



COMMUNITY, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE – NOV. 19, 2021

Please see this week's Community, Housing, and Human Services department update. The next update will be Dec. 3.

Operational.

Status:

- The HUD NOFO grant application was submitted on Monday. Thank you to the applicants, staff and contracted partners for achieving this work. The Continuum of Care Board and the CHHS are already collaborating to identify ways to improve the application process next year.
- 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 has begun, and there will be a formal notice coming out in the coming weeks with more detail.
- The Guardians is now entering data into CMIS and is expected be up to speed by Nov. 30.
- A proposed ordinance to fund \$250,000 improvements for the Cannon Shelter, including upgrades to the electrical system and a small quarantine structure, was presented to the Finance and Administration Committee on Monday. 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.
- CHHS has received several proposals for the Flexible Surge Capacity RFP. The initial review was this week, with recommendations expected next week.
- Positive COVID-19 cases in shelters continues to decline overall. Six people (two families) were at the isolation facility on Monday. Volunteers are being recruited for shelter vaccine clinics. A clinic location may be announced next week. Some community members have reached out to providers about how they can volunteer at shelters during the holidays or thank shelter workers.
- The Annual County Expenditures Report for Department of Commerce was submitted last week.
- The CoC Annual Report to the Department of Commerce, an update to the local five-year plan to end homelessness reviewed by CHHS leadership, the CoC and Spokane County, was submitted this week.
- 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.

- 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 City and VOA have signed their contractual agreement for the Young Adult Shelter capital improvements. February/March is the projected timeline for construction, depending on if there are delays. More news to come on this next week.
- The CHHS Affordable Housing Committee reviewed SNAP's Single-family and Essential Repair Programs. The committee made the recommendation that both contracts be renewed for 2022 using the same funding and performance measures found in their 2021 contracts. The CHHS Board will review and vote on the committee's recommendation on Dec. 1.

Training and Team Building.

Status:

- The new Point-in-Time Count coordinator and has begun initial planning for the annual late January event.
- The CMIS team has been resourced with data and project management staff.
- Two program professionals began working this week and are being onboarded. Their work will focus in the Homeless Programs area.
- Six applications were received for the three CHHS Board vacancies. Interviews will be in the near future.
- CHHS office improvements continue to be made to maximize workplace needs.

Policy and Planning.

Status:

- Department of Commerce T-RAP 2 Rent Assistance funds is moving forward in the Council approval process.

Communication.

Status:

- Communications team is planning personal 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.
- Communications team is planning a campaign highlighting the work of shelter workers and the job opportunities and rewards that exist with that work.
- An outreach campaign for the Point in Time Count is being planned.
- SNAP is updating the handy homeless resource guide, and it's expected to be ready to distribute to partners the week after Thanksgiving.
- 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