



A public health centered approach to encampment resolution

City of Boston's Emergency Response to the Mass & Cass Neighborhood



B

Overview

1. Mission
2. Survey of Mass and Cass
Neighborhood
3. Site Summaries and Photos
 - a. Envision
 - b. Dorm 1 at 112 Southampton
 - c. Willows at Woods Mullen Shelter
 - d. Pine Street Shelter at Shattuck
 - e. Cottage Community at Shattuck
 - f. Roundhouse
4. Emergency Response Operation
5. Post January 12th Planning



Mission

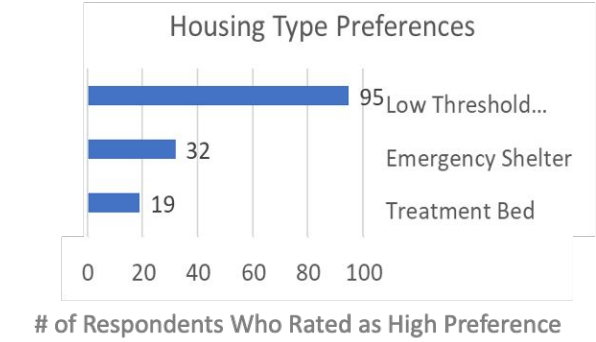
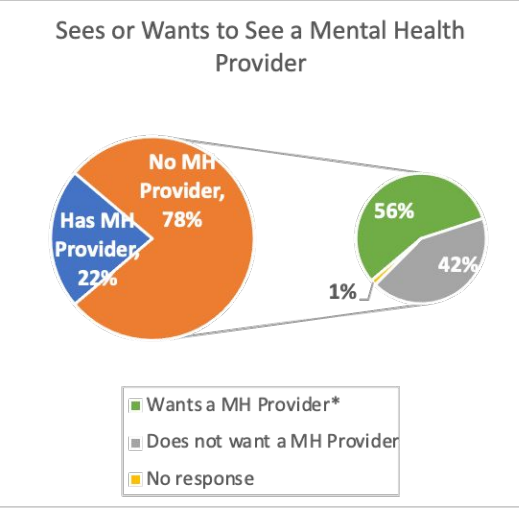
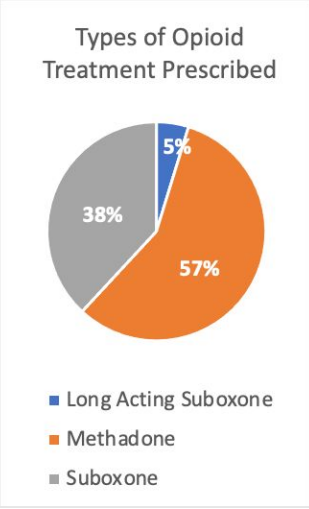
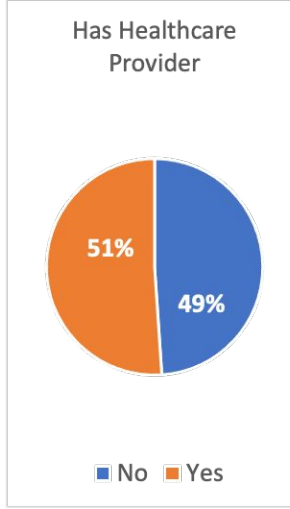
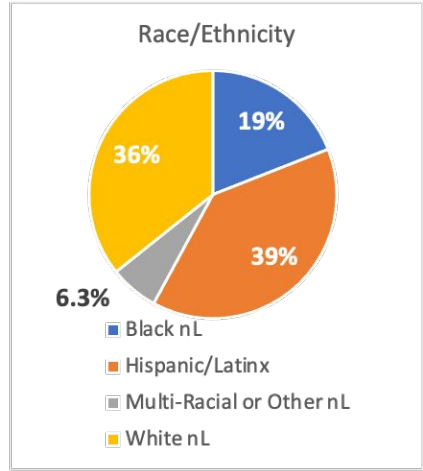
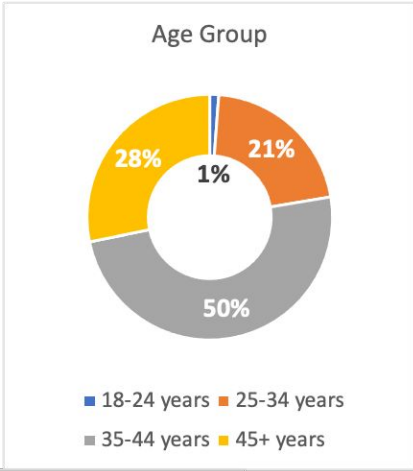
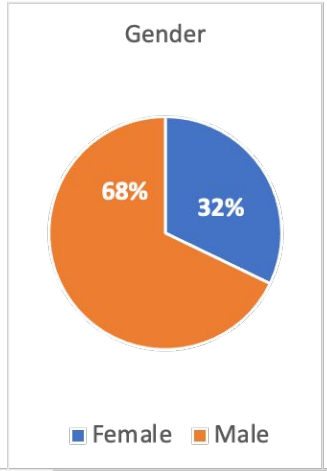
The Mass/Cass neighborhood is defined as the quarter-mile radius extending from the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard. To address the public health crisis in the Mass/Cass neighborhood, the City aimed to transition the 150-200 individuals currently living in tents and makeshift structures to low threshold housing and shelter alternatives.

Examples of public health issues seen at encampments:

- Substance Use Disorder
- Overdoses
- Homelessness
- Drug Trafficking
- Exploitation and Violence
- Weather related illness: hypothermia, frostbite, heat exhaustion
- Exacerbation of chronic medical illnesses
- Exacerbation of mental illness
- Increased infections due to lack of access to care and unsanitary conditions
- Pest infestations

Winter at Mass/Cass





Envision

Provider: Victory Programs

Envision Site Summaries

Start date: Nov 17, 2021

Number of beds: 41

Services: The site provides residents with intensive case management, housing search and stabilization services, and connection to medical, mental health and substance use treatment using a harm reduction model. *[More details in “Envision Program Model” document.]*

Client length of stay: Six to nine months until permanently housed

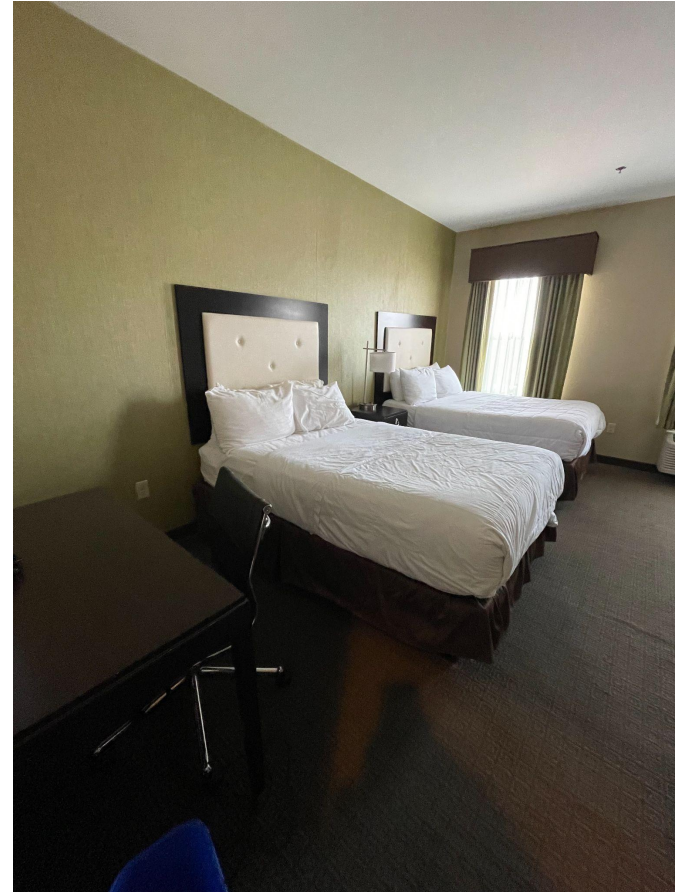
Description of resident’s unit:

- Single rooms with private bath. 3 meals a day.

Supporting documents:

- [EnVision program model](#)

Photos of Envision



DORM 1 AT 112

Provider: Boston Public Health Commission

Dorm 1 Site Summary

Start date: Dec 20, 2021

Number of beds: 25

Services: Congregate low threshold shelter with harm reduction services. Service model includes: allowing guest/client to leave and return to shelter in the evening and overnight; availability of clean needles/supplies when guest leave the building; providing medical /overdose prevention monitoring; providing information and referral to treatment and other needed services; providing general support to guest/clients in the milieu; providing housing search services through Homeless Services Bureau.

Client length of stay: No limit

Description of resident's unit:

Assigned single bed and large locker, shared bathrooms in large dormitory

Photos of Dorm 1



WILLOWS

Provider: St. Francis House + Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program

Willows Site Summary

Start date: Dec 27, 2021

Number of beds: 20-25

Services: Willow at Woods is a harm-reduction focused transitional housing program which will operate 24 hours each day for approximately 6 months, to provide stable shelter/transitional housing to 20-25 women and female-identifying individuals

Client length of stay: Approx. 6 months

Willows

Description of resident's unit:

- Each room has a minimum of 2 beds to a maximum of 5 beds, depending on room size.
- Each guest has a twin bed, small dresser, bedside lamp, alarm clock, and cozy “home-style” bedding. Each guest has a locker in the hallway. We also have a designated “covid” or temporary use bedroom, currently with one bed, that can be used for isolation if needed, or for other purposes if a woman needs to be separated from her typical sleeping environment on a temporary basis.
- Bathroom is shared—3 stalls, 2 shower stalls. OD monitoring system in place.
- In addition, one single use bathroom (no shower) will be available as needed with staff access for unique guest issues related to the need for privacy/medical issues, etc.



Willows



PINE STREET SHELTER @ SHATTUCK

Provider: Pine Street Inn + Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program

Pine Street Site Summary

Start date: Jan 10, 2021

Number of beds: 30

Services: Housing case management and onsite medical care (administered by Boston Health Care for the Homeless), with a focus on male-identifying guests with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders through a harm reduction lens. Clinical support as needed. Amnesty lockers available.

Client length of stay: Avg 90 days with consideration of an extension based on need

Description of resident's unit:

- Single bed cubicles in a congregate setting. Shared bathrooms. Assigned beds.

Pine Street



COTTAGE COMMUNITY @ SHATTUCK

Provider: Commonwealth Care Alliance + Eliot Human Services

Cottages Site Summary

Provider: Commonwealth Care Alliance + Eliot Human Services

Start date: Goal Dec 29, 2021

Number of beds: 24 (5 cabins designed for 2 people; 12 cabins designed for 1 person, with capacity for 2 people)

Services:

Onsite:

Behavioral Health: MAT/Psychiatry, Recovery Coaching, Intensive Housing Navigation and Case Management, Trauma Informed Care & Stabilization Counseling

Medical: Direct RN Support and Oversight, Onsite Primary Care Collaboration, Pharmacy Coordination

Post Placement Stabilization Services (Offsite for newly housed individuals & couples):

CSPECH, Recovery Coaching, Behavioral Health Community Partner (health care coordination), Flexible Support Services (ACO funded - tenancy sustaining track), Nursing Case Management, In home Counseling and Psychiatry as needed

Client length of stay: Goal is to house people served with in home stabilization services within 60 days

Cottages



ROUNDHOUSE

Provider: Boston Medical Center (BMC)

Roundhouse Site Summary

Provider: Boston Medical Center (BMC)

Start date: Expected on or about Jan 4, 2021

Number of beds: Estimated 30 rooms with maximum capacity of 60 individuals (primarily double rooms); ~15 beds to start, other beds and clinical services phased in over time

Services: Crisis housing beds with medical stabilization and housing navigation services. Peer staff and/or case management available 24/7 to meet with and support residents. Nursing will be onsite 24/7.

Client length of stay: ~6 months

Referral criteria, pathway, and considerations:

Point person: Housing Program Manager

- **Description of resident's unit:**

Modified hotel suites with twin beds. Double rooms will have two twin beds. For couples, these twin beds can be in the same room. For non-couples, these beds would be separated to two individual rooms. Each suite has its own private toilet and shower. Rooms can be locked, but not dead-bolted.

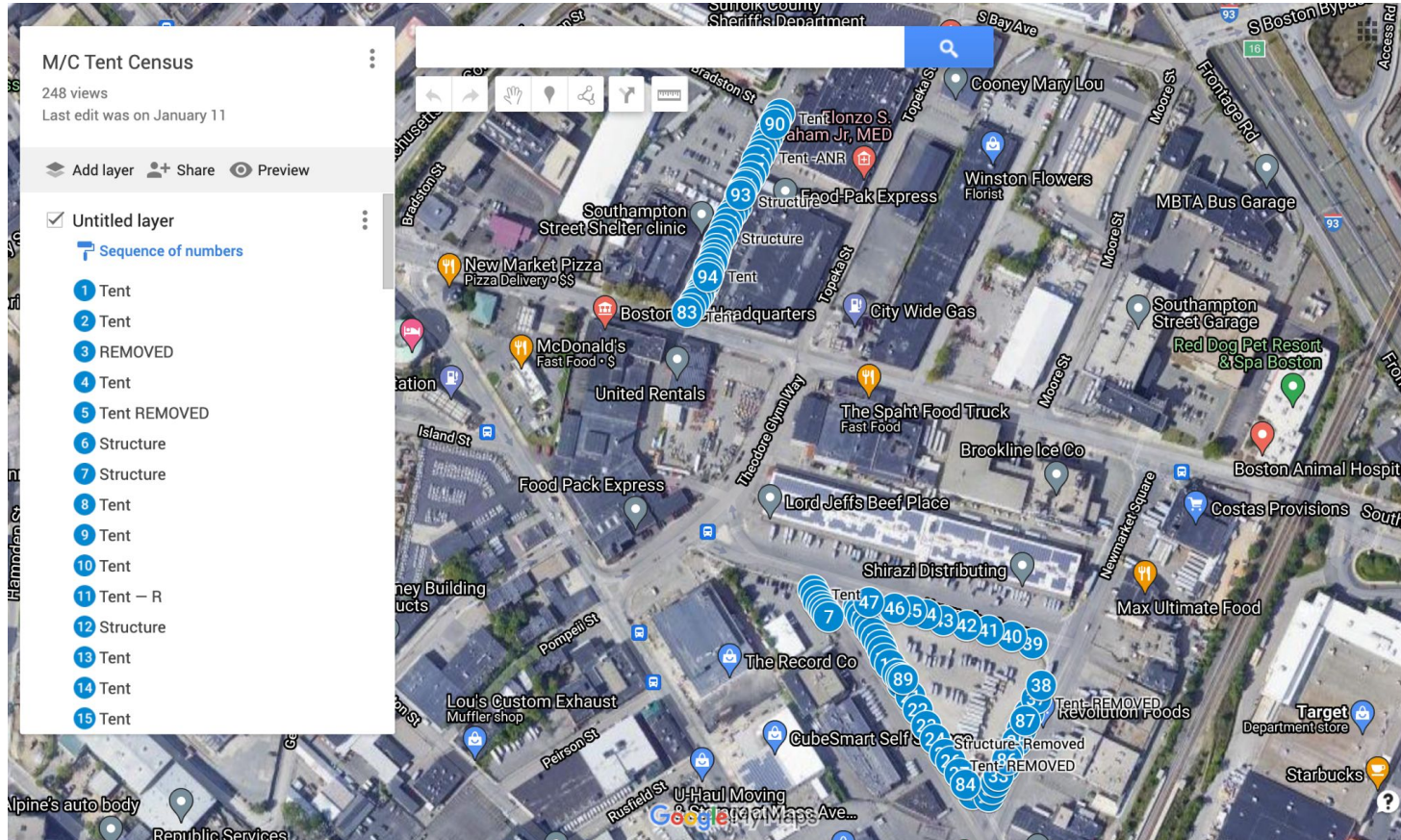
Roundhouse



Emergency Response Operation - Coordinated Response Team

- Public Works Department
- Boston Public Health Commission
- Boston Fire Department
- Boston Police Department Street Outreach Unit
- Emergency Medical Services
- Mayor's Office
- Mayor's Office of Housing
- Office of Recovery Services
- Inspectional Services Department
- Boston Public Schools
- Office of Neighborhood Services
- Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics

Emergency Response Operation- Tent Census Map



Operation Outcomes

- Since January 2022, over **150 individuals** have moved into the new low-threshold shelter & housing sites.
- Some residents have since been placed in low-threshold and permanent housing all around Massachusetts.

THANK YOU

