



# Mayor's Office of Recovery Services

*MOAR Policy Forum*

*Brendan Little, Policy Director, Mayor's Office of Recovery Services*

*March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020*

*Mayor Martin J. Walsh*

- **As of March 23<sup>rd</sup>, there are 133 cases (presumed/confirmed positive) in Boston**
  - 15 people recovered in Boston; 2 deaths
  - 777 total cases in Massachusetts; 9 deaths
- **On March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) declared a public health emergency**
  - Increased availability of public health staff and resources
  - Enhanced reporting, information, and resource sharing among Boston's health and medical community
- **As of March 18<sup>th</sup>, Boston's Office of Emergency Management is activated at Level 1 – Full Activation**

- **People experiencing homelessness and SUD may be at higher risk of contracting COVID-19**
  - Difficult to follow recommendations like handwashing and stay-at-home
- **May also be at higher risk of serious cases of COVID-19**
  - Many our clients have hepatitis, heart disease, diabetes, and chronic lung disease, and other medical conditions that increase risk

- **Boston opened two medical tents led by Boston Healthcare for the Homeless**
  - Allows for quarantine and isolation of people experiencing homelessness



Image Credit: Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program

# Program Modifications (Medical Tents)

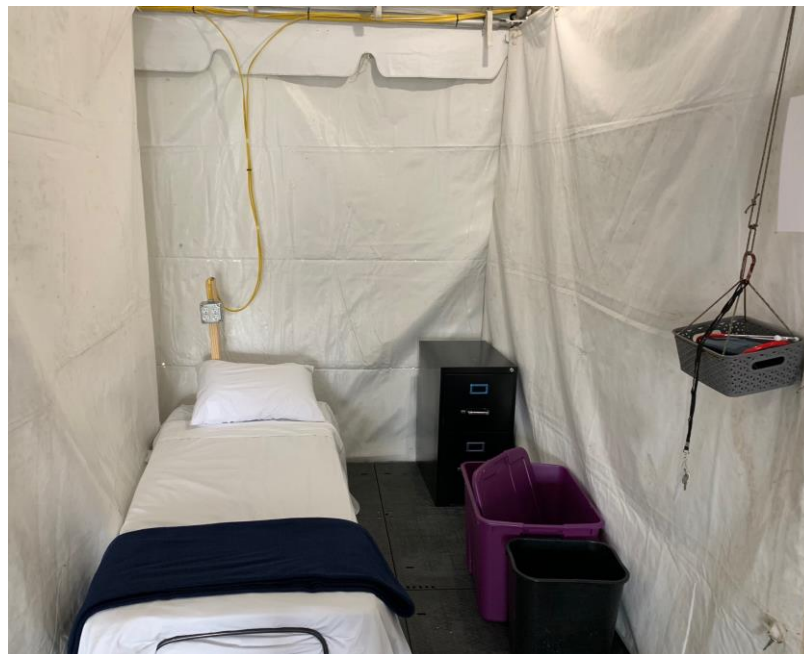


Image Credit: Boston Healthcare for the Homeless Program



# Program Modifications

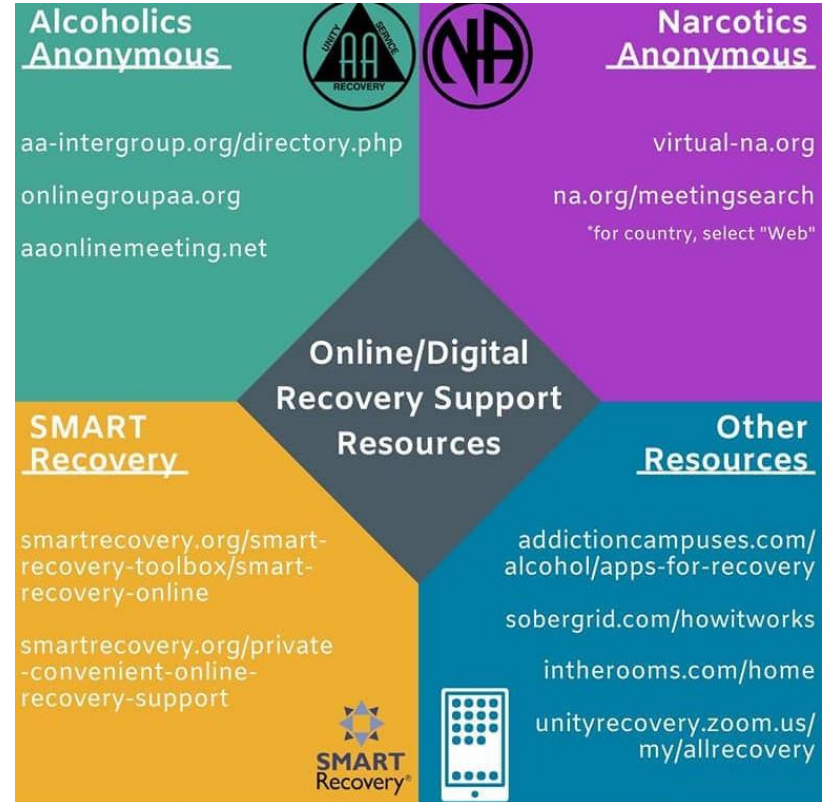
- Moved programs, including AHOPE harm reduction program and Engagement Center, outdoors
- Implementing screening at residential programs (Mattapan) and shelters



- **Working with City and State partners to identify new facilities for medical care, quarantine, and isolation**
  - This includes retired medical facilities that can be retrofitted
  - Working with universities, hotels, and others to identify space for quarantine and isolation
- **Contact [volunteer@bphc.org](mailto:volunteer@bphc.org) or [MIC@bphc.org](mailto:MIC@bphc.org) for support with medical or non-medical volunteers**

# Online Resources

- Many peer support groups (12-Step, SMART Recovery, etc.) have lost meeting space
  - Sharing lists of online support groups
- Working with partners to offer other virtual supports
  - Potential partnership to launch text-based chat rooms





- **Free breakfast and lunch is available to all Boston students at sites across the City**
- **Please direct people to [Boston.gov/COVID-19](https://www.boston.gov/COVID-19) for:**
  - Lists of meal sites (multiple languages)
  - Public health flyers on COVID-19 prevention (multiple languages)
  - Recovery resources
  - Information for small-businesses
- **Text "BOSCOVID" to 99411 to receive daily updates**

**[Boston.gov/COVID-19](https://www.boston.gov/COVID-19)**

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