

# Bridging the Gap

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*Status report of the Mayor's interim action plan to address unsanctioned encampments and create new and safe alternatives.*



# Implement Interim Action Plan

## Action Plan:

- More compassionate, transparent management of encampment cleanups;
- Creation of new, safe 24/7 alternatives (Navigation Center and new encampments);
- Improved outreach to encampments and in commercial districts; and,
- Better garbage and needle pickup.



# SPU Improved Garbage & Sharps Pick-up

## SPU Encampment Trash Pilots

Seattle Public Utilities' staff continue to work with our partners in the City (FAS and HSD) and community to pick-up trash at unsanctioned homeless encampments using the following site selection criteria:

- ✓ Safe access for vendors;
- ✓ Safe conditions for encampment residents;
- ✓ Ability for outreach staff to engage encampment residents;
- ✓ Trash clearly identified as garbage and separated from any personal possessions;
- ✓ Trash for collection located away from the encampment and on a public right-of-way; and,
- ✓ Site not immediately scheduled for FAS to remove the encampment.

Sites with **Scheduled Trash Pick-up** are included in the table on the following page.

SPU plans to expand scheduled pick-ups to 3 more sites in 2017.

SPU provides **On-call Pick-ups** of encampment trash at sites near unsanctioned homeless encampments based on requests from the public or FAS/HSD.

- ✓ Trash must be clearly separated from the encampment, and meet other criteria above.



# SPU Improved Garbage & Sharps Pick-up

## Unsanctioned Encampment Locations with Scheduled Pick-up

Location	Service/Vendor/Updated Count
South Ballard Bridge Ramps 13 <sup>th</sup> and Nickerson	Daily Bag and Bulky Item Pick-Up. Vendor – Recology
North Ballard Bridge Ramps 15 <sup>th</sup> and Leary at 4814 15 <sup>th</sup> Ave NW	Daily Bag and Bulky Item Pick-up. Vendor - Waste Management
Ballard Locks at NW 54 <sup>th</sup> St	Weekly Dumpster Pick-up. Vendor – Waste Management.
Under I-90 and Rainier Overpass	Daily Bag and Bulky Item Pick-up. Vendor - Belfor
Myers Way (9000 - 9900) (Camp 2 <sup>nd</sup> Chance)	Weekly Bag and Bulky Item Pick-up. Vendor – Cascadia New Sanctioned Encampment Receives Weekly Dumpster Services starting of 2/3 <sup>rd</sup> Vendor – Waste Management



# SPU Improved Garbage & Sharps Pick-up

## Recent On-call Pick-ups at Unsanctioned Encampment Locations

Location	Service Provided
<b>Myers Way (3/4 mile at 9000-9900 Myers Way)</b>	<b>Regular Litter Crews Pick-ups – currently weekly sweeps.</b>
<b>Ballard Locks at NW 54<sup>th</sup> St</b>	<b>On-site visits to dumpster to clean up litter scatter – currently weekly sweeps of dumpster area, along walking path, and in parking lot.</b>
<b>North Ballard Bridge Ramps near 15<sup>th</sup> and Leary at 4814 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NW</b>	<b>Trash and Debris Collected during requested sweeps.</b>
<b>The Field Royal Brougham and Airport Way</b>	<b>Trash and Debris Collected after Community Organized Clean-up</b>
<b>I-90 Off-ramp Loop at Rainier Ave</b>	<b>Trash and Debris Collected after Community Organized Clean-up</b>



# SPU Improved Garbage & Sharps Pick-up

## Unsanctioned Encampment Locations Under Evaluation for Scheduled or On-call Pick-up

Location	Evaluation Status
<b>Dearborn South of Corwin</b>	<b>Vendor identifying safe collection area. Bags being distributed to camp residents. Outreach and Education occurring.</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Ave Across from Salvation Army</b>	<b>Vendor identifying safe collection area and potential traffic issues. Bags being distributed to camp residents. Outreach and Education occurring.</b>



# SPU Improved Garbage & Sharps Pick-up

## Litter Abatement Pilot

SPU's first phase of the Pilot serviced:

- Little Saigon;
- Chinatown/International District; and,
- Ballard.

Community partners have taken over services in these areas as of February 1.

- Community partners intend to access OED grants to fund their efforts.

SPU is now identifying 3 new locations for the 2017 phase of the Pilot.

### Proposed Timeline:

- Selection criteria developed by middle of March.
- New locations selected by end of April.
- Start Services in new locations by end of May.



# SPU Improved Garbage & Sharps Pick-up

## SPU Illegal Dumping Response

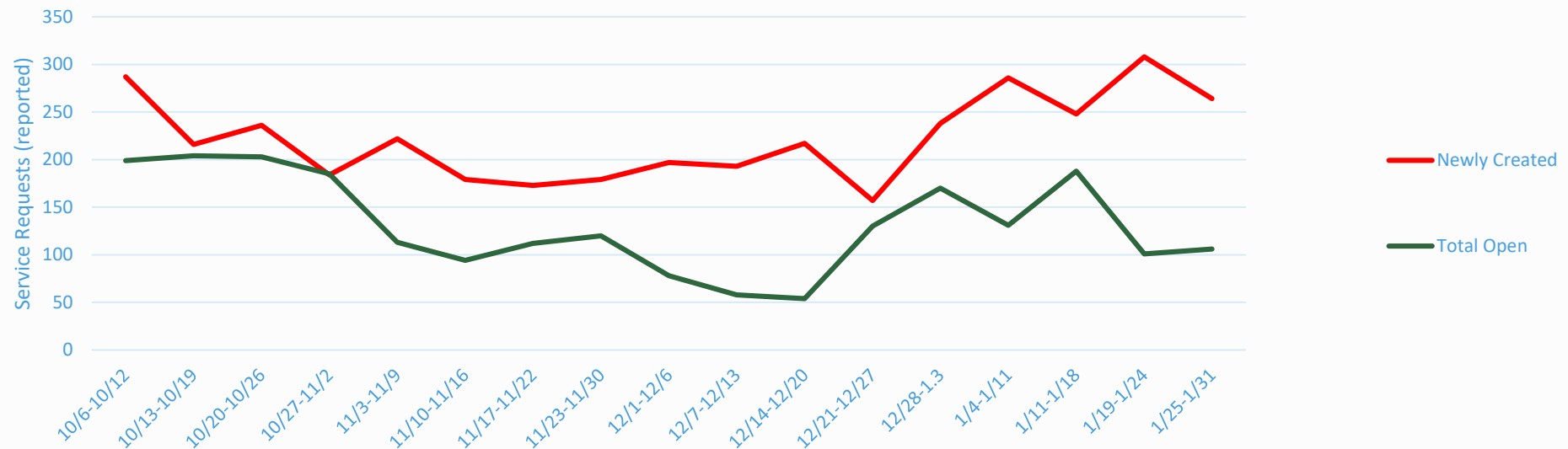
- It is considered illegal dumping when any junk, garbage, or debris is left on public property, including roadsides, open streets, and paved alleys.
- SPU continues to remove debris from abandoned and unoccupied encampments as part of its Illegal Dumping Program.
- **Illegal Dumping Requests are received via:**
  - ✓ *Find it, Fix it* Mobile App [www.seattle.gov/finditfixitapp](http://www.seattle.gov/finditfixitapp)
  - ✓ Illegal Dumping Hotline 206-684-7587
  - ✓ On-line at [www.seattle.gov/util/illegaldumping](http://www.seattle.gov/util/illegaldumping)
- All complaints addressed within 10 business days.
- SPU's average response time during the period 1/25-31 was ~2 days.
  - ✓ Complaints down 15% during this period. *See Graph on next page.*
- Issues on Private Property can be reported to the Seattle Department of Construction & Inspections Code Compliance Division through their Violation Complaint Line at 206-615-0808.





# SPU Improved Garbage & Sharps Pick-up

## SPU Illegal Dumping Newly Created & Total Open Service Requests



# SPU Improved Garbage & Sharps Pick-up

## Sharps Collection Pilot

- Respond to request for sharps pick-up on public property within 24 hours.
  - ✓ Received 97 complaints and collected 732 sharps during the month of January.
  - ✓ Received 267 complaints and collected 1,888 sharps since August 2016.
- Receive requests via the Illegal Dumping Hotline, 206-684-7587, *Find it, Fix it* Mobile App, and SPU's website reporting.
- SPU successfully placed 6 secure large sharps drop-off boxes, in addition to the existing drop-off locations at both City transfer stations.
- Selection criteria included geographic diversity, complaints, accessibility for drop-off, combined with department and community input.
- Parks is in the process of locating 5-10 smaller drop-off boxes within Comfort Stations.
- Information re: locations and how to prepare sharps available at [www.seattle.gov/util/sharps](http://www.seattle.gov/util/sharps).



# Community Center Shower Facilities

Seattle Parks and Recreation are providing showers at community centers and offering Swimming Pool shower facilities for families.

As of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Community Center Showers have served:

January 1, 2017 – February 3, 2017	
Community Centers with showers open to all:	# Unsheltered Served:
Delridge	166
Miller	82
Rainier	16
Green Lake	1000 – 1200

As of February 3<sup>rd</sup>, Swimming Pool shower facilities have served unsheltered families:

January 1 – February 3, 2017			
Pools with showers open to SPS students and immediate family	Homeless Swim Pass	SPS Showers	Total
Ballard	75		75
Evans	7		7
Madison	6		6
Meadowbrook		8	8
Medgar Evers	31		31
Queen Anne			0
Rainier Beach	52		52
Southwest			0
<b>Total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>178</b>



# More Compassionate, Transparent Protocols

## New encampment removal rules are being drafted...

- Incorporating principles of the Task Force on Unsanctioned Encampments
- Administrative Rulemaking
  - ✓ Notice of rulemaking published on January 31
  - ✓ Proposed rules are available at: <http://www.seattle.gov/finance-and-administrative-services/directors-rules>
  - ✓ Written comments are being accepted through February 15
  - ✓ Department director approval



# More Compassionate, Transparent Protocols

## Rules moving from...

- Protocols based on the number of tents (immediately remove two and fewer)
- Little guidance on prioritizing sites for removal
- Removals can proceed even if shelter alternatives are not available
- Belongings left behind by the homeless are stored for at least 60 days

## ...to...

- Obstructions and hazards may be removed immediately.
- All other encampments must receive a minimum of 72 hour notice, and alternative shelter must be available
- Explicit prioritization criteria and common inspection checklist
- The City will offer to deliver stored belongings to their owners within the city limits



# Improved Outreach – Navigation Team

## Goals of the Navigation Team:

- Improve community health and safety by working to resolve the underlying needs of people living on the streets
- Focus on the highest impact people and most problematic locations
- This team will not “solve homelessness,” but it can provide the capacity to quickly respond to the most challenging people and situations quickly and more effectively

## Metrics and Outcomes:

- Metric: # of people engaged/assessed
- Metric: # of sites visited
- Metric: tons of trash cleared
- Metric: # of needles picked up
- Outcome: # of resolutions generated (shelter, services, transit, other)
- Outcome: Reduction in repeat encampment locations
- Outcome: Reduction in encampment, trash, and needle complaints



# Improved Outreach – Navigation Team

## Navigation Team Staffing:

Police – Specialized unit composed of 1 SGT team lead and 7 officers

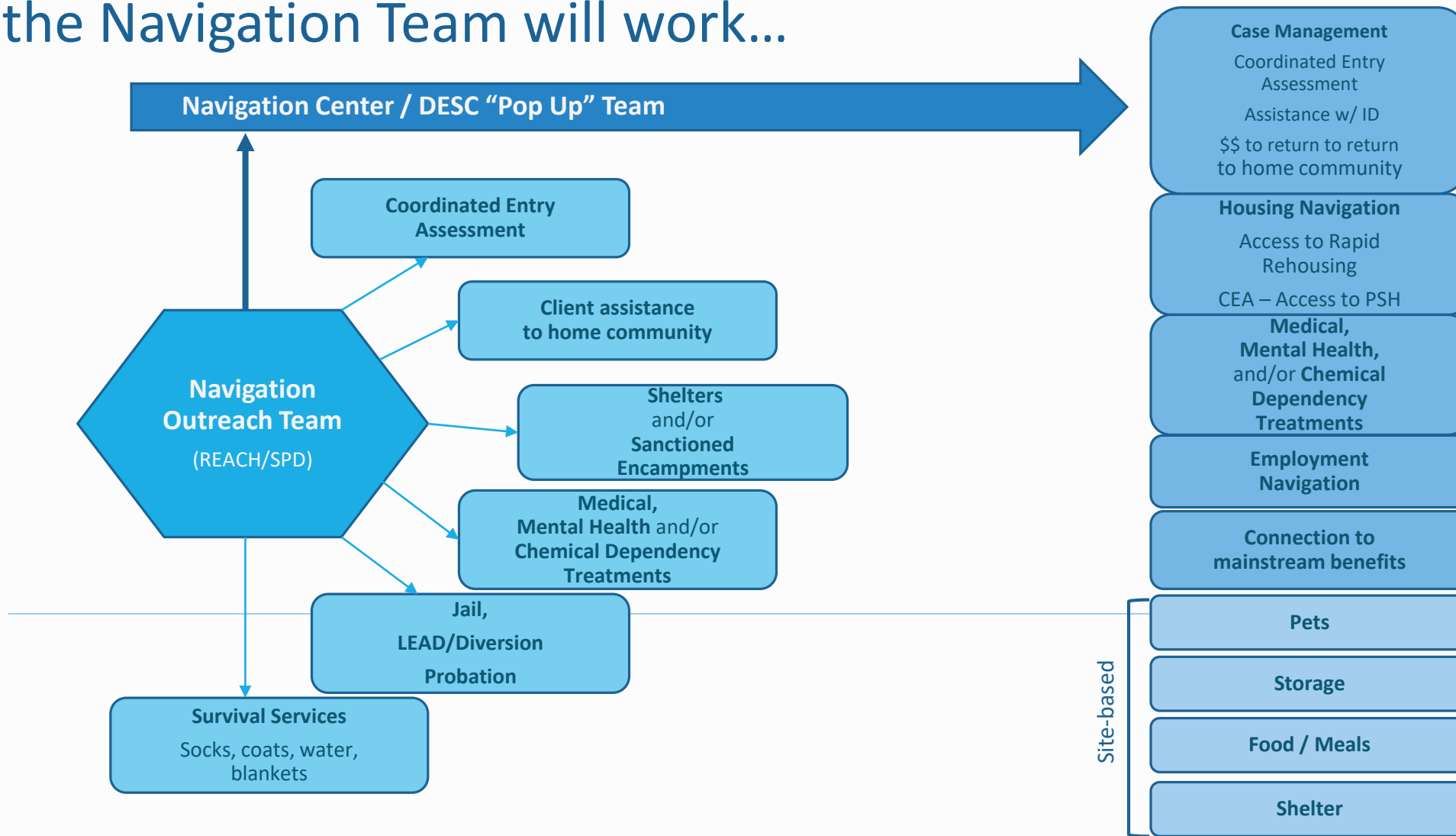
- Led by Sgt. Eric Zerr (East Precinct, 3<sup>rd</sup>)
- Hand selected volunteer officers: 4 W/M, 1 A/M, 3 W/F, 1 Trans-Male (3 total LGBTQ)
- “Soft uniforms”
- Advanced certification in crisis intervention and de-escalation techniques

## Outreach – 8 Full-time contracted outreach:

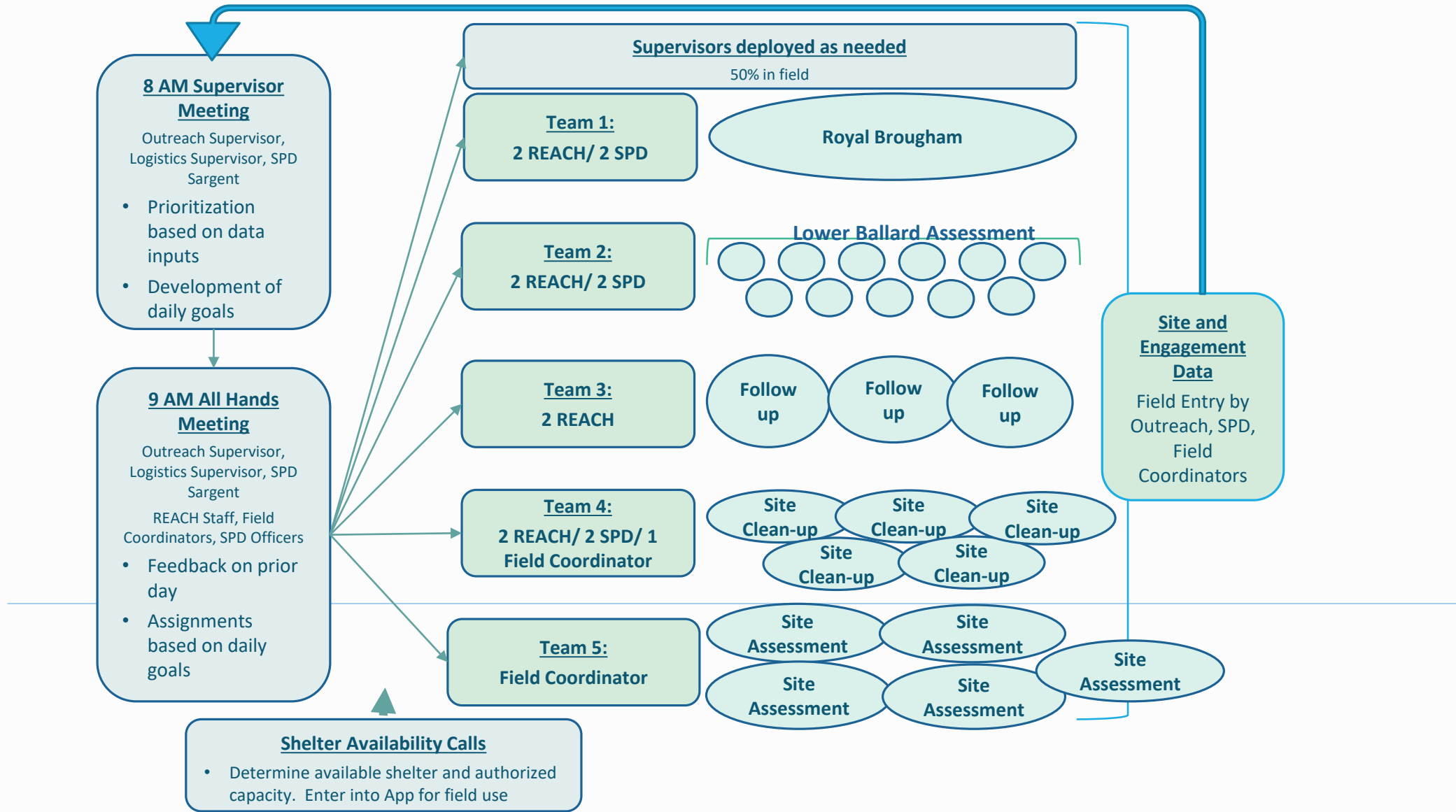
- REACH will be principal
- Coordinate with Youthcare for youth
- Coordinate with DESC-HOST for severe mental illness
- Coordinate with MID downtown/Capitol Hill



# How the Navigation Team will work...







# Improved Outreach – Navigation Team

## Navigation Launch Schedule:

- December-January – Planning and Set Up/Staff hired
- February 6 - 17 – Initial Team Deployment & Refinements
- February 20 – Website, dashboard set up



# Creating Safe Alternatives

## Navigation Center:

- HSD selected DESC and Operation Sack Lunch as operators, and is working to develop Navigation Center programming, budgets, referral protocols, and housing options.
- The city has located an appropriate site for the Navigation Center, and will begin the site notification process shortly.
- The City must make safety upgrades, expand shower and bathing facilities, and improve spaces to allow pets, and storage for belongings.
- The City will set a firmer deadline for opening the center once construction begins.
- While renovation occurs, DESC will go ahead and offer services to people in nearby encampments. This includes assessment and referral for housing, case management, employment navigation, connections to mainstream benefits, and mental and physical health services.
- The City will host neighborhood and community information sessions about the center. Details will be announced in February.



# Creating Safe Alternatives

## Sanctioned Encampments:

City announced 3 new sanctioned encampment locations:

- ✓ 1000 S. Myrtle Street with capacity to serve 60-70 people
  - ✓ 8620 Nesbit Avenue N. with capacity to serve 60-70 people
  - ✓ 9701 Myers Way S. with capacity to serve 60-70 people
- DON, MO, HSD, FAS, SPD, Parks, and SPU continue community outreach and engagement.
  - An Emergency Order was delivered to City Council.
  - Each new site will be permitted for 12 months, with an option to renew for an additional 12 months.
  - Low-Income Housing Institute (LIHI) will operate the sites at Nesbit Ave N. and S. Myrtle St.; Patacara Community Services will operate the Myers Way site.
  - Sites should be operational in first quarter of 2017. HSD has begun operational design and planning and is crafting contracts with LIHI and Patacara.



# Creating Safe Alternatives

## HSD issued an RFP that includes:

- ✓ 24/7 indoor shelter;
  - ✓ Conversion of existing day centers or overnight shelter into 24/7 shelter;
  - ✓ Storage of personal belonging; and,
  - ✓ Donations from private, faith, and corporate partners of in-door space for sheltering.
- Seven (7) proposals totaling more than \$5m in requests were received on January 20, 2017 (only \$1.3 million in funding is available).
  - No donations of space or additional funding for shelters were submitted by private, faith or business partners.
  - Award announcement will be made by March 1, 2017.

