



Homeless Services Site Evaluation Commission Future Facilities Scenario Resolution Approved November 23, 2015

WHEREAS 1: The Commission's mission is to evaluate and recommend where the siting of homeless service facilities in Salt Lake City should be, guided by three questions: 1) Should the sites for homeless services in Salt Lake City remain where they are, as they are?; 2) Should the sites for these services remain where they are but be improved to mitigate persistent and vexing problems experienced by homeless individuals, residents, business owners and the community?; and 3) Should the sites for these services be relocated?;

WHEREAS 2: The Commission has held public meetings; conducted small group meetings; taken exploratory field trips; invited the public to share their input in town halls, open houses, and through surveys;

WHEREAS 3: The Commission expresses appreciation for the opportunity to listen to the needs and concerns of those who are experiencing or at-risk for homelessness; provide services to those experiencing homelessness; and live, work, visit, receive services or do business in Salt Lake City;

WHEREAS 4: The Commission empathizes with the challenges each of these stakeholders face and has carefully considered these challenges;

WHEREAS 5: The Commission recognizes that addressing the siting of homeless service facilities in Salt Lake City alone will not help address complex problem of homelessness;

WHEREAS 6: The Commission therefore has considered the findings of Salt Lake County's Collective Impact on Homelessness Steering Committee and supports the shared outcomes the Committee has adopted;

WHEREAS 7: The Commission therefore recognizes further that homelessness is a statewide problem and shares a common goal to minimize homelessness in Utah;

NOW, THEREFORE, The Commission makes the following recommendations about siting of homeless service facilities in Salt Lake City:

1. Facilities should be designed and operated to meet the distinct needs of priority sub-populations as identified by the Collective Impact on Homelessness Steering Committee.

2. Neighborhoods that host facilities should be welcoming and safe for all who live, work, receive services, visit or do business there.
3. To this end, facilities should be located using a “scattered site” model involving smaller shelters co-located with supportive services, while recognizing that some key services supporting the scattered sites may be stationed in a central facility. This model:
 - Reduces stress on the emergency services system as a whole, on families and individuals who are homeless, and on neighborhoods that host homeless services.
 - Supports the coordinated entry and “no wrong door” outcomes designed to prevent and reduce homelessness as recommended by the Collective Impact on Homelessness Steering Committee.
 - Ameliorates public safety issues that result from a single point of entry and concentrated services model – for example, the model that currently exists in the Rio Grande area in Salt Lake City.
4. To this end, the concentrated service facility model in the Rio Grande area no longer meets collective needs or shared outcomes and should be changed.
5. The specific configuration of individual facilities with associated support services using this “scattered site” model should be developed based on the shared outcomes and data findings of the Collective Impact on Homelessness Steering Committee.
6. The specific siting of individual facilities with associated support services in Salt Lake City using this “scattered site” model should be determined by Salt Lake City.
7. Finally, any service facilities located in either Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County should be part of a coordinated effort with other cities, counties and the State of Utah to minimize homelessness statewide by: providing effective housing and support services to those experiencing or at-risk for homelessness; diverting individuals and families in crisis away from emergency shelter whenever possible; using appropriate interventions leading to self-sufficiency; and helping individuals and families at-risk for or experiencing homelessness stay in or near their communities of origin.
8. To this end, three key priorities for immediate joint implementation with Collective Impact on Homelessness Steering Committee and the State of Utah are:
 - a. The development of a separate emergency services facility with associated support services for families and children;
 - b. The development of a coordinated entry system that provides timely access to services across the system, with no ‘wrong doors.’
 - c. The development of statewide prevention and diversion solutions that reduce the need for emergency shelter altogether among identified sub-populations by providing appropriate housing and support services.