

November 17th, 2020

MEMO: Issues Topic – Warming Shelters

Date: November 17, 2020

To: Clackamas County Commissioners

From: Brenda Durbin, Director of Social Services

Richard Swift, Director H3S

Re: Clackamas County Winter Shelters

Due to the need of our homeless populations in Clackamas County, H3S is planning for the following winter shelters to be available this winter. Our plans include both congregate shelter and non-congregate shelter options. All possible health and safety precautions will be taken to reduce the spread of COVID 19 while providing a safe, warm environment for those finding themselves on the streets during inclement winter weather.

Congregate Shelters

- Clackamas County currently has two year contracts with two providers of congregate winter shelter; Molalla Hope and The Father's Heart.
- Both agencies are able to adjust their operations so that they are compliant with COVID CDC guidance.
- Social Services is receiving guidance from Clackamas County Public Health and our colleagues in Multnomah County who have successfully operated congregate shelters during the pandemic.
- Internal processes are being established to ensure that any shelter guest who exhibits signs of COVID 19 will be offered space in the non-congregate shelter system.
- Oregon City has approved the operation of The Father's Heart program only through January, though the approval may be extended.
- As in prior years, these shelters will only operate when the temperature (including wind chill) is projected to be 33 degrees or less.

Non-Congregate Shelters

- Non-congregate shelters operate out of motels and are considered a best practice for sheltering during COVID.
- Social Services is working with Community Development to secure blocked leased motel rooms and staffing.
- An agreement for FEMA reimbursement for some costs has been secured, though FEMA requires re-approval every 30 days.
- Funding is available for as many as 300 motel rooms from Dec. 1st through April 30th.
- Procuring staffing and motel rooms has taken longer than expected.
- Non-congregate shelter is not dependent upon weather conditions
- Staffing for the shelters will provide linkages to longer term housing solutions

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