

December 6, 2022 To The Anchorage Assembly:

The recent request from Anchorage Health Department and the Mayor's office to increase the census to 360 at the Sullivan Arena came as a surprise to the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness (ACEH). ACEH and providers have been meeting regularly with Anchorage Health Department and a capacity issue has not been raised.

Part of ACEH's role is to assess system performance and provide guidance for the Continuum of Care. These recommendations are based on data. We ask for a pause to look at the current data coming from homeless service providers and the Sullivan Arena.

The data is showing that the 150+50 surge needs to continue. An initial review of bed nights at low-barrier shelter sites indicates usage below capacity. Further analysis in partnership with providers and AHD is needed to determine the next steps.

As you will see, the data does not indicate that more resources should be allocated towards single adults as it appears there is some capacity and potential for improvements to existing client flow. It is in the best interest of the Homeless Prevention and Response System (HPRS) and Anchorage to ensure resources are going where they are needed based on data.

During this pause, ACEH will collect information and can address capacity at Sullivan Arena at the 12/20 Assembly meeting. This will allow for collaboration and collective data review. The Emergency Shelter Task Force is convening on 12/12 and can assess the request as it relates to the overall service array.

ACEH's involvement in conversations that impact the HPRS improves service provider communication and client experiences.

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