



August 25, 2014

Update on the “Empowerment Center” Project

Empowerment Center



History

- Feb. 6, 2014 - The City approved a 3 year agreement with ACCHH for management and coordination of Homeless Services at the Empowerment Center.
 - Annual contract for \$308,000 in FY14
 - Future funding is subject to the approval of the City and County's annual Budget Process
 - City and County agreed to provide \$154,000 each for the provision of service FY14

History

- Feb. 20, 2014 - City approved Connect Free funds of up to \$625,000 for plumbing improvements, water meters and wastewater improvements at the Empowerment Center.
- Apr. 17, 2014 - the first payment of \$77,000 issued from the City to ACCHH for start up cost and equipment for Homeless Services at the Empowerment Center.

History

- May 5, 2014 - ACCHH began limited services at the Empowerment Center including:
 - Mail services
 - Restroom access
 - Referral services
 - Bus pass distribution, and
 - Partnership meetings for social service providers

Renovations

- The City has allocated over 1 million dollars in renovation and construction funds to get the campus ready for homeless services.
- The State Legislature approved \$300,000 for kitchen equipment, roof repairs and painting for the Empowerment Center.

Renovations

Facility improvements and repairs have focused on bringing buildings up to code with greatest potential for use and immediate impacts such as the:

- Chapel
- Food Services (Kitchen & Dining Hall)
- Dormitory
- Laundry
- Library
- Welcome Center

Note: Staff will continue working with stakeholders to seek funding for repairs to the remaining buildings to make them available for future use as directed by the Governing Board.

Renovations

On April 17, 2014, the City provided ACCHH five (5) sets of keys to the Empowerment Center campus including:

- Gate padlocks
- Chapel,
- Food Services building,
- Laundry,
- Library,
- Dorm A, and
- Visitor Center buildings

Note: All buildings were not ready for immediate use by ACCHH as they were still undergoing renovations and repairs.

Renovations

As part of the ongoing coordination efforts between the City, County, and ACCHH, staff members of all 3 entities met on April 29th, and will continue to meet monthly to cultivate the growth and success of the project.

It was determined by ACCHH that the Administrative/Gate Building is essential for successful daily operations and to begin Homeless Services at the Center.

On May 5th, the City authorized use of the Administrative/Gate Building "As is" and the ACCHH agreed to be responsible for all improvements and utilities associated with the Building.

Renovations

Before



Sally port, bollards, tall fencing and barbed wire removed at the entrance

After



Renovations

Before



Fencing and barbed wire removed at the entrance

After



Renovations

Repairs completed in the Laundry and Library buildings included:

- Roofing
- HVAC
- Interior and exterior painting
- Installed a new ceiling
- Plumbing
- Gas lines (laundry)
- Electrical
- Lighting, and
- General cleaning and sanitation

These buildings were turned over to ACCHH on 5/12/14

Renovations



Before

Laundry room repairs
and upgrades



After



After

Renovations

Library repairs and upgrades



Renovations

The Food Services Building has also undergone a tremendous amount of repairs and renovations. The dining hall has received:

- New HVAC units,
- New floor tile,
- New wall tile,
- New fly fans,
- New light fixtures,
- New ceiling;
- Interior paint;
- General cleaning and sanitation;
- Exterior rotten wood repairs and painting.

Renovations

Dining Hall repairs and upgrades (new wall tile installed)



Renovations

Dining Hall repairs and upgrades (new wall tile installed)



Renovations

The Food Services Building:

- Has a new architectural shingle roof.
- Kitchen area – projected to be finished June 1st, the freezers and walk in coolers have undergone a great amount of maintenance and repairs and are ready.
- Staff and contractors have installed new HVAC systems in the staff dining area and storage rooms.
- Numerous plumbing repairs have been completed in the facility.
- Wall tile installation has started in the kitchen area and staff will continue working on the kitchen cooking exhaust system.

The dining hall was turned over to ACCHH on 5/27/14

Renovations

Kitchen repairs and upgrades (new wall tile being installed)



Renovations

Kitchen repairs and upgrades (new wall tile installed)



Renovations

Repairs completed in Dorms A & D that will be utilized by ACCHH including:

- Interior and exterior painting (D only)
- Door repairs
- HVAC installation (D only)
- Lighting repairs, and
- General cleaning and sanitation

Note: One major step remaining in the dorm buildings will be the total renovation of the restroom facilities to make them more applicable for use in a shelter setting.

Dorm A building turned over to ACCHH on 4/17/14.

Renovations



Dorm repairs and painting



Renovations

Before



Dorm restroom repairs
and fixture replacements

After



Interlocal Agreement

Direction from March 24, 2014 Joint Meeting of the City and County Commissions:

- Develop an Interlocal Agreement to establish a 5 Member Governance Board
 - 2 City Commissioners
 - 2 County Commissioners
 - 1 member chosen by the other 4 members

Interlocal Agreement

- City Commission approved a draft Interlocal Agreement on June 19, 2014
- City and County staff have attempted to negotiate terms for the draft Interlocal Agreement, however any recommended changes would require approval by both Commissions
- The City has already been contacted by agencies wishing to provide services at the Center; they have been advised that the Governance Board will make those determinations

Moving Forward

There are many options and potential services to explore as the campus is developed under the direction of the Governance Board such as:

- Job training and mentoring programs
- Job search assistance
- Behavioral and medical health care
- Life skills training
- Case management
- Medical and dental care
- Educational opportunities
- Housing

In Conclusion

Questions?