

TO: City Council
FROM: Jena Jones, Homelessness Response Manager
RE: Cleveland St. Encampment Closure Update
DATE: April 14, 2025

After nearly seven months invested in the process of closing the encampment in the vicinity of Cleveland St. and Texas Ave, all residents have now departed the site with the final person leaving on April 2. In total, 96 people were identified on the encampment's official By Name List (BNL) with exits happening across the following categories:

- Exits to housing: 28; however, for various reasons, three people have since left housing
- Exits to family: 1 person reunified with natural supports
- Exits to sober living: 1 person
- Exits to emergency shelters: 11 people
- Exits to couch surfing: 10 people were known to be couch surfing post-exit
- Exits to unknown locations: 36 people exited to locations that were not known to City officials, these include exits to continued unsheltered homelessness and may include informal arrangements like couch surfing
- Exits secondary to jailtime: 11 people exited to Penobscot County Jail and did not return to the encampment
- One person passed

Direct support services (outreach, housing navigation, and case management) were provided by PATH, HOME, Cross Roads Case Management, Wabanaki Housing Navigation, Andwell, the VA team tasked with helping veterans who are unhoused, Shaw House (youth services), and the City of Bangor*. Additionally, partners also helped to support medical needs of encampment residents throughout the closure (PCHC and St. Joe's mobile medical unit, the OPTIONS team, and Bangor Public Health and Community Services).

We assessed and solved for barriers that would prevent someone living in the encampment from engaging with the direct support teams tasked with supporting their journeys inside. These included: facilitating access to laundry at the Hope House; coordinating with the District Attorney's Office to ensure active warrants could be addressed and cleared; providing storage of personal belongings in a secure location at Public Health, and; facilitating connections to provide added supports like access to cell phones and transportation.

This process, led by the City of Bangor and supported by a broad and committed partnership of providers and organizations across the community, has been recognized by our region's representative for the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness as one of the only communities to utilize the best practices outlined in the *19 Strategies for Communities to Address Encampments Humanely and Effectively* policy guide.

While much of the effort can be categorized as successful, there remains a number of individuals in Bangor who did not come inside secondary to the encampment closure. To ensure these folks continue to remain connected to support systems and have opportunities to seek shelter or lease up, direct support teams are still engaging with former encampment

residents to progress on housing and treatment goals. As warming centers have almost all closed for the season, it is expected that more tent sites will pop up in the area. A coordinated community response to continued unsheltered homelessness that is rooted in best practices and leverages compassion, dignity and humanity are needed to respond most effectively to the issue. We will continue to work with outreach and direct support teams and organizations to facilitate as many exits to indoor spaces like housing or shelter access as possible

With the focus on the encampment now over, we will be extrapolating the lessons learned and successes identified as we shift the focus to community-wide needs. We will continue to engage providers utilizing best practices to ensure additional encampments do not pop up and parks and open spaces remain accessible to all, that expectations and policies are clear, and that we maintain a coordinated and committed response to helping people who are unsheltered in Bangor.

In March, the Homeless Response Manager met with an executive group of the Downtown Bangor Partnership to hear from businesses who operate in the downtown area and better understand and respond to the struggles they face as they provide community spaces for folks to enjoy. Frequently, disruptive and aggressive behaviors from some members of the unhoused community and others pose significant challenges to business operations and economic prosperity. Anecdotally, there are increased reports of rising tensions in community spaces that involve both housed and unhoused folks and effective responses and strategies are needed to ensure the safety of these spaces for all who use them.

Additionally, the region's Hub Coordinator and the City's Homelessness Response Manager have recently come together to facilitate a working group of city departments including the Police Department and the Fire Department, the library, hospitals, and the jail to better understand where people are coming from, better respond to people newly entering Bangor who are unsheltered, and to better support those who are already here and experiencing homelessness – particularly folks who are not already embedded in the homeless services continuum. As this group continues to dig into the work and more robustly outline goals and intended outcomes we will have more updates to offer Council.

*Attached to this memo is a breakdown of the direct support teams engaged with each individual who was accounted for on the encampment's BNL. While each team's mandates might differ, each support team will assist with the process to get folks housed. These supports may include the acquisition of vital records, housing voucher and housing applications, setting up and getting to apartment viewings, etc.

Requested Breakdown of Direct Service Supports for Encampment Residents

1	PATH
2	PATH
3	PATH/HOME
4	PATH
5	PATH
6	PATH
7	PATH/Wabanaki
8	PATH/HOME
9	PATH/VA
10	PATH
11	PATH
12	PATH
13	PATH
14	PATH
15	PATH
16	PATH
17	PATH/Wabanaki
18	PATH
19	PATH/CoB
20	PATH
21	PATH/CoB
22	PATH
23	PATH/HOME
24	PATH
25	PATH
26	PATH
27	PATH
28	Shaw House/PATH
29	PATH/VA
30	PATH
31	PATH
32	PATH
33	PATH
34	PATH/Wabanaki
35	PATH
36	PATH
37	PATH
38	PATH
39	PATH
40	PATH/HOME
41	PATH/Wabanaki
42	PATH
43	PATH/HOME
44	PATH/Cross Roads/Hope House
45	PATH/Cross Roads
46	PATH
47	PATH
48	PATH/VA
49	PATH
50	PATH

Team Breakdowns	
PATH	Operated by CHCS
HOME	Operated by PCHC
Wabanaki	Housing Navigation Team
Andwell	Community Care Team
Shaw House	Operated by Community Cares (Youth)
VA	HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program
Cross Roads	Permanent Case Management
CoB	City of Bangor's Homeless Outreach Services

51	Cross Roads
52	PATH/Wabanaki/CoB
53	PATH
54	PATH
55	PATH
56	PATH
57	PATH
58	PATH/Wabanaki
59	PATH/HOME
60	PATH/CoB
61	PATH
62	Cross Roads
63	PATH
64	PATH
65	PATH
66	PATH
67	PATH
68	PATH
69	PATH/Wabanaki
70	PATH/Andwell
71	PATH/HOME
72	PATH
73	PATH
74	PATH
75	PATH
76	PATH/HOME
77	PATH
78	PATH/Cross Roads
79	PATH
80	PATH
81	PATH
82	PATH/Wabanaki
83	PATH
84	PATH
85	PATH
86	PATH
87	PATH
88	PATH
89	PATH
90	PATH
91	PATH
92	PATH
93	PATH
94	PATH
95	PATH
96	PATH