LiveStories to distribute.

Communication.

Status:

- A video on citywide board/commission recruitment was completed and ran in last week's Community Update.
- Communications team is planning housing success stories pertaining to the Community Development Block Grant, HOME and Head Start to Construction Trades programs.
- Communications is working on a package highlighting human interest stories of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to increase awareness.
- The handy homeless resource guide is being updated, and it's expected to be ready to distribute to partners soon.
- Leadership is exploring ways to collaborate in the future with all local groups and boards working on homelessness topics.
- Continuing meetings with stakeholders to ensure communication is better, concerns are heard directly, and answers are provided to specific questions or concerns.
- These weekly CHHS updates are archived and posted on the City's [website](#).

Reaching out.

To help us communicate better and more efficiently, especially with the staff transitions, we would ask you to use email distribution lists created to ensure the right individuals get the email and can respond quickly:

Providers – PLEASE send information to the CHHSreports@spokanecity.org email if you have been sending them to Cassi directly. They will be received and processed.

For leadership, status, or program level questions: CHHS Leadership (chhsleadership@spokanecity.org)

For contracts or financial related questions: CHHS Accounting (chhsaccounting@spokanecity.org)

For grant related questions: CHHS Grants (chhsgrants@spokanecity.org)

For RFP submittals or questions: CHHS RFP (chhsrfp@spokanecity.org)

For CMIS/HMIS related questions: CHHS CMIS (cmis@spokanecity.org)

Thank you for your continued interest and investment in the body of work the CHHS department provides our community. We are always open to questions and input.

CHHS Leadership Team and Staff