



# HOMELESSNESS AND MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGIC PLAN - UPDATE

DS-23-115

December 05, 2023

# Background

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- In March 2021, the Killeen City Council issued a motion of direction for city staff to work with the City of Temple on a homelessness strategic plan that would include measurable goals and strategies and identify existing county-wide resources and service gaps.
- During the summer of 2021, both cities along with Bell County representatives, worked with the Center for Justice and Mental Health Partnerships to develop a county-wide needs assessment which was completed in August 2021.
- The assessment identified strengths and gaps in crises response as it relates to mental health and homelessness.

# Background Cont'd.

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- July 2023, both cities agreed and coordinated the request for their council appointments for the creation of an independent non-profit (Arbor of Hope) to coordinate, manage and oversee county-wide strategic action steps to reduce homelessness within Bell County. The board composition is described in the strategic plan.
- August 2023, the City of Temple requested a meeting with the City of Killeen and Judge Blackburn.
- City of Temple stated that concerns “arise primarily from what appears to be a somewhat significant discrepancy in the levels of funding and progress between the facility in Temple, which has received over \$14 million in funding, and the developments in Killeen. When Staff briefed Temple City Council regarding board appointments, there were reservations from our Council about progressing with the formation of a County-wide organization at this time.”

# Strategic Plan Recommendations – Bell County

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- ❑ Develop and operate nine clinical tracks within three focus areas across Bell County.
  - Substance-Use Disorder (SUD) rehabilitation service implemented.
- ❑ Establish the Arbor of Hope non-profit to coordinate county-wide homeless services.
  - Appointed members for designated 3 slots
- ❑ Information Management (HMIS, intake, and case management): need to move from a data tracking model to a true case management and service coordination tool.
  - KPD Homeless Outreach Team (H.O.T.) completed HMIS training and will be utilizing for service coordination services.
- ❑ Open the Bell County Diversion Center.

# Strategic Plan Recommendations – Bell County

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- ❑ Create permanent supportive housing across the street from the Central Counties Services Office in Temple.
- ❑ Proactively source new housing of all types.
  - Killeen submitted a proposal for the HUD PRO Housing Grant to fund the development and preservation of affordable housing. Awards to be announced by HUD in January 2024.
- ❑ Whenever possible, separate families with children from non-family single adults.
- ❑ After becoming compliant with *Martin v. Boise*, have a zero-tolerance approach to encampments.

# Strategic Plan Recommendations - Killeen

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## Recommendations

- Create and develop the Arbor of Hope West (AOH-W) Campus.
- Support the Homeless-to-Housed Village.
- Integrate the Killeen Police Department's Community Engagement (KPD-CEU) Team with the Arbor of Hope West Campus operations.

## Progress

- The City of Killeen has designated local and federal funds totaling **\$2.757 million** for the construction of the AOH-W (Reunification Center).
- The Department of Community Development has met with Cove House leadership and intends to provide **\$500k** in HOME-ARP funds to support the Homeless-to-Housed Village. HOP bus stop pending.
- CDBG in the amount of **\$94k** was approved for use to fund (1) Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) to be incorporated in the KPD-CEU, H.O.T. starting FY 2024.
- City of Killeen investment \$3.351 million

# Strategic Plan Recommendation - Killeen & Temple

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## Recommendation

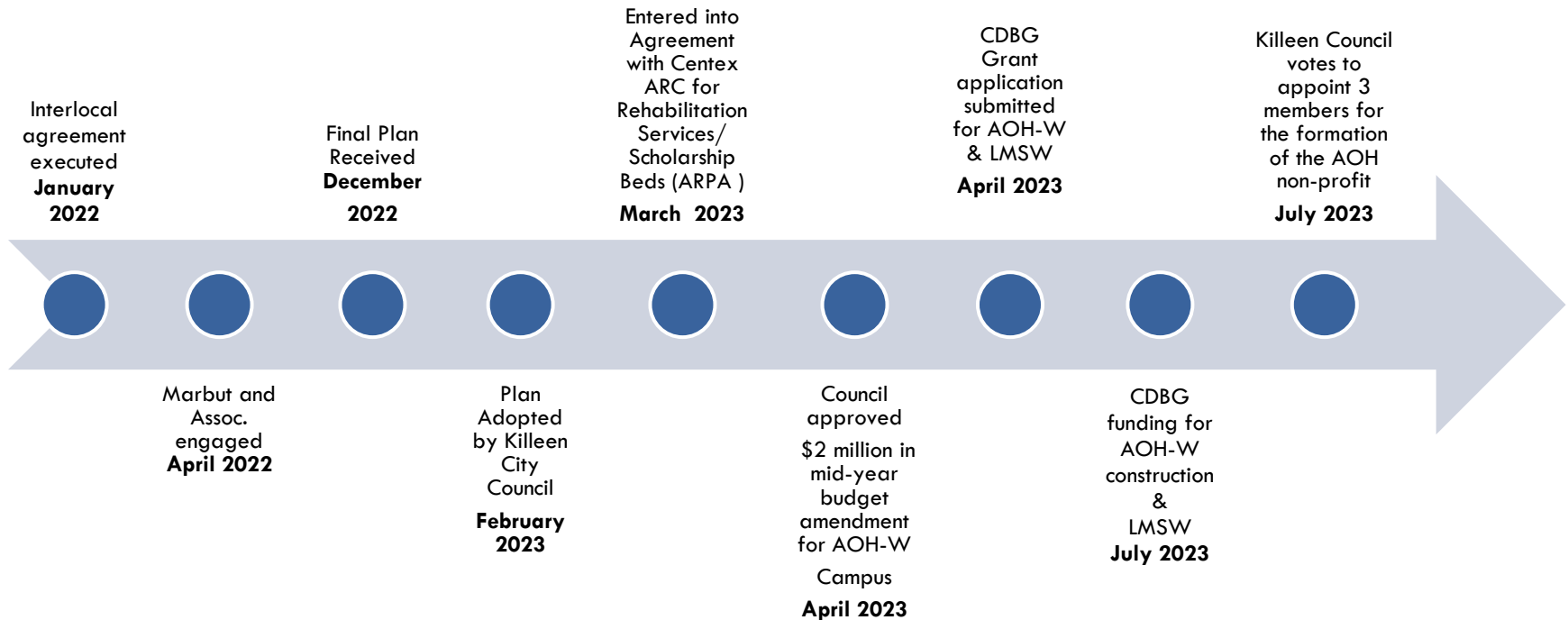
- Continue to support Family Promise of Bell County's new operation.
  - Family Promise is an organization that provides services unhoused families with children. The location is based in Temple however, services are provided throughout Bell County.

## Progress

- City of Killeen identified and recommended (3) appointees to the AOH Board of Directors to guide, implement, and support the homelessness and mental health strategic plan. Killeen intends to support the Family Promise Phase II transitional housing development and offer office space within the Reunification Center.

# Homelessness and Mental Health Strategic Plan Timeline

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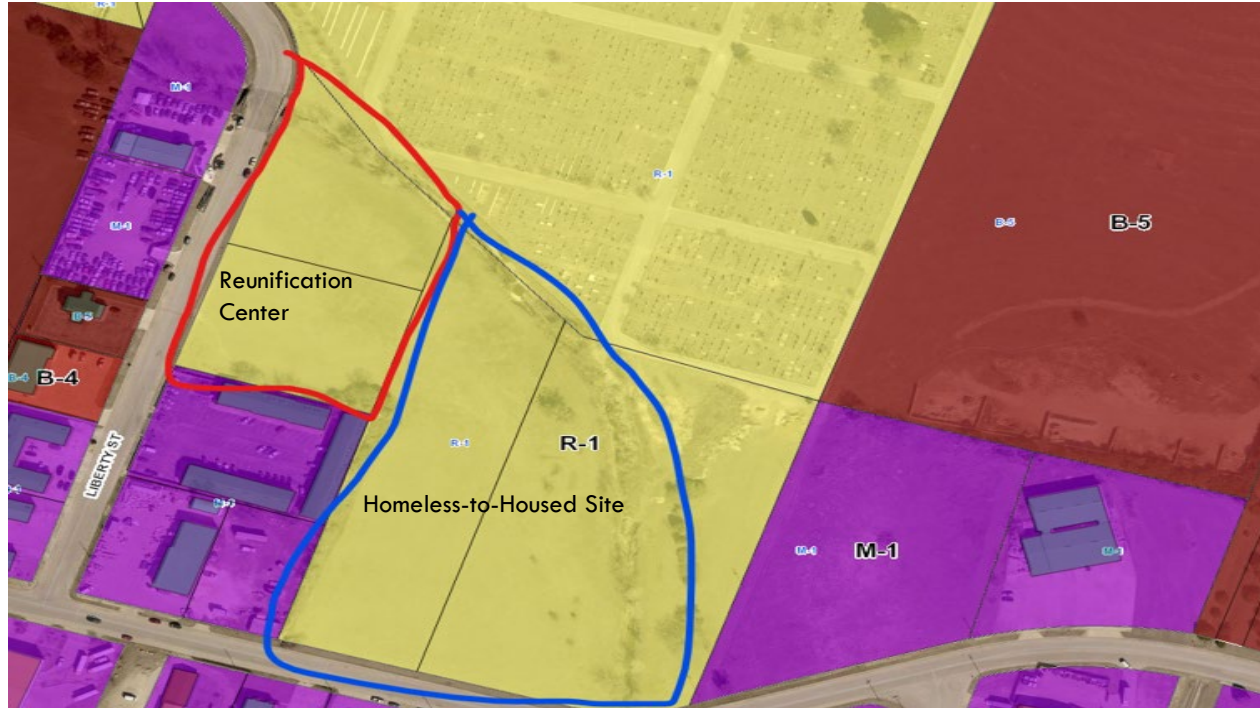
# Going Forward: Killeen Reunification Center

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- The City of Killeen to solicit Request for Proposals to identify an established non-profit homelessness service provider to occupy the Reunification Center and offer co-located services on the campus.
- Emergency shelter for unhoused individuals.
- Office Space for service providers including clinic triage services.
- Designated space for use as an emergency warming/cooling center.
- Mental health/substance abuse referrals.

# Reunification Center 408 & 506 Liberty

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## City of Killeen Reunification Center

Reunification Center can be fully constructed in 3 months. Comprised of one (1) 11,550 sq. ft. and one (1) 6,300 sq. ft. insulated buildings.

# Going Forward: Homelessness Initiatives

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- ❑ Establish a separate funding pool for homelessness service providers for operating and capacity building funding gaps.
- ❑ Continue to fund LMSW staff as a member KPD-H.O.T.
- ❑ Prioritize use of HOME entitlement for investment in Permanent Supportive Housing.
- ❑ Dedicate opioid settlement funds for SUD rehabilitation services.

# Going Forward: Transitional Housing

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## Homeless-to-Housed Community Project

- ❑ Cove House (previously partnered with Ft. Hood Habitat for Humanity) proposed a collaborative Homeless-to-Housed Community project to be funded jointly by the City of Killeen (HOME-ARP) and other community partners. Unit composition to include transitional and PSH.
- ❑ Proposed development site is 3.457 acres of undeveloped land located at 2607 Atkinson Ave and owned by the City of Killeen.
- ❑ The location will create symmetry for this transitional housing project and the Reunification Center (AOH-W).

# Going Forward: Permanent Housing

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- If awarded the HUD PRO Housing Grant as requested, the City of Killeen will establish an affordable housing development and preservation fund to provide gap financing for all affordable permanent housing types.
- Community Development staff will work with local non-profits to establish Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO's) to administer HOME-eligible affordable housing development activities (i.e., affordable rental housing and homebuyer unit development, operating and capacity building costs).