

**LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT
CITY OF ABERDEEN**

Mr. Mayor: Hon. Pete Schave

The Members of: Homeless Housing Committee

To whom was Referred: **Recommendations from the Committee**

Report and Recommends as Follows:

The Homeless Housing Committee met on July 19, 2022 in a workshop to discuss goals and objectives.

Committee members present were Council Member and Committee Chair Debi Pieraccini, Council Member Kacey Morrison, Council President Kati Kachman, Council Member David Lawrence and Council Member Liz Ellis, Stephen Armes and Patrick McDaniel. Visitors present were Melvin Taylor, Police Chief Dale Green, DeElaina Moore and staff Lisa Scott.

DeElaina facilitated the conversation which primarily identified both short-term and long-term goals that the Committee is recommending as steps to move forward, taking into consideration behavioral patterns and issues with executive thought process impairment impacting whether the unhoused population will be cooperative and amenable with another move, even if this move will result with a longer-term solution for temporary housing and ability to access limited services during specific times.

Defined Short-Term as under 3 years and Long-Term as over 3 years.

Long-Term

- Work with our legislators to influence changes to our mental health laws and have additional options within our community.
- Work with area hospitals to ensure patients in crisis are not diverted, mirroring the operations policy of St. Peter's Hospital in Olympia, WA.
- Work with SeaMar and other health care providers to implement a triage service like the Sea Mar location in Mt. Vernon, WA.

Short-Term Goals

- Identifying property acceptable for relocating the current River Street homeless area, which should take into consideration vulnerable area populations such as schools, churches, parks, and other properties and/or organizations where vulnerable community members reside and/or frequent.
 - Information gathering for this goal will be like studies and regulations for area marijuana retail locations. The property should be at least a ½ block in size and be within a 10 to 15 block radius of a mini mart or a mobile "mini mart" can be considered to accommodate unhoused needs before the 7:00 pm site curfew (discussed below)

reducing the need for check in/out and foot traffic to a minimart, which can contribute to higher crime because of the relocation.

- Any shelter, whether a lot located outside or inside of an existing building, needs to have a check-in and check-out between the hours of 7:00 am to 7:00 pm with the expectation that individuals will be required to vacate the site during the day.
- Work with the DOT to clean up and secure their property, utilizing funding from DOT for homeless state rights-of-way.
- The Committee looking into working with Representative Walsh to discuss the process for changing legislation related to the Blake Decision. Suggestions were made concerning training and participating in the process for city council members and mayors to advocate in Olympia through testimony regarding the development of legislation and the impact within the community.
- The Committee is reviewing services available in Aberdeen which align with goals.
 - Currently individuals can access Gospel Mission during the day without being required to join prayer services while also being provided a meal, laundry services, and shower facilities.
 - The unhoused population will soon be able to access the Recovery Café at the Moore Wright Group, so long as individuals are engaged in the substance use disorder (SUD) recovery process and follow the policy and procedures in place determined by The Moore Wright Group for accessing the Recovery Café. There also needs to be onsite security, as lessons learned from previous location relocation efforts have shown.
 - Additional services are available and the Committee is working with providers to obtain the collective listing
- The Committee also discussed having an Ordinance drafted that discourages other jurisdictions from dropping off their homeless in Aberdeen. Therefore, it is recommended that the City Council authorize the Mayor to have an Ordinance drafted that will discourage jurisdictions from relocating their unsheltered to Aberdeen.

Lisa Scott, Director
Community Development

Reported July 27, 2022

Adopted July 27, 2022

Committee Members:

Chair, Debi Pieraccini

Kacey Morrison

Kati Kachman

David Lawrence

Liz Ellis

Stephen Armes

Patrick McDaniel