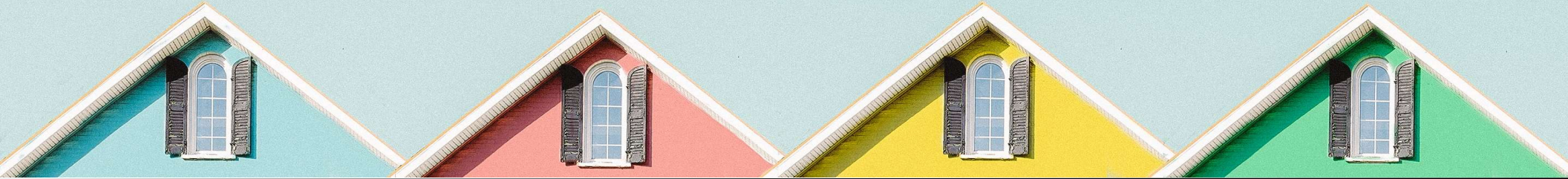


HEALTHY PLACES

Cold Weather Shelter – planning for 2022-23

June 14, 2022



HEALTHY PLACES

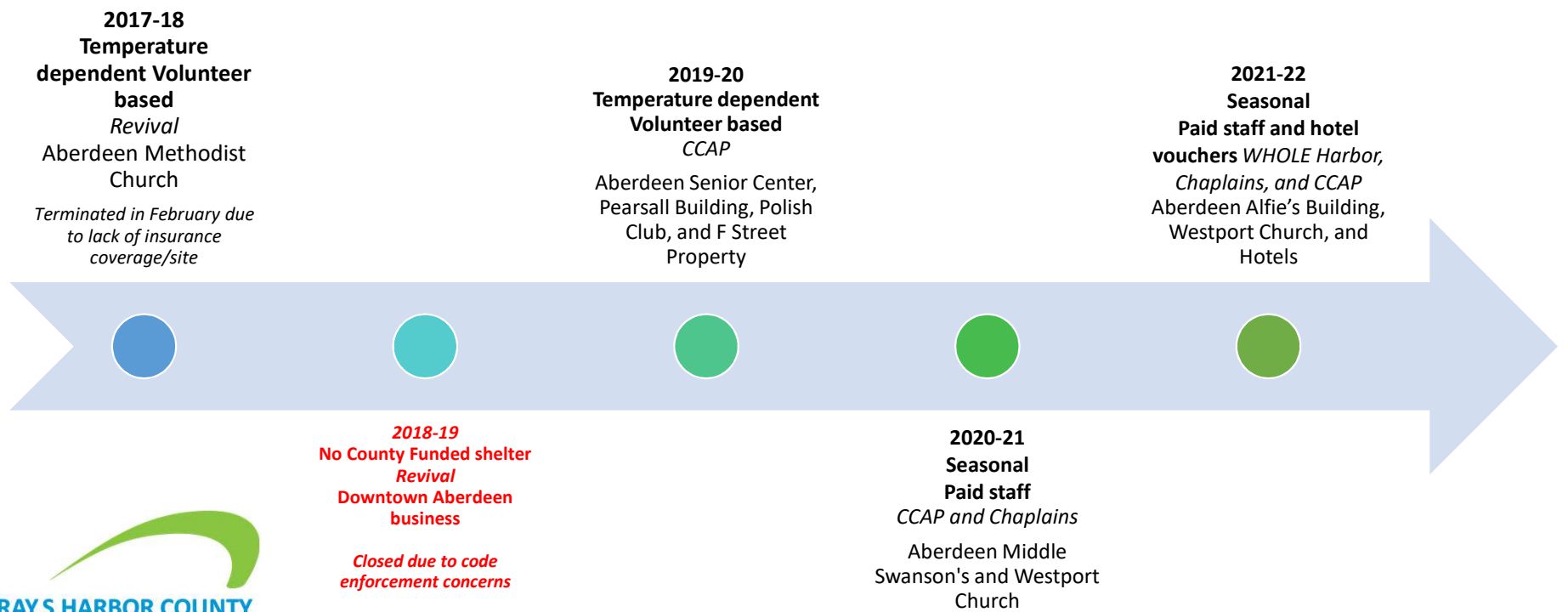
Goals of today's workshop:

- Review themes of June 9th discussion of 2021-22 season
- Review options for 2022-23
- Discuss/reach consensus for model(s) for cold weather shelter for Winter 2022-23 (if any)



HEALTHY PLACES

Timeline of Cold Weather Shelter services in Grays Harbor County



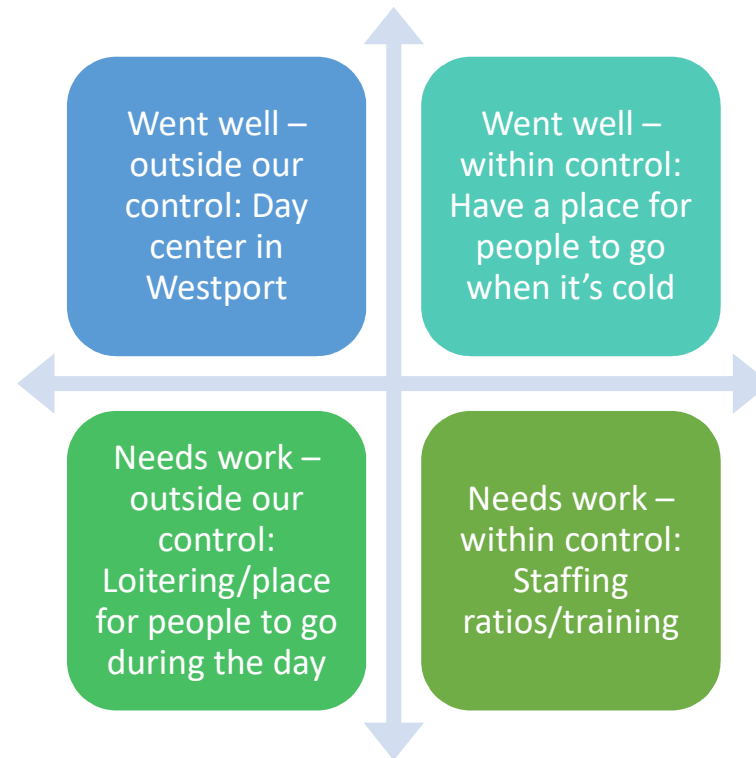
Layers of the issue

- **Extreme weather** – reduce risk of death/severe health impacts
- **Seasonal weather challenges** – reduce health and publicly funded system impacts for vulnerable people
- **Provide shelter to people experiencing homelessness** – alternative to public spaces, way to connect to services, reduce health and system impacts for clients served



HEALTHY PLACES

Scope of Control



Summary of 2021-22 Services

Positive Outcomes

- Save lives and reduce suffering
- Have place for people to go that is not parks/other illegal spaces
- Triage/Connection to services

Challenges

- Location (Aberdeen)
 - Potential impact of any location on neighbors (see rules)
 - New location each year
- Learning curve for new providers
- Need for more collaboration/engagement with stakeholders
- More clarity and consistent enforcement of rules – focus on overnight shelter/sleeping
- More lead time/planning
- Lack of options during the day (info sharing, changing COVID restrictions, etc.)
- Gaps in Behavioral Health services (particularly crisis)

Potential negative impact of no or reduced shelter

- Police/EMS response
- Hospital ER use
- Hypothermia/Impacts on chronic health conditions
- Death by exposure and/or preventable overdose or other medical emergency deaths
- Increase in crime – burglary, break-ins, vandalism
- Increase in demand in crisis services

Commissioner input

- Consensus:
 - Clients expressed appreciation for services
 - Aberdeen shelter location was not ideal
 - Lack of clarity on rules and seemed insufficient to mitigate neighbor impacts
 - Minimal negative impact from hotel vouchers/Westport shelter
- Differing views:
 - What is true impact/risk of winter weather on individuals experiencing homelessness?
 - Whether winter weather is motivator or additional hardship
 - Who is target client/who should we be serving or not serving?
 - County's role in facilitating these services

Available Funding

Funding Source	Amount Unspent	Grant Deadline	Allowable Uses	Source
WA State Emergency Shelter Fund	\$293,087	June 2023	Capital and operational funds for shelter– must be used for year-round beds	Grant from Commerce. Requires joint proposal from Aberdeen/County.
WA State Hotel/Motel Fund	\$223,000	June 2023	The leasing of hotel and motel rooms and associated operations	Grant from Commerce
CARES Act Emergency Solutions Grant	Approximately \$140,000	September 2023	Minimal capital expenses and staff salaries and other operational funding	Emergency COVID Grant passed from HUD to Commerce
Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG CV)	\$150,000	June 2023	Mitigate and respond to challenges related to COVID-19 on low and moderate income populations	Emergency COVID Grant passed to Commerce
Local Document Recording Fees	\$80,000 <i>has been historic/budgeted amount from this fund</i>	N/A	Support strategies in 5 Year Plan	Local Document Recording Fees

Models for consideration

Option A

- **No County-funded Cold Weather Shelter**

Option B

- **Limited/restricted County-funded Cold Weather Shelter** that could include some or all of:
 - Hotel Vouchers
 - Westport Shelter only
 - Congregate shelter (Aberdeen, Westport, others)
 - Could be open days of extreme weather only

Option C

- **Continue County-funded Cold Weather Shelter service level from 2021-22**
 - Seasonal (Nov – March)
 - Multiple sites
 - Hotel Vouchers
- Could include more targeted guidance for requirements like location, shelter rules, security presence, etc.
- Could include a variety of models from hotel vouchers, to congregate shelters, to pallet shelters/tiny home sites

Option D

- **Expand County-funded Cold Weather Shelter service level from 2021-22**
 - Beyond Nov – March
 - Additional geographic sites
 - Add additional services (Behavioral Health)