



From left, Assistant Spokane Police Chief Justin Lundgren, Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich, Mayor Nadine Woodward and County Commissioner Mary Kuney speak at Tuesday's joint press conference on the activation of a regional Emergency Operations Center to address challenges of those staying at Camp Home and the impact to the surrounding neighborhood.

### **COMMUNITY, HOUSING, AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT UPDATE – Oct. 27, 2022**

Please see this week's Community, Housing, and Human Services department update. The next update will be distributed Nov. 10.

#### **Operational.**

##### Status:

- Local governmental agencies have **activated a regional Emergency Operations Center (EOC)** at Spokane County Emergency Management to address the challenges of those staying at Camp Hope and the impact to the surrounding neighborhood, a demonstration of the united regional commitment to improving the situation for everyone. Regional partners at the EOC have begun to operationalize a plan to relocate occupants of the camp prior to the onset of winter weather to a safe indoor location where individuals are connected to resources. Work is also underway to temporarily expand the **Trent Resource and Assistance Center (TRAC)** to become that primary transitional navigation center until connections can be made to long-term housing solutions. A press conference was held on Tuesday at Spokane City Hall regarding the activation of the EOC. Speakers included Mayor Nadine Woodward, County Commissioner Mary Kuney, Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich and Assistant Spokane Police Chief Justin Lundgren.
- A delegation of Spokane elected, City and business leaders visited Houston to learn about how that city has become a model for getting individuals rehoused. Houston has reduced its homeless population 65 percent over the past decade. The visit included a stop at Houston's newest navigation center, which when open will offer services similar to the Trent Resource and

Assistance Center. The Spokane group will continue meeting to talk about organizing Spokane's features into a more efficient and effective system.

- The City notified **The Guardians Foundation** this week that it is ending the contractual relationship to operate the Trent Resource and Assistance Center and Cannon Street at the end of the month. The Salvation Army has agreed to assume operation of both locations on Nov. 1. "Our top priority is to make a smooth transition so that those using the Trent Resource and Assistance Center and Cannon Street locations can continue sleeping indoors with access to meals and services uninterrupted," a City statement released on Wednesday states. The full [statement](#) is posted on the City's website. The City Council today [unanimously voted in favor](#) of the transition along with a companion emergency declaration by Mayor Nadine Woodward. The [meeting agenda](#) includes the contracts with The Salvation Army along with the emergency resolution. The Guardians Foundation recently informed the City that it filed a police report about concerns with a former employee's handling of funds within the organization. Mayor Woodward ordered an internal audit of invoices submitted to the City by the Guardians and payments made to the organization. That fact-finding inquiry is ongoing, and the City will provide any evidence of irregularities to law enforcement.
- CHHS issued a **Notice of Funding Availability** (NOFA) to seek applications from organizations/agencies to lead a **host home project** as part of its Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP). Details, expectations, timelines, and submittal instructions are contained in the NOFA. All communication, including questions, should be submitted to [chhsrfp@spokanecity.org](mailto:chhsrfp@spokanecity.org). Submissions are due on Wednesday, Nov. 23, by 5 p.m.
- The City Council on Oct. 17 [unanimously approved](#) (agenda item starts at 29:14 of the meeting video) an ordinance that transfers \$1.57 million from the Criminal Justice Assistance Fund to Community, Housing and Human Services to fund wrap-around services at the Trent Resource and Assistance Center by **Revive Counseling** through 2023.
- The City's Facilities Department presented a proposed architectural and engineering contract to the City Council's Public Infrastructure, Environment and Sustainability (PIES) Committee on Monday for the **Trent Resource and Assistance Center** for \$117,500 from Architects West for restrooms, showers, laundry and sleeping pod design. The services will allow for a wider range of services to be offered while eliminating the temporary shower trailer. The ambassador team of The Guardians Foundation is offering daily rides to the Trent center from various citywide locations. Call 509-608-1475 24/7 to schedule a ride. Capacity at the center will grow to at least 250 over time.
- About 60 people attended the Community, Health and Human Services **affordable housing funding priority workshop** at the West Central Community Center on Thursday, Oct. 20. Thank you to all participants who attended or offered input. CHHS sought community feedback regarding funding priorities for the distribution of about \$10 million to support affordable housing activities. The community priorities will address gaps in affordable housing and set production goals that will be included in a request for proposals issued later this winter. Funding sources to support this future request for proposals will include: Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG); HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME); HOME American Rescue Plan; and Sales and Use Tax for Affordable and Supportive Housing. For more information or to submit comments if you couldn't attend, email George Dahl at [gdahl@spokanecity.org](mailto:gdahl@spokanecity.org). The [2020-2024 Consolidated Plan for CHHS](#) states affordable housing, access to supportive services and responding to the public's health and safety needs are top priorities.

- Major Ken Perine of The Salvation Army of Spokane provided the City Council an update (starting at 13:42 of the meeting video) on **The Way Out** center on Oct. 17, highlighting the success stories of individuals who have completed the program since the center opened 10 months ago. A total of 248 individuals have entered the program and 207 have been discharged, making the transition into housing or employment.
- The City Council on Monday night approved the final round of money for the **emergency rent assistance program**. The same contractors that processed applications as before – FORWARD (formerly LiveStories), Family Promise and Carl Maxey Center – will be tapped if the application portals are reopened. CHHS requested permission to award the additional reallocation of ERA1 funds of \$218,121.99 from the U.S. Department of Treasury to FORWARD. The deadline to obligate the reallocated funds is Dec. 29, 2022. The City was also awarded an additional \$1.725.144 million for ERAP2 from the Washington State Department of Commerce. Of that amount, \$1,132,716 will be awarded to FORWARD to distribute to applicants; \$242,082 to The Carl Maxey Center; and \$264,089 to Family Promise. Due to a large volume of applications, **emergency rent assistance application portals** for previous funds have paused accepting applications from city residents seeking rental assistance who do not have a current eviction notice. A timeline for re-opening the portals for the new funds, or if they will due to some applications still in the cue, hasn't been determined. In the meantime, City of Spokane residents with a current eviction notice still may receive assistance through the ERAP 2.0 program. In order to determine eligibility and the process for doing so, reach out to one of the City's two Dispute Resolution Centers that are managing the local Eviction Resolution Pilot Program - last name begins with A-M: Northwest Mediation Center: <https://www.nwmediationcenter.com/general-6>, 509-456-0103, ext. 1; last name begins with N-Z: Fulcrum Dispute Resolution Clinic: [https://fulcrumdispute.org/?page\\_id=60](https://fulcrumdispute.org/?page_id=60), 509-838-2799; Volunteer Lawyers Program: <https://www.spokanevlp.org/post/facing-eviction-apply-forassistance-through-the-vlp-s-eviction-defense-project>, 509-477-2674. Overall, the two-year program has distributed about \$33 million to more than 6,500 households.
- Work to stabilize the **Camp Hope** homeless encampment along Interstate 90 as part of the state Right of Way Safety Initiative continues. An identification badge system, census, Good Neighbor Agreement and rules and needs assessment are among the new initiatives at the camp.
- The City Council during the recent Urban Experience Committee meeting supported the renewal of the 2023 contracts for **SNAP's Essential Home Repair and Single Family Rehabilitation programs**. SNAP is the sub-recipient of Community Development Block Grant grant funds to provide home repairs to low- and moderate-income homeowners in Spokane. The Essential Home Repair program offers grants for minor home repairs, while the Single Family Rehabilitation programs offers low-interest loans for larger repair projects. Both programs help homeowners achieve safe and healthy homes while aiding in the prevention of slums or blight in the community. Staff are working on the contract drafts with the goal to have both contracts fully executed prior to Dec. 31, 2022, pending City Council approval. The contract for the Essential Home Repair Program will be for \$500,000 for about 200 home repairs. With the Single-Family Rehabilitation Program amount is \$1.48 million for 30 home repairs. The contracts will be considered for final approval during the City Council Legislative Meeting on Nov. 7.
- A group featuring the City, providers and other partners are working on improving the **coordinated entry system** with policies and procedures.
- Staff continue to work on **contract amendments and renewals**.

## Training and Team Building.

### Status:

- Dan Parker has joined the **CMIS team** in CHHS.
- The **CMIS Team** continues to extend access to the CMIS database by onboarding new community partners and training new staff at current participating agencies. The team continues to look for ways to innovate and improve its internal and external data processing to better serve partners.

## Policy and Planning.

### Status:

- Planning has started for the annual countywide **Point-in-Time Count**, which will be conducted Jan. 25-29. Watch for future information about volunteer opportunities. The Regional Continuum of Care Board on Wednesday approved the work plan for the count. Homeless Connect, a communitywide resource fair for those in need and a site for the PIT Count, will be Jan. 25 at the Spokane Convention Center. The CHHS [story map presentation](#) that provides context to the 2022 Point-in-Time Count of the unhoused population is available online.

## Communication.

### Status:

- A joint [press conference](#) was held on Tuesday at Spokane City Hall regarding the activation of the **regional Emergency Operations Center** at Spokane County Emergency Management to help with challenges of those staying at Camp Hope on the verge of winter and the impact to the surrounding neighborhood.
- Spokane elected, City and business leaders recently [toured a Houston facility](#) and learned how that city has reduced its homeless population by 65 percent over the past decade and become a model for other cities nationwide. When open, the Houston navigation center will offer similar services to the Trent Resource and Assistance Center.
- A cutting-edge City of Spokane **data initiative** that eliminates “data silos” between departments and integrates data into a single repository to promote transparency and enable departments to monitor data in real time is featured in a story called “Quick and Clean Data” in the Fall edition of [StateTech magazine](#). Those who were interviewed included HMIS Administrator/Business Systems Analyst Daniel Ramos III along with fellow data colleagues Shiloh Deitz (Library), Shawna Ernst (Police) and Peggy Lund (IT). The project is among the initiatives of Eric Finch, interim NHHS Director, and showcases the collaboration between Library, Innovation and Technology Services Division, CHHS, and Spokane Police.
- How the City cleans up nuisance homes to preserve Spokane’s housing stock is featured in a [CityCable 5 video](#). In the past, some dilapidated residences might have been torn down. But in 2021, the City Council passed a new law allowing Spokane go to court to take receivership of nuisance properties – avoiding the wrecking ball and entering the real estate market – to create more housing for residents. The City is reimbursed for the cost of abating the nuisance properties.
- CHHS Program Manager RaMona Pinto spoke at the 71<sup>st</sup> annual **Governor’s Industrial Safety and Health Conference** Sept. 28-29 in Tacoma. Pinto, a board member of the Washington State Governor’s Industrial Safety and Health Advisory Board, spoke during a [workshop about](#)

dramatic changes the pandemic brought on and simple ways to embrace change and find success.

- Council President Breean Beggs provided the recap for the Oct. 24 meeting, which included an additional \$1.7 million for the **Emergency Rent Assistance Program** and public testimony on proposed City Council District boundaries. The Council will not meet on Monday, Oct. 31. Its next meeting is Nov. 7.
- Council Member Zack Zappone provided the recap for the Oct. 17 meeting, which included unanimous approval of a resolution that provides funding for **Revive Counseling** to provide wrap-around services at the Trent Resource and Assistance Center through 2023 that will give individuals access to services they need to be successful and a discussion of the 2023 budget.
- A resolution was approved on Monday by the City Council to authorize CityCable 5 to purchase and operate a **broadcast-quality drone** to produce programs and marketing for the City of Spokane. It is CityCable5 policy to never infringe upon anyone's privacy. Use of the drone will be used in public locations. Raw footage that is acquired will be stored on a server maintained by City of Spokane staff. A digital record of every flight will be maintained at the office of CityCable 5.
- When police and sheriff's deputies arrest someone for eligible offenses, they can be taken to jail or diverted to Spokane's new **Regional Stabilization Center**. The center heals those hurt by addiction. Spokane County, the City of Spokane, and local leaders stood up the stabilization center last fall to assist those with drug or mental health problems.
- Mayor Nadine Woodward proposed a priority-based **2023 preliminary budget** that invests in people in our neighborhoods, who need housing and deliver services. The budget provides funds for increased litter crews and coverage times, increased shelter space, increases the City's ability to hire officers. The final balanced budget is due Nov. 1.
- The City is facilitating conversations and listening to all viewpoints to establish expectations and a clear timeline for **moving people indoors before winter** from Camp Hope and connecting them to support services in their journey out of homelessness.
- The **Pocket Resource Guide** that lists emergency shelters, meal sites, resources and drop-in centers has been updated.
- Citizens and organizations are invited to subscribe to the City's **Community Update newsletter**. To read the latest newsletter, click here.
- These **CHHS updates** are archived and posted on the City's website.

### **Regional Programs/General.**

- The Legislature and Gov. Jay Inslee recognize **permanent supportive housing (PSH)** as an evidence-based practice to end the cycle of chronic homelessness. As a result, in the 2022 legislative session, the Office of Apple Health and Homes (ESHB 1866) and a PSH advisory committee (SHB 1724) were created in the Washington State Department of Commerce. Commerce is standing up the office and committee in a newly created unit in its Housing Division. The Apple Health and Homes and Permanent Supportive Housing unit (or AHAAH/PSH) will provide technical assistance and help create and maintain affordable housing for people living with behavioral health conditions, other disabling conditions and with extremely low incomes. If you have questions or need assistance, contact Apple Health and Homes/Permanent Supportive Housing Managing Director Melodie Pazolt.

- **Volunteers of America** Eastern Washington has landed \$4 million in federal grant funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to become a certified community behavioral health clinic. The grant will enable VOA to provide mental health, substance-abuse treatment, and related services to individuals in its housing and shelter programs throughout Spokane County.
- The Washington State Department of Commerce's **Affordable Housing Advisory Board (AHAB)** seeks two housing advocates to fill essential roles to continue its important work. AHAB advises Commerce on housing and housing-related issues. AHAB has 24 members representing a variety of housing interests around the state. The two open positions include representatives for special needs and a common interest unit owners' association. If you are interested in applying, review the board duties and apply through the Governor's Office Boards & Commission page. If you have questions or need assistance, contact Taylor Webb.
- This Saturday, Oct. 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at COPS NW, 2215 W. Wellesley St., a free **medication take-back day** will be held. Any unwanted, unused, and expired medications can be returned to be safely disposed of. No questions asked. Vaping devices without batteries are also accepted. Free medication lock boxes will be available on a first-come, first-serve basis. A kids' craft area will be available. Resource bags from community partners will be distributed along with pumpkins on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- More than 358,400 **General Election ballots** have been mailed to active registered Spokane County voters. If voters have not received their ballot, they are encouraged to call the Elections Office at (509) 477-2320 or visit 1033 W. Gardner Ave. (one block north of the courthouse) to request a replacement ballot. Voters do not have to wait until Election Day, Nov. 8, to vote. Voters are encouraged to mark their ballot, place it in the security envelope, and sign the return envelope. Postage is free for mailing completed ballots and must be either mailed or dropped off before 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8, at any of the county's 25 secure drop boxes located at local libraries, town halls, and other locations. If a ballot is received for someone no longer living at the current address, voters are asked to write "Return to sender" on the envelope and place it back into the mail or in a ballot drop box. If the recipient knows the person, they are encouraged to notify Spokane Elections of their change of address. Spokane County voters can track their ballots online after submitted by visiting [VoteWa.gov](http://VoteWa.gov) and typing in their name and date of birth. Online ballot status typically begins 3-5 business days after ballots are mailed back or dropped off.
- The Aging & Long Term Care of Eastern Washington's Community Living Connections (CLC) program offers a help line at 509-960-7281 in which seniors in need and individuals with disabilities in the Spokane area can call to get connected to a resource that can assist with **snow removal on driveways or sidewalks**. CLC itself does not provide the snow removal service, but maintains a list of volunteer community groups willing to help at no charge. CLC is not liable for injuries to volunteers and can't guarantee the timeliness or the service itself, but will try its best to connect citizens to resources. The agency is seeking community groups willing to volunteer for this program. Call the help line at 509-960-7281 or email [action@altcew.org](mailto:action@altcew.org) for more information or if your group is interested in volunteering for snow removal.
- The Washington State Department of **Commerce seeks proposals** from firms interested in participating in an initiative to strengthen contracting relationships between its Eviction Rent Assistance lead grantees and service organizations run by Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC). Part of a system-wide effort to reduce racial and ethnic disparities in homeless services,

the initiative provides a support mechanism for grantees by having a third party entity available to facilitate crucial conversations and assist in identifying solutions to recurring concerns. Complete background, scope of work, minimum requirements and other information are detailed in the [RFP](#). The estimated contract period runs from Dec. 22, 2022, to June 30, 2023. Proposals are due on Nov. 10 by 4 p.m. Email Kyle Gitchell at [kyle.gitchell@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:kyle.gitchell@commerce.wa.gov) with questions.

- The Washington State Department of Ecology seeks public comment on **improving air quality** in overburdened communities through Washington’s newly adopted Climate Commitment Act. Ecology must identify which Washington communities are vulnerable to “criteria” air pollution, expand air quality monitoring in these areas, and later develop plans to reduce these air pollutants. The law directs Ecology to focus on improving “criteria” air pollution due to ties between these pollutants and public health. This public engagement period will focus on the method for identifying overburdened communities highly impacted by air pollution. Ecology is seeking input from organizations, environmental justice advocates, Tribal governments and the general public until Nov. 10. Ecology would like your feedback on: draft indicators to identify overburdened communities highly impacted by air pollution; draft factors for creating community boundaries; and data sources. Comments can be left via voice mail at 564-200-4426 or sent to Erin Torrone, Department of Ecology Air Quality Program, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600. The final public comment session is planned for Tuesday, Nov. 1, at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Torrone at [Erin.Torrone@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:Erin.Torrone@ecy.wa.gov) or 360-628-4666.

#### **Reaching out.**

To help us communicate better and more efficiently, please use email distribution lists created to ensure the right individuals get the email and can respond quickly:

Grantees – please send invoices and reports to the [chhsreports@spokanecity.org](mailto:chhsreports@spokanecity.org) email instead of sending items to specific staff members. They will be received and processed. For general CHHS inquiries (not billing- or reporting-related), please send an email to [spokanechhs@spokanecity.org](mailto:spokanechhs@spokanecity.org) for assistance.

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

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

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

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

For CMIS/HMIS related questions: CHHS CMIS ([cmis@spokanecity.org](mailto: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

