

**From:** [Eric Levitt](#)  
**To:** [CityCouncil-List](#)  
**Cc:** [Yibin Shen](#); [Gerry Beaudin](#); [Lara Weisiger](#); [Eric Levitt](#)  
**Subject:** Additional Question and Answer on Big Whites.  
**Date:** Tuesday, November 16, 2021 3:48:07 PM

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Mayor Ezzy Ashcraft & City Council:

Here is an additional question and answer.

Eric

In looking at contract attached with item 7-A, I am pleased to see Item #2 ("Navigation Services"), though I wish it included a "requirement" that programees, if relevant, attend mental health services or social services, especially since Item #3, particularly "Site Management" refers to provider responsibilities in light of an overdose or major substance abuse complication. It seems reasonable that anyone experiencing an overdose or major substance abuse complication should be referred to the appropriate mental health services or social services, and that participation be a requirement for continued participation, which is not a condition at Item #3's "Harm Reduction" section: " Clients who use substances while in the program will be counseled on an individual basis and a review of their housing plan goals will be encouraged to continue to work towards wellness and recovery principles. Clients who continue to struggle with active substance use while residing on site will be encouraged to seek a higher and more specific level of care, only if needed, to ensure safety to themselves and to others in the program. This may include detox, inpatient, residential treatment, or day programming."

Answer: Residents of the emergency housing project will not be required to participate in particular supportive services, but the services that are appropriate for each individual will be available and recommended to each person. Consistent with the housing first model, this is a low-barrier housing opportunity, which means that people are welcome to stay at the emergency housing, so long as they comply with the rules and code of conduct within the home. This does not require them to participate in any program or be clean.