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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS
IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS
(CHAIRPERSON)
TRANSPORTATION
(VICE-CHAIRPERSON)
BUDGET
COMMITTEES AND RULES
PUBLIC SAFETY
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC WAY

October 2, 2023

SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTS FROM THE
COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE RIGHTS
SUBJECT MATTER HEARING / COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

SUBJECT MATTER HEARING / COMMITTEE MEETING

Discuss the roles of the Office of the Mayor; Office of Emergency Management & Communications (OEMC); Chicago Police Department (CPD); and mutual aid groups in welcoming new arrivals.



Committee on Immigrant & Refugee
Rights, City Council

September 29, 2023

The following table depicts key data points from the past year in comparison to our current situation.

<u>Operational Period:</u> 08/31/22 - 01/07/23 <i>130 Days</i>		<u>Operational Period:</u> 01/07/23 – 05/08/23 <i>121 Days</i>		<u>Operational Period:</u> 05/09/23 – 09/29/23 <i>141 Days</i>	
Total # Buses:	108	Total # Buses:	0	Total # Buses:	186
Total # Shelters Stood Up:	14	Total # Shelters Stood Up:	8	Total # Shelters Stood Up:	21
Total # in New Arrival Shelters:	1,531	Total # in New Arrival Shelters:	2,914	Total # in New Arrival Shelters:	9,308
Key differences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different Administration • Unified Area Command with the State of Illinois (IEMA and IDHS) • Most New Arrivals arrived via buses • MARC 		Key differences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 buses due to Title 42 • Shelters began to demobilization • Small daily influx of individuals by other travel means • Respite vs. Shelter 		Key differences: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More buses in shorter time frame • Increase in 3-1-1 requests • Increase media and aldermanic attention • More shelters to manage • Increase in staff and New Arrivals # • Use of CPD Districts and ORD for staging 	

In the last (10) days we have moved over 1,500 people from PDs to shelter

By the numbers



294 buses that have arrived since August 2022
+36 since last week



Over **15,000** new arrivals since August 2022
• Chartered Buses • Flights • Independent Travel



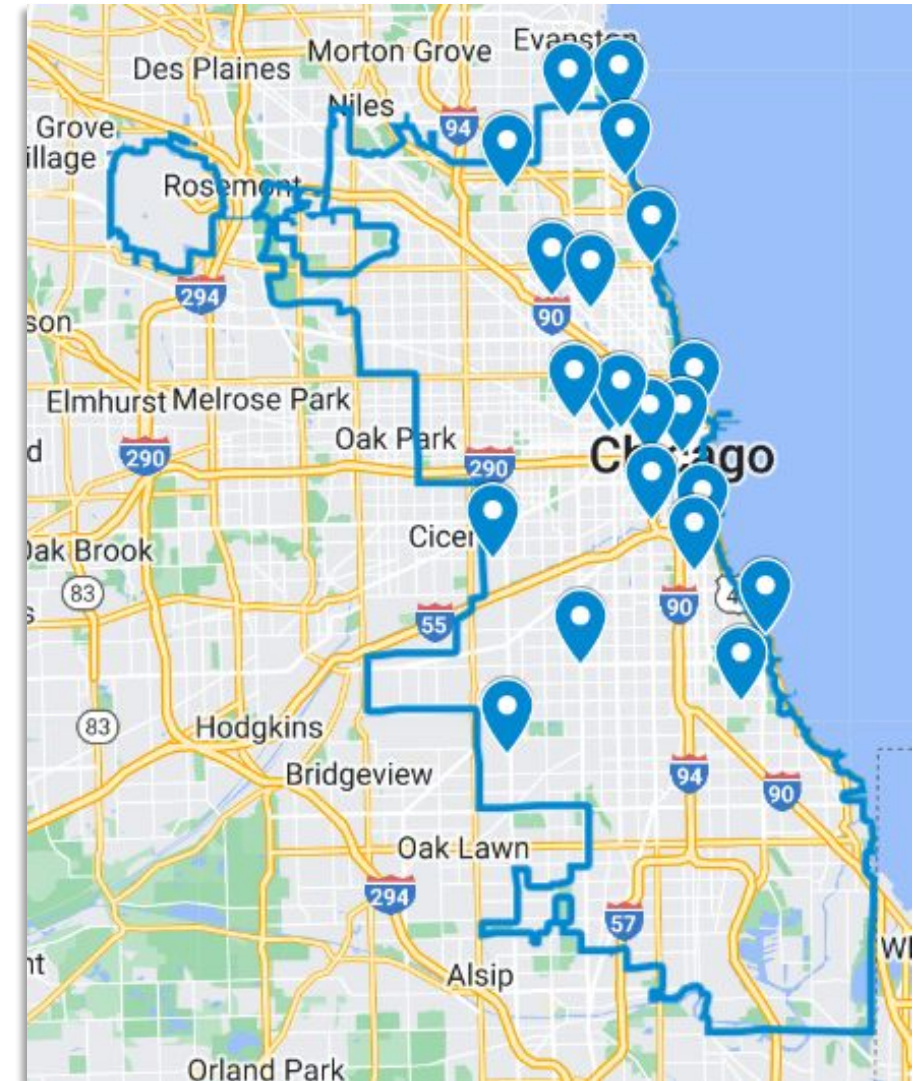
30 shelters have been utilized within City network
• 21 in current operation - 1 every 8 days since 5/15



9,308 current bed capacity
• 2,312 awaiting shelter in Police Stations and Airports



35,613 meals per day



Many partners help to make this happen.

- Dozens of CBOs, mutual aid organizations, faith communities, and individual volunteers provide resources and support to new arrivals every day.
- Cook County Health provides screenings and health care.
- Illinois Department Human Services
- City agencies and departments
- Philanthropy

State funded partners:

- Catholic Charities - housing case-management.
- IHDA - rental assistance for 6 months.
- New Life Centers - assists in move out and furniture support.
- ICIRR/Illinois Welcoming Centers - wrap around case management, school enrollment, educational workshops, public benefits enrollment, referrals to social services, and community integration support
- Greater Chicago Food Depository - meals
- Shower Up



1 Replace police stations with **base camps and other facilities**



- One or more locations
- Weatherized
- City-owned properties, parks, schools, libraries
- Motels, warehouses, office buildings and other brick and mortar spaces

2 Improve Safety and Shelter Operations



- Comprehensive community safety strategy
- Integration of community partners
- Coordination with Alders

3 Apply cost-saving strategies



- Replace contract staffing with CBOs
- RFP for shelter operations and meal service to employ Chicagoans

4 Accelerate Resettlement



- Additional housing case management
- Partnerships with adjacent municipalities
- Advocate for "significant public benefit" designation by DHS for expedited work authorization

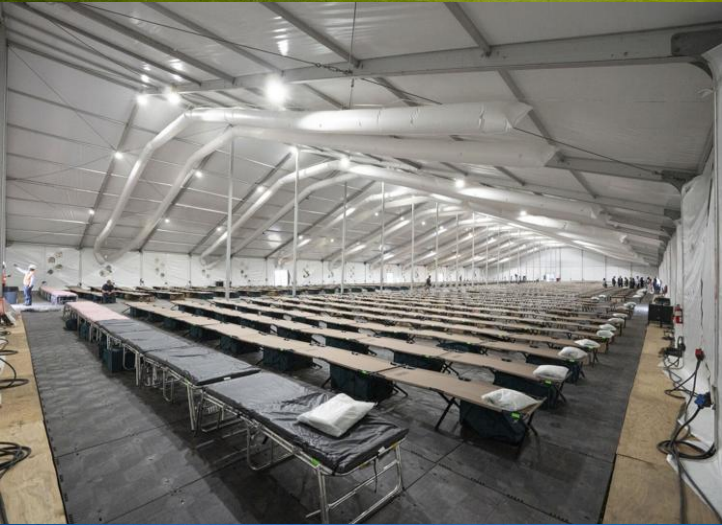
5 Manage the number of new arrivals



- Coordination at the border
- Partnerships with adjacent municipalities
- Communicating weather and resource limitations

- Pre-fabricated, insulated structures
- Heated to 72 degrees
- Rated the American Red Cross
- Provide a complete solution with optional services
- Will hire local staff and contract with local CBOs and businesses
- Will follow DFSS shelter operations guidelines





Community Safety Committees

SHELTER SAFETY COMMITTEE	
Role	Description/focus
Aldersperson*	Build and support community & shelter relations, help direct resources
DFSS*	Lead shelter operations, oversight, and agency coordination
CDPH*	Lead & support public health initiatives
Neighborhood school rep. (e.g., Principal and/or CTU, CPS)	Support school safety school safety and needs of school-age new arrivals and their families
CPD*	Lead & support safety policies and initiatives as applicable
District Council*	Support safety policies and community engagement
OEMC (EOC)*	Work with CPD, Site Captain, and District Council to keep Ald. Robinson's office informed when issues arise or CPD is called to the site
Streets & San	Work with Parks to maintain regular cleaning schedule around Pritzker Park; Establish and maintain a regular cleaning schedule around the shelter
BACP	Respond to issues related to the informal economy in the park; Educate and encourage businesses in the surrounding area about TPS

- Piloting with Ald. Robinson at the Pritzker Park shelter
- Issues raised by community:
 - large gatherings and violence at Pritzker Park
 - Impact on small businesses
- Community safety solutions:
 - coordinating with the Site Captain, CPD, and OEMC to keep the alder informed
 - Coordinating with BACP on the informal economy and TPS education for small businesses
 - Work with Parks and CPD to enforce park closures

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CPD*	Lead & support safety policies and initiatives as applicable
District Council*	Support safety policies and community engagement
OEMC (EOC)*	Work with CPD, Site Captain, and District Council to keep Ald. Burnett's office informed when issues arise or CPD is called to the site
Streets & San	Establish and maintain a regular cleaning schedule around the shelter
BACP	Respond to issues related to the New Arrivals and the informal economy on the Westside; Educate and encourage businesses in the surrounding area about TPS
CSCC	Touring the area to assess concerns for New Arrival recruitment into street organizations; assessment of applicable CSCC resources and possibilities for positive presence

- Piloting with Ald. Burnett at the 344 N. Ogden shelter
- Issues raised by community:
 - loitering in large groups; access to drug markets and concerns around street organizations
 - Impact on small businesses
- Community safety solutions:
 - coordinating with the Site Captain, CPD, OEMC to keep the alder informed
 - Working with the CSCC to assess concerns around street organizations
 - BACP to encourage the use of TPS by small businesses
 - CPD to enforce dispersal orders around hot spots

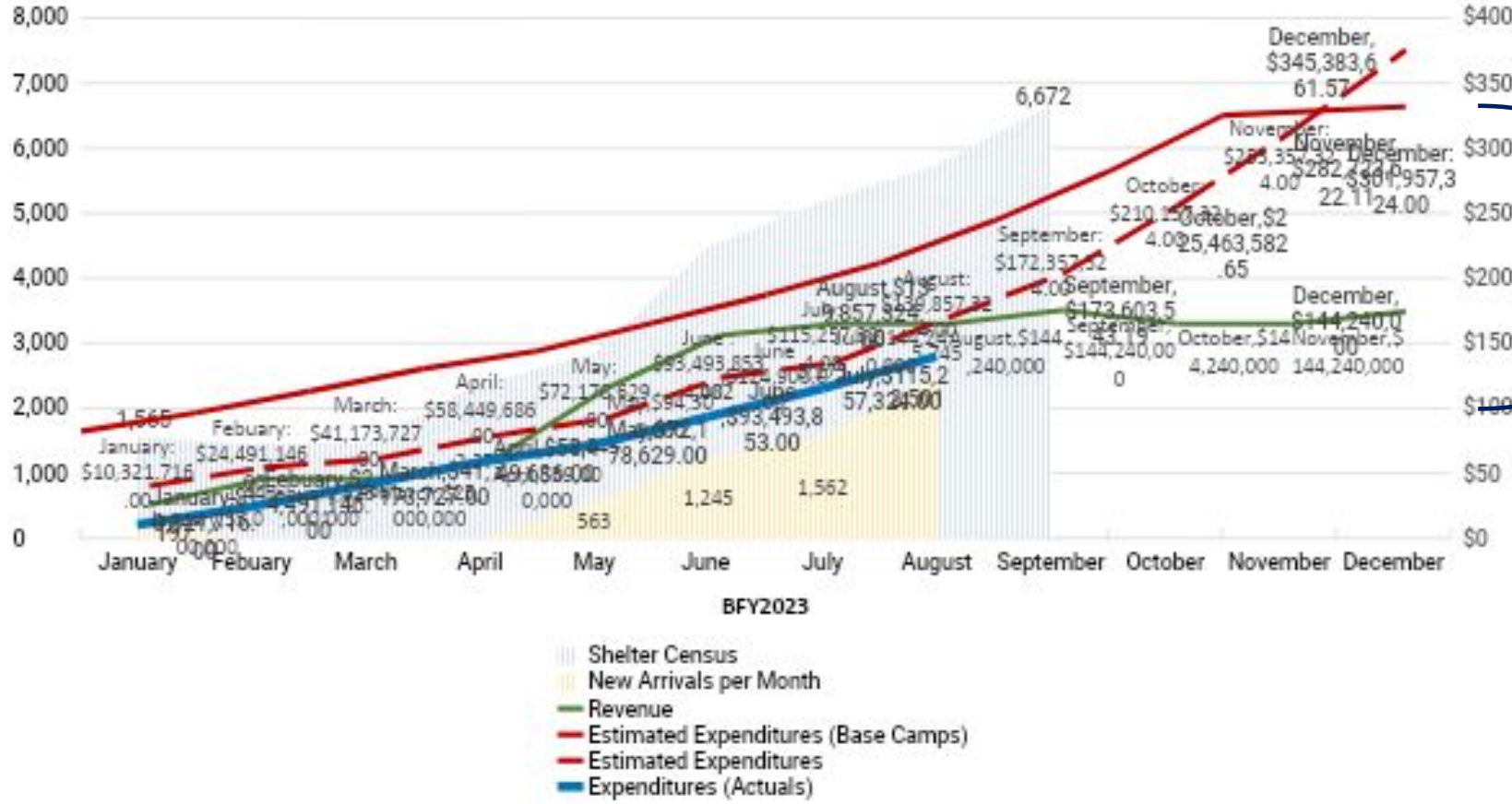
Recruiting Volunteer Support

IMPACTED INDIVIDUALS	
Role	Description/focus
Shelter residents* (1-2)	Directly impacted individuals who can engage other shelter residents to co-create safety
Community representatives* (1-2)	Directly impacted individuals who can engage with other community residents to co-create safety
Shelter employees* (1-2)	Directly impacted individuals who can engage with other staff and shelter residents to co-create safety
COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS / RESOURCES	
Role	Description/focus
Mediator(s), de-escalators	Individuals who will help prevent and mediate harm and violence
Mutual aid organizations/individ.	Volunteer support for shelter operations and needs of shelter residents
Volunteer medical (for consultation)	Work with CPDH, shelter employees, volunteers and shelter residents to address medical needs as necessary
Translation & accessibility	Support language and accessibility needs of residents, employees, volunteers, and community
Liaison(s) between new arrival shelters and other shelters	Mediate conflict between new arrivals and populations in other types of shelters (e.g., houseless residents)
Other (TBD)	Other CBOs who are/ could work with shelters to provide services and support safety

- MOCS partnering with Mayor’s Office for Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Rights to draft and rollout a volunteer program that will increase capacity at shelters
- Issues raised by community:
 - Cleanliness
 - Informal economy
 - Tensions – unwanted or inappropriate interactions between New Arrivals and residents
- Best practices from shelters such as Brands Park show that strong mutual aid and volunteer support lessens tensions



Investments and Expenses



YTD Total Costs by Agency

Funding Gap
\$157.7M - \$201.1M



\$116M



\$270K*



\$1.4M



\$15.8M

Actuals		Estimates
AUG 22 – DEC 22	JAN 23 – JULY 23	AUG 23 – DEC 23
\$17.5M	\$115.3M	\$186.7M - \$230.1M

AUG 22 – DEC 23
\$319.5M - \$362.9M

Funding Source	Amount
FEMA	\$34,240,000**
DOH - ERAP	\$4,000,000
City Funds	\$56,000,000
State	\$50,000,000***
Total	\$144,240,000

*When loss of revenue is incorporated, YTD costs increase to \$300k.
 **Includes \$33M from FEMA in direct and pass through funding already announced/awarded.
 ***City will be applying for a portion of the \$42.5M allocated to migrant costs included in the State budget.
 ****Shelter census as of first of each month.



Investments and Expenses

Cost Categories

Funding Category	YTD Costs (Jan. – Aug. 2023)
Staffing	\$98,320,137
Non-Congregate Rentals	\$18,368,135
Food	\$12,969,049
Rental Assistance	\$4,000,000
Facility Operations	\$5,145,162
Legal Services + Outmigration	\$604,838
Transportation	\$450,000
Total	\$139,857,321

Top 3 Professional Service Contracts

Vendor	Service	YTD Cost
Favorite Healthcare	Shelter and program staffing	\$56.3M
Equitable Solutions	Shelter rentals	\$12.6M
Open Kitchens	Food Service	\$9.4M

Grant Funding

Program Name	Award	Source	Award Date
EFSP - United Way National Board	\$3,000,000.00	Federal	10/28/2022
ESFP	\$2,490,629.00	Federal	12/22/2023
ESFP	\$4,301,387.13	Federal	5/5/2023
SSP – DHS/FEMA	\$10,575,801.00	Federal	6/12/2023
SSP	\$19,363,557.00	Federal – State Pass Through	6/12/2023
SSP	\$2,163,472.00	Federal	Not Awarded Yet
Total	41,894,846.13		

- **Federal Funding specific**

- Additional flexible funding streams to address immediate need with increased buses and assure sustainability of resettlement efforts funded by State
- SSP Funding Guidelines Changed – 45 days is not feasible and limited flexibility
- Expand funding for infrastructure that benefits all Chicagoan
 - HUD choice vouchers
 - Chicago Department of Public Health
 - ISBE/CPS for additional teacher positions and the STLS program
 - Transportation

- **Policy specific**

- Expedited work authorization with "Significant Public Benefit" designation by DHS
- Improve backlog on asylum applications and workforce authorization request
- Waive fees for work authorization requests



Thank you for your partnership.



MMHT

MOBILE MIGRANT HEALTH TEAM
CHICAGO



Overview

The **Mobile Migrant Health Team (MMHT)** is a specialized healthcare initiative aimed at providing culturally-sensitive and language-concordant health assessments and support to vulnerable migrant populations, primarily at police stations in Chicago, IL.

Since May 2023, MMHT has...

- Grown to a network of 250+ volunteers (>2,500 hours served)
- Raised \$30,000 (>\$20,000 budget used so far)
- Completed 5,000+ health assessments

How our health assessments work

Plan

Communicate with OEMC to determine which police districts need us most that week.

Updates on any reported medical cases in shelters.

Primarily 1, 12, 20

Prepare

Prepare and stock our medical supply bags.

Coordinate our group of providers, students, and other volunteers to meet at police districts.

Serve

Meet with patients and families to discuss urgent health concerns.

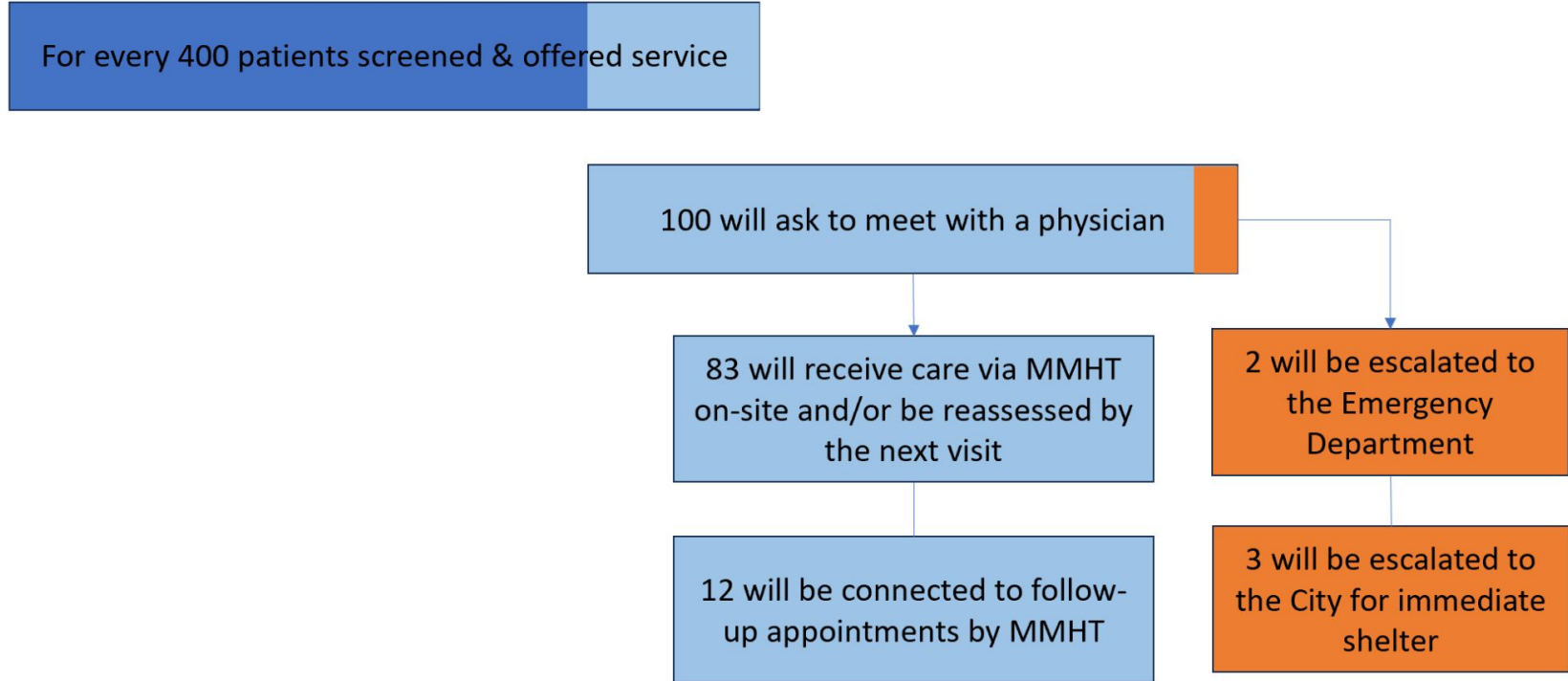
Follow-up internally, via FQHCs, and with in hospital advocacy.

*1-2 runs per week
-Escalate as needed*



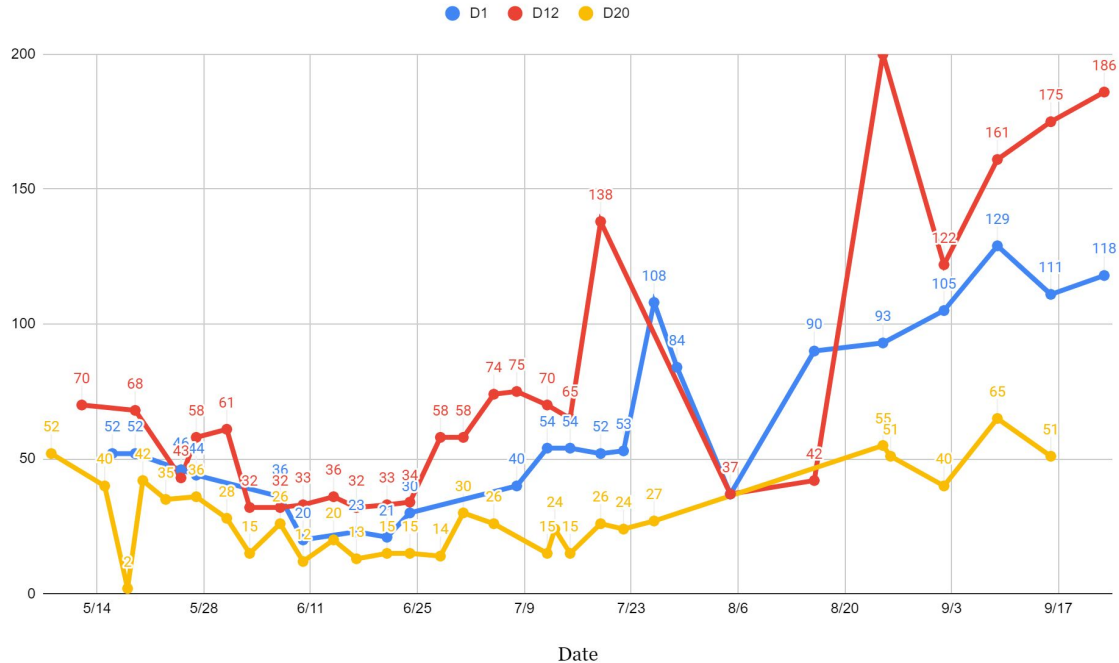


Patient Coordination & Escalation



Increasing patient populations

MMHT Run Headcounts at D1, D12, and D20 from May-September 2023



Challenges



- **No clear plan from the city**
 - CBOs continue to be engaged last-minute or not at all.
 - No timeline for tent cities or how resources will be allocated (social services? health screenings? food?)
 - Tents are not adequately winterized
- Lack of funding
- No standard follow-up process within the city system
 - Escalation does not guarantee care or shelter!
- FQHCs have limited new patient capacity
- Limitations in onsite care & diagnostics

Recommendations and Asks

INVEST IN LONG TERM INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE UNHOUSED & PARTNER WITH CBOS!

1. Support the efforts of MMHT and other community-based organizations through funding
2. Provide wraparound services (TPS, VTTC, Medicaid, etc.) to migrants sooner to promote autonomy
3. Prioritize vulnerable populations for housing, particularly pregnant women, complex medical situations, and members of the LGBTQ+ community
4. Urge FQHCs to open more follow-up appointment slots, especially for dental services



POLICE STATION RESPONSE TEAM

OVERVIEW

- Police Station Response Team began in March 2023
- Community members and organizers directly meeting needs of residents at all police districts
- Decentralized, non-hierarchical network, organized by police district
- Additional teams organized to support residents at city shelters
- Currently number an estimated 2,500 participants, with an active member base of 500 people (an average of 20 people per station)
- Many community organizations (churches, schools, community-based organizations have contributed in some way)

WHY?

FAILURES

- Police, tasked to serve and protect, did not respond to immediate needs of people sheltering in their precinct offices.
- OEMC, City of Chicago, State of Illinois DFSS, ICIRR, and all other social services agencies did not activate sufficient response systems to help these people.

Ordinary citizens of Chicago refuse to allow children, women and men legally seeking asylum in the United States to starve and freeze on the floors of police stations.

OPPORTUNITIES

- Regular people built a robust community response system, almost overnight.

TIME AND MONEY

PRIVATE CITIZENS have paid out of pocket for:

Food
Medicine
Diapers and wipes
Formula and baby food
Blankets
Pillows
Sleeping mats
Air mattresses
Tents
Clothing
Shoes
Cellular phones
School supplies, toys, and books

PRIVATE CITIZENS taken time away from their families and jobs in order to:

- Accompany people to immigration appointments
- Drive people to medical clinics and the emergency room
- Register children for school
- Mediate conflict
- Counsel and comfort those who have gone through trauma
- Escalate complaints of malfeasance and misconduct.

NONE OF THIS WAS FREE

\$ Cost Estimates \$

- There are currently 2,000 people living in Police Districts
- Food and water: \$2,389,050 (Breakfast, lunch and sometimes dinner; shelf stable food and disposable food service equipment)
- Supplies: \$984,990 (Bedding, clothing, diapers, medicine, shoes, hygiene supplies)
- Person hours: \$2,856,000 (Cost estimated at \$60/hr* for one person on-site at each district, 16 hrs a day, 7 days a week)

* *Hourly rate of FHS lowest paid employees*

PARTNERSHIP? THIS IS NOT A PARTNERSHIP.

Despite regular communication with the Mayor's office, (Deputy Mayor Rey Wences), we have not received:

- Adequate on the ground communications regarding movement of people to and from police stations.
- Any substantive materials support at the stations (Every blanket? That was us.)
- Reimbursement for any out of pocket expenses
- Sufficient, timely support for urgent medical needs and mental health support.
- A single meeting with Mayor Johnson

MISALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

- The City of Chicago and the State of Illinois bet on the wrong horse by choosing expensive private companies to run and staff their shelters.

CONCLUSIONS

- We love our newest Chicagoans.
- Immigrants will always and forever be the bedrock of our community.
- Chicago deserves vision and actual community investment to build infrastructure that should have been built after the last major crisis (COVID)– and to prepare us for the next one.
- Labor must be compensated, or labor is being exploited, and that “partnership” will not endure.
- Asylum-seekers are not a money-pit!

Community members and local organizations can do it cheaper, better, and with more respect for human dignity than corporations

OH YES...ABOUT THE TENTS

- Not a long-term solution
- Not recommended by experts in urban refugee and resettlement
- Not sustainable
- Politically unpopular
- Cost \$30 million dollars
- Don't help Chicago's existing unhoused population
- Do not support public safety
- Bad for public health
- Do not support human dignity

