

HOMELESS TASK FORCE SYNOPSIS

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Attached is a overview of my experience with the Homeless Shelter Task Force. Let me give you an explanation of my experience.

1. It is an honor to serve you and the other community councils of our area. I continue to do so with any and all upcoming meetings, like the one that occurred on 9/20/22.
2. The initial process of the Task Force at the end of May involved 3 Town Hall meetings, which I attended all of them. I wanted to hear the responses of the community regarding homelessness and their experiences and suggestions (see section in your handout for themes of responses). All other Town Hall meetings were cancelled stating by Felix Rivera that "we are not ready to have the discussion."
3. The initial directive was to create Criteria for people to enter into a homeless shelter. Felix Rivera supported a No Barrier criteria. People on the task force suggested there needed to be criteria for even the homeless are anxious over certain behaviors (e.g. a person tweaking on meth or some drug to be combative and threatening). Felix Rivera suggested that the time line to have a shelter in place could occur by November. Several people on the committee suggested that his time line was more hopeful than realistic, as an approved contractor would not be selected until the first of October and the materials to construct a shelter would not be attainable by November.
4. I visited every current homeless shelter program in Anchorage to inquire of their number of beds, criteria, and programs. It was enlightening. There are some 750-800 beds which already exist to serve the homeless.
5. By the second Task Force meeting I shared that Chugiak / Eagle River is not a viable location to have a homeless shelter as there are no homeless programs and services available. It is best to have a single center homeless shelter site, which 3rd and Ingra (old Alaska Native hospital site) is the best location. The site is close to viable jobs on Post road, near public transportation, near services, and avails some 15-20 acres.
6. I suggested the 3rd and Ingra site for a shelter with the following criteria:
 - * Designed with an exit plan for as the homeless need diminishes so too the site is not needed, as the other programs in Anchorage can serve the need.
 - * Viewing the situation of the homeless is to ask what is the casual reason for individuals being homeless. The dichotomy to love and to expect appropriate social norm behaviors should be integrated into the criteria for a homeless shelter.

* JBER has portable units which can house 12 people per unit with kitchenettes, showers, and restrooms. The portables could be offered at a discount rate. Recently I discovered that the portables were not pursued by the Assembly and the units have been given away or sold for maybe \$2,000 per unit to various entities throughout Alaska.

* The site is to be divided into zones based on participation and safety: women section, men section, congregate section, navigation section, and potential safety section (e.g. coming off drugs). As a person is engaged in the program and responsibility that they move from congregate housing to more independent living until they can move out to be in their own residence.

* Job involvement is an important criteria for moving forward. Having financial security which the participant is assisted in budget management and established savings which will avail for their transition to their own residence.

* Mental Health issues do not need to be addressed in the homeless shelter as the Crisis Now program already is in existence, which offers shelter for those with serious crisis mental health need intervention. Continued collaboration with mental health services is attainable through the Navigation Center.

* Housing programs are challenged due to federal guidelines, which restrict occupancy strictly based on desired numbers. A family of 5 is rejected to a potential residence due to the supposed 2 bedroom residence is only acknowledged for 4 people, thus the family is kept out in the cold and homeless rather availed with a potentila inflatable mattress for the fifth family member so that all could be in a warm, secure residence. I contacted Senator Sullivan's office about this unrealistic federal guideline which prohibits federal funding to help with viable housing options.

7. By the 3rd Task Force meeting Felix Rivera changed the rules of Criteria from entry to a shelter to what should the physical nature of the shelter look like. I emphasized that there needs to be an exit plan and that the shelter should not be a permanent structure, which becomes a burden later. The shelter should be like a MASH unit and the JBER portables should be pursued. Felix Rivera stated that Kevin Cross was researching the JBER portables.
8. By the 3rd Task Force meeting a resolution was accepted to send to the Assembly as to what are the criteria for the physical dynamics of a homeless shelter.
9. The future planned Task Force meetings were impromptu cancelled or dismissed. I showed up to a Task Force meeting, which the night prior Felix Rivera had cancelled but I did not get the notification.
10. The Homeless Committee Meeting held on 9/20/23 informed that the Mayor's office is planning a homeless shelter accommodation for some 150 people with security of fencing and segregated accommodations based on gender and families. The site is near 56th street in an industrial area at the SWS facility. Emergency zoning is planned to accommodate the emergency cold weather need.

I shared concerns with the following questions, which have not been answered:

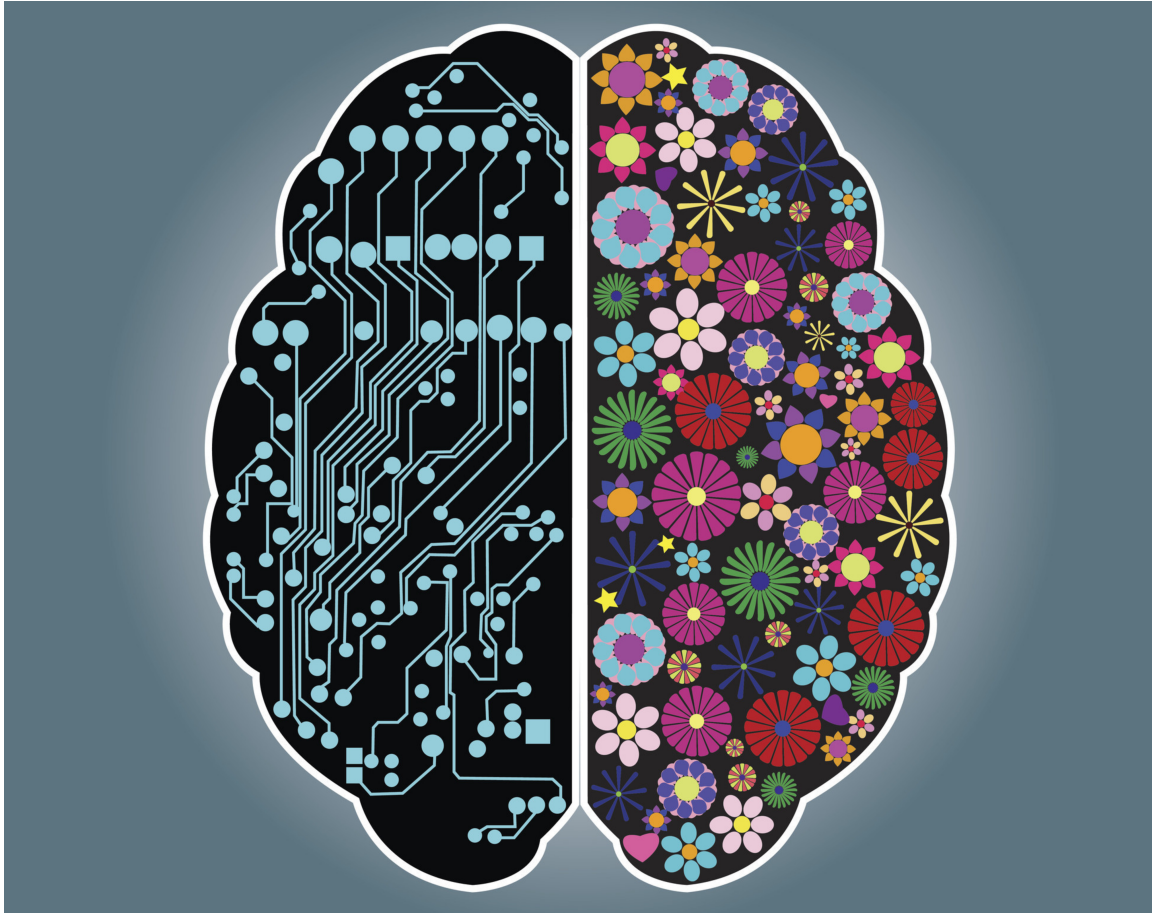
- * What has been the interaction with our Federal Delegates regarding Federal mandates which inhibit viable housing based on numbers in a residence?
 - * What is the status of JBER portable units to be available as an options?
 - * What is the viability to offer transportation accessibility to those who wish to return to their village or state of origin? And, what is available to help people secure identification to be able to go through TSA at the airport to fly (e.g. out of state)?
11. The listed schedule on the handout was taken from the Assembly website with no alteration since May. It is inaccurate to the current expectations.
 12. No future Task Force meetings have been scheduled.
 13. I conducted a data analysis of homelessness throughout the country based on 2020 Census, National Homelessness Coalition data, and calling shelters throughout the country (see attached).
- I hope the information is helpful. Let me know if you wish to meet to discuss these issues further.

Ken McCarty

DICHOTOMY OF HUMAN INTERACTION

Transactional Interaction

Unconditional positive regard for others is a dichotomy which also has expected conditional behaviors. The concept of “pay it forward” starts with the willingness to receive and the expectation to return the gesture. For those who do not wish to accept social norms rather alter the social norms of our community are neither homeless nor community minded rather an intrusion of anarchy. Community was not established nor resonates with anarchy.



HOMELESS TOWN HALL MEETING SYNOPSIS

Town Hall Meeting Comments Regarding Homelessness

- Not in my neighborhood
- A radius of two miles from a homeless camp results in an increase in crime
- “I am not being heard and the Assembly does not care about the home owners.”
- “I am afraid to go to work.”
- “Our corporate office is considering that we are not a necessary store...Lowe’s”

- What can the State and Muni do for me...make sure I am not assaulted in the parking lot as I go or leave from work
- We must love everyone
- “I care about others but they must have acceptable behavior like there rest of us.”
- “We gave out money to organization to deal with the homeless and realized that it was a mistake to just give money out.”
- “If you fail to plan...you plan to fail!” Why has the Assembly waited so long and is not ready for winter for the homeless when it is weeks away? (9/20/23)

Cancellation of future Town Hall Meetings – Felix Rivera

7/24/2023

Hey all,

Apologies for the late notice, but the town halls scheduled to discuss locations have been cancelled. We are not yet ready to kick off this conversation.

I'll be in touch with you all soon with an updated timeline.

Thank you,
Felix Rivera

Causes for Homelessness

1. Those who choose to stay homeless
2. Those who have been economically challenged by unfortunate events
3. Those who have precipitate mental healthy conditions
4. Those who have addiction to drugs or alcohol that led to homelessness
5. Those who have not been given an appropriate education to lead them to a good job
6. Those who are not given the opportunity to be in the workforce due to monopoly and manipulating trade training
7. Those who have been restricted by Department of Corrections while on probation to remain in Anchorage when they want to return to their village
8. Those who have come to Alaska from another state and stuck with inability to return
9. Those who have seasonal jobs and choose to be homeless rather have a residence
10. Those who cannot afford housing because the price of a residence which once cost ¼ of a persons monthly paycheck now cost ½ to ¾ of a monthly paycheck
11. Those who have made it an industry, whereby solutions to improve homelessness are passive aggressively thwarted as it would take away business
12. Those who are challenged by a “welfare state” operations whereby participants cannot excel because of significant financial restrictions without a titrated transition formula

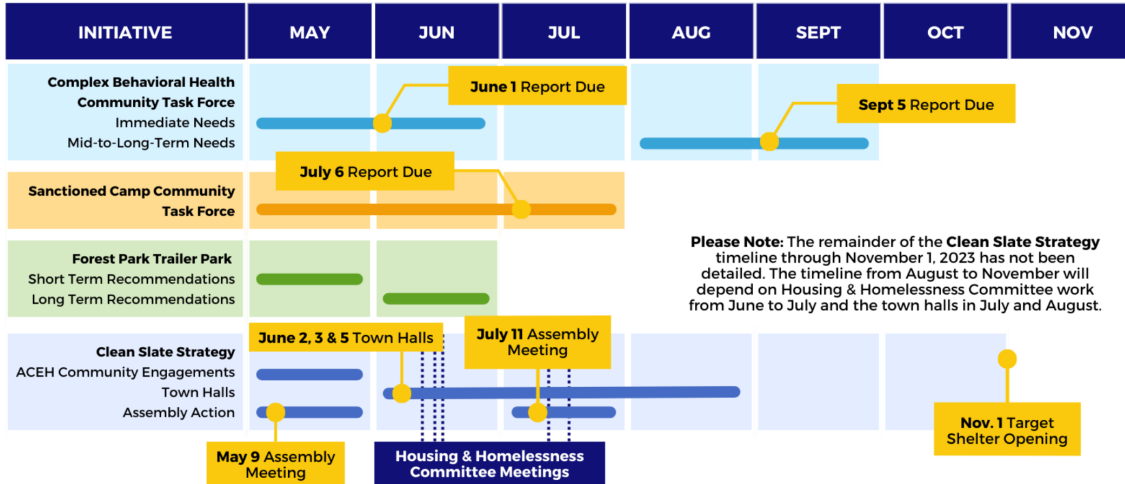
Intervention of Hope to Help the Homeless

- It takes a village to give an individual a hand up and maintain expected societal norms
- Model of Purpose
- Differentiating interventions from Shackled to Unshackled – Locus of Control
- HB 108 (32nd session) – Secondary Concurrent Education – H.S. Diploma and Trade Certification
- Intervention for those involved with Corrections
- Supporting businesses with housing programs

Our community is willing to give a person a “hand up” to help them move forward in their life. By reaching out to others with an expectation of a reciprocal response by the individual to reach out in return and accept the expectations (social norms) is a pragmatic transaction.

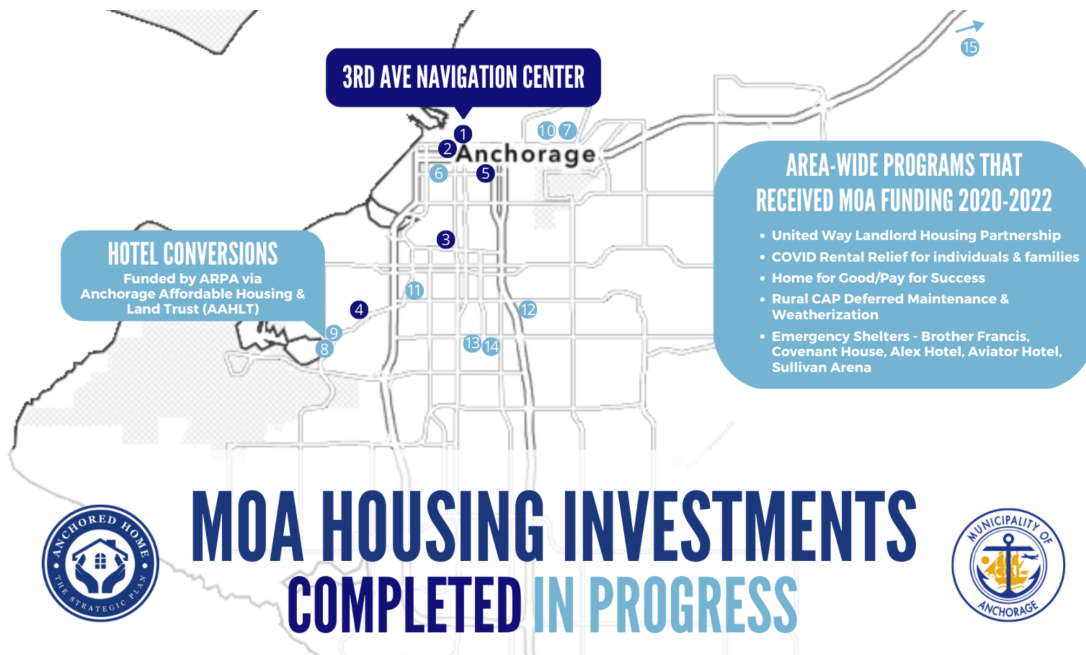


2023 HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES



www.muni.org/assembly

updated 5/31/2023



LOCUS OF CONTROL

External	Internal
<p>External Locus of Control Individual believes that his/her behavior is guided by fate, luck, or other external circumstances</p>	<p>Internal Locus of Control Individual believes that his/her behavior is guided by his/her personal decisions and efforts.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No Choice – Others decide ● Emotionally explosive ● Other’s make your decisions ● Strong influence by other people ● Reactionary ● Impulsive ● Immediate gratification ● Enmeshment ● Laws must be enforced ● Court intervention, parental figure, drugs / alcohol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Choice ● Emotion Regulation ● Problem solver ● Self Reflective ● Responsive ● Pro-Active ● Delayed gratification ● Autonomy ● Law is viewed to inform ● Inter-dependence with awareness of autonomy

Community	State	2020 Census Population	2020 Census Median Household Income	Employment Rate	2022 Homeless Calculations Per Given Night	Demographic Homeless Per 10,000 G.P.	Percent of Population
Anchorage	AK	291,247	\$86,654.00	38.3%	1,494	51.3	0.51%
Los Angeles	CA	3,822,238	\$77,456.00	58.3%			0.00%
Los Angeles County	CA	10,014,009			65,111	65.0	0.65%
Sacramento	CA	1,585,055	\$80,063.00	58.2%	9,278	58.5	0.59%
San Francisco	CA	873,965	\$121,826.00	62.8%	7,754	88.7	0.89%
Boise, Idaho	ID	386,541	\$72,405.00	41.5%	620	16.0	0.16%
Chicago	IL	2,746,388	\$66,576.00	43.7%	3,875	14.1	0.14%
Chicago	IL						
Chicago	IL						
Boston	MA	675,647	\$79,283.00	63.6%	4,439	65.7	0.66%
Omaha, Nebraska	NE	486,051	\$62,948.00	38.1%	1,346	27.7	0.28%
Omaha, Nebraska	NE						
Las Vegas	NV	641,903	\$59,746.00	54.6%	5,645	87.9	0.88%
Reno, Nevada	NV	264,165	\$67,478.00	35.9%	1,605	60.8	0.61%
Portland, Oregon	OR	652,503	\$79,057.00	65.6%	5,228	80.1	0.80%

Homeless analysis based on 2020 Census and Homeless Coalition statistics.