

Recover Boston

A proposal to end the open-air drug market, increase treatment options and reduce homelessness in Boston and beyond.

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The Problem:

- **People with substance abuse disorders are struggling with recovery** while dealing with the pressures of combatting homelessness.
- Newmarket and the surrounding neighborhoods have become **increasingly unsafe** due to crime, violence, and human trafficking.
- The **quality of life** in these areas is severely diminished by the open-air drug market and homelessness issues.
- These issues have a **direct negative effect on the 1,300 elementary and middle school students, that go to school in this area.** Another 850 students will be negatively impacted when Roxbury Prep opens in Fall 2024.

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The Problem (cont.)

- The **Long Island Shelter**, which provided countless crucial services in the area, has been closed since 2014 and is **not scheduled to open as a long-term treatment facility for at least 5 years.**
- The Redevelopment of the Shattuck Hospital campus will not be completed for 4-5 years.

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Goals:

- To **eliminate “Mass & Cass”** as a **distinct activity center** that negatively impacts safety and public health.
- To move the populations into proper modalities that will move them into recovery programs.
- To identify a campus and create temporary housing with a variety of support for those currently on the street

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The Solution:

- The creation of a **timely, temporary, and comprehensive program** that reduces **homelessness** and puts those with **substance abuse issues** on a realistic path to recovery.
- The consolidation of **mental health** services, **drug detox** services, **workforce development** training, and **housing options** that are safe, stable, and affordable.
- **The creation and enforcement of the city's and state's no-encampment policy and no open-air drug use laws.**
- The creation of **additional similar programs in other parts of Massachusetts**, as part of a larger statewide effort to reduce **drug addiction & homelessness** in the Commonwealth.

Proposed Location: Widett Circle

*The temporary campus could be located at
the 24 acre **Widett Circle** site*

*5-7 acres on either side of Foodmart Road are
needed for this plan*



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Why Widett Circle?

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- Its proximity to Atkinson Street makes it easily **accessible to those who are most vulnerable to substance abuse disorder** and are struggling with recovery.
- Owned by the state with no immediate plans for use.
- Proximity to **Boston Medical Center**.
- Proximity to **public transportation**.

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The Campus: Pathways & Recovery

- House **200+ people** in temporary pallet-style housing units which can be quickly constructed before winter.
- **Establish 5 zones** with 30-50 pallet houses each. Each zone will support individuals in varying stages of recovery.
- Each zone will have ground rules.
- **Mental health** resources must be robust.
- The campus will include **medical, mental health, and addiction recovery facilities** as well as **life skills training** and **pathways to housing and jobs**.

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Working Together:

Support and coordination required from:

- The Mayor and the City of Boston
- The Governor and the Commonwealth of MA
- Boston City Council
- The MBTA
- Federal, state, and city financial resources.
- Private funders, businesses and local residents.
- Public and private partners

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Who would run the Campus?

A **non-profit organization** needs to be established with a strong leader and board of directors to manage the campus.

Board should include members from the City, State, Community, public health and enforcement experts and others to be determined.

Major components of the Campus that will need to be managed:

- Housing at the Campus
- Healthcare (physical and mental health)
- Jobs training, life skills, & employment
- Permanent housing assistance
- Security

Additional services, including those currently offered by the Engagement Center, should be provided as well.

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Campus Recovery Zones

Zone 1: Starting the Journey

- First step to start working their way toward recovery

Zone 2: Taking Control

- Traditional detox zone helping people through withdrawal

Zone 3: Moving Forward

- Post detox recovery

Zone 4: Transition to Sober Living

- Preparing residents for re-entry

Zone 5: Living in Recovery

- Working toward a stable future

Zone H: Pathway to Housing Stability

- For those who are homeless but do not have a drug addiction

Public Safety

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Commitment to:

- Laws against open-air drug use must be enforced in all neighborhoods, including Newmarket.
- A no-tent ordinance must be passed and enforced by the City.
- All appropriate jurisdictions must play a role in the enforcement of the law.
- Crimes such as drug dealing, violence, and human trafficking must be met with appropriate legal consequences.
- Section 35 procedures should be utilized as needed.
- The 100 bed facility near the Suffolk County House of Correction should be considered for diversion with leadership by public health professionals.

Why Widett, why now?

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A recovery campus at Widett Circle can accomplish many things:

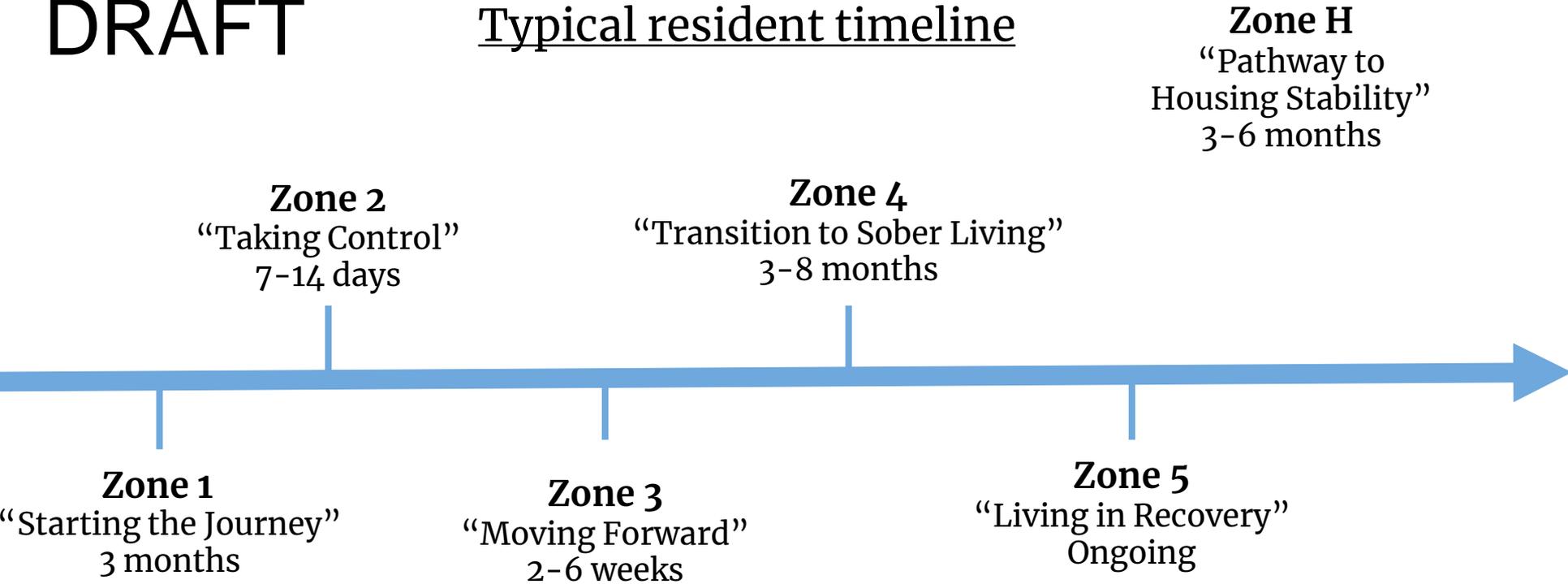
- Quickly create temporary housing for people on the street
- Tackle challenges of Mass and Cass
- Provide important data and information that will inform the transition to the Shattuck and Long Island
- Better use of limited resources to support people in housing rather than on the street
- Publicly owned site

Appendix

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Typical resident timeline



Zone 1: Starting the Journey

(3 months)

The primary purpose of this zone is to create a safe space for people with substance abuse disorder to start working their way toward recovery. This approach keeps those who struggle with addiction safer than being on the streets, while at the same time enhancing the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

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- **30-50 pallet houses**, a percentage of which are dedicated for couples.
- The pallet housing at Shattuck Hospital is a base model for this zone, although this would be more controlled..
- The zone is enclosed and is across Foodmart Road so it is **completely separate** from the other zones.
- **People are allowed to use drugs** within the Zone, and are **encouraged not to use alone**. Drug dealing is forbidden.
- People spend up to 3 months in Zone 1. Anybody can move up to Zone 2 (detox) whenever they think that they are ready.
- After 3 months in Zone 1, individuals are required to move to Zone 2 or can move back to a shelter. **No one will be forced to return to the streets.**

Zone 1: Starting the Journey_(cont.)

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- **Medical staff** to supervise drug use, prevent overdoses and encourage recovery. Services are centralized here rather than in the rest of the neighborhood.
- **Housing structure:** Each pallet house has a door that closes but does not lock. Each house has room for a bed and a locker with drawers (there is a limit to the amount of belongings allowed).
- No one is allowed in another person's space unless a couple is sharing a room.
- **Bathrooms and kitchen/cafeteria** spaces are shared. Meals are provided. Bathroom doors lock but have motion sensors. Showers have locks.
- **Community Area** has services similar to those that the Engagement Center and homeless shelters provide.
- **Reentry services** begin in this zone: getting vital documents, clearing warrants/court cases.
- **Laundry facilities** are in this zone.

Zone 1 Rules

Rules in Zone 1

- No dealing
- No fighting
- No weapons
- No prostitution
- No stealing
- Quiet hours from 10pm - 7am
- **10pm curfew** – must be back in the zone by 10pm

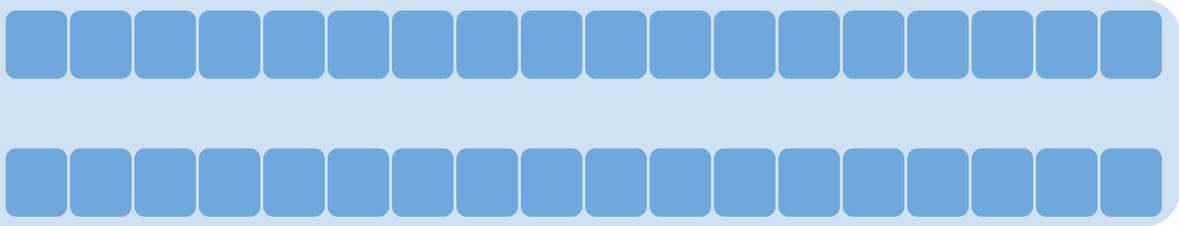
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Community Area



Zone 1: Starting the Journey



Services offered in this Zone:

- Medical assistance
- Shared bathrooms and showers
- Laundry services
- Communal Kitchen area
- Vital documents/ID recovery
- Outstanding warrant/court case clearance
- Case management

Individual Housing Units

Zone 2: Taking Control

(7-14 days)

This is a traditional detox zone, meant to help people through withdrawal and prepare them for the later stages of their recovery.

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- **30-50 pallet houses**
- The zone is **separate** from the other zones.
- People typically spend **7-14 days** in Zone 2. When they are ready, they can move up to Zone 3.
- Residents are required to remain in Zone 2 at all times during this period.
- Individuals in Zone 1 who seek recovery are able to move to Zone 2.
- Zone 2 also serves an **alternate entry point** to the system. Anybody who wants to go into detox can enter at this level, without going through Zone 1.

Zone 2: Taking Control

(continued)

(7-14 days)

This zone is a traditional detox period, meant to help people through withdrawal and prepare them for the later stages of their recovery.

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- No drugs are allowed,
- Cigarettes are allowed. There will be a **designated smoking area outside.**
- This zone requires **extensive group and individual sessions focusing on mental health and recovery.**
- People are separated by gender; unlike in previous and later zones, **couples cannot stay together.**
- **No visitors are allowed.**

Zone 2: Taking Control

(continued)

(7-14 days)

Incentivizing People to Take Control

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Incentives that will encourage people to move from Zone 1 to Zone 2 –

- **Better housing:** bigger tiny houses/pallet houses, and their own space to live. Rooms are accessible by staff at all times.
- **Residents are allowed to keep all of their personal belongings.**
- **Better food options** are offered at the cafeteria.
- There is an **activity room with games** like ping pong, board games, exercise equipment, etc. to keep people busy and entertained.

Zone 2: Taking Control (continued)

There would always be a few rooms available for immediate transfers from Zone 1 to Zone 2.

Nobody should have to wait days to go into detox!

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Zone 2 Rules

Rules in Zone 2

- No dealing
- No fighting
- No weapons
- No prostitution
- No stealing
- Quiet hours from 10pm - 7am

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Zone 2: Taking Control

Men's Community Area

Women's Community Area

Individual Housing Unit

Barrier between men's and women's area

Features offered in this Zone:

- Mental health resources
- Outdoor area
- Recreation center
- Smoking area
- Exercise equipment
- Shared cafeteria
- Communal bathrooms and showers
- Case management

Zone 3: Moving Forward

(2-6 weeks)

When they have completed the detox level, people will move to Zone 3 (CSS). The purpose of this zone is to continue the process of recovery and prepare patients to move forward with their lives.

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- Residents have access to all the same amenities and services as they did in Zone 2.
- In accordance with clinical program guidelines, **residents are allowed to leave for some amount of time during the day.**
- Like Zone 2, this zone is separated by gender, but **does allow limited visitors.**
- During this time, **residents continue a routine of recovery meetings, therapy, and mental health services.**
- **Group activities and fitness classes** are robust here including yoga, art classes, etc.
- When they are ready to move on, as determined by the clinical program, residents continue to Zone 4, which involves more independent living.

Zone 3 Rules

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Rules in Zone 3

- No dealing
- No fighting
- No weapons
- No prostitution
- No stealing
- Quiet hours from 10pm - 7am
- **10pm curfew** – must be back in the zone by 10pm

Zone 3: Moving Forward/CSS

Men's Community Area

Women's Community Area

Individual Housing Unit

Barrier between men's and women's area

- Features offered in this Zone:
- Mental health resources
 - Outdoor area
 - Recreation center
 - Smoking area
 - Exercise equipment
 - Shared cafeteria
 - Communal bathrooms and showers
 - Case management

Zone 4: Transition to Sober Living

(3-6 months)

The goal of this zone is to prepare residents for re-entering society. Residents are trained on life skills and provided with resources needed for re-entry while they “give back” to their community through communal responsibilities.

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- **Guests are welcome** in the common area.
- **One bathroom facility per every four units**, located in the communal area.
- Housework and **communal chores are required** to live in this zone.
- Workforce and job readiness training including job fairs.
- Soft skills and financial literacy training
- Available employment in Newmarket’s Back2Work Program.

Zone 4: Transition to Sober Living

(3-6 months)

The goal of this zone is to prepare residents for re-entering society. Residents are trained on life skills and provided with resources needed for re-entry while they “give back” to their community through communal responsibilities.

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- **Robust services to assist residents in finding affordable permanent housing, employment, and educational opportunities.**
- Reentry services providing court case assistance and vital documents.
- Residents are encouraged to participate in **communal activities** and events (i.e. yoga classes, movie nights, art classes, etc.)
- **Group recovery meetings** continue.
- Men and women live independently but in the same pallet community.

Zone 4 Rules

Rules in Zone 4

- No dealing
- No fighting
- No weapons
- No prostitution
- No stealing
- Quiet hours from 10pm - 7am
- Residents can come and go as they please during the day but have a **curfew at 11pm** every night.

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Zone 4: Transition to Sober Living

Community Area

Community Area

Individual Housing Unit

Features offered in this Zone:

- Mental health resources
- Employment services
- Exercise equipment/gym
- Soft skills training
- Financial literacy programs
- Shared cafeteria
- Outdoor area
- Recreation center
- Case management

Zone 5: Living in Recovery

After moving through the 4 zones successfully, each resident should be prepared for living in recovery. While challenging, living in recovery means they have taken back control of their lives and are working toward a stable future.

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The Vision for Each Recovered Person

- With the help of their case managers, they have **secured affordable permanent housing** (SRO, section 8 housing, etc.)
- They have **started a part-time or full-time job** in their new community.
- **They are paying their bills on time**, including rent each month, **saving towards their future**, and building credit.
- Ongoing support after leaving the Campus program – former residents continue to connect with Campus staff after moving on.

What happens if you break the rules?

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We don't want to force people back to the streets for making one mistake.

Zone 1:

- If you break the rules, you are removed from the zone but shelter space is available to you. Guidelines for re-entry to be determined.

Zone 2:

- If you break the rules, you are offered the opportunity to return to Zone 1 for a 3-month period. This opportunity is offered for a maximum of 3 times.

Zone 3:

- Breaking the rules will result in a loss of privileges. You may also be offered the opportunity to return to Zone 2.

Zone 4:

- Breaking the rules will result in a loss of privileges. In some cases, you may be given the opportunity to return to lower Zones.

Zone H: Pathway to Housing Stability

(3-6 months)

This zone is intended for those who are homeless but do not have a drug addiction issue. The purpose of this zone is to help these people get back on their feet through mental health services, employment, and housing.

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- **No drugs** allowed.
- If caught using drugs, they are sent to Zone 1 or a shelter.
- This zone is intended **for people who are homeless and do not have substance abuse issues.**
- There are **30-40 pallet houses** available. Some of these units will be large enough to accommodate couples.
- **Robust services to assist residents in finding affordable permanent housing, employment, and educational opportunities**
- **Guests are welcome** in the common area.
- **One bathroom facility per every four units**, located in the communal area.

Zone H: Pathway to Housing Stability

(3-6 months)

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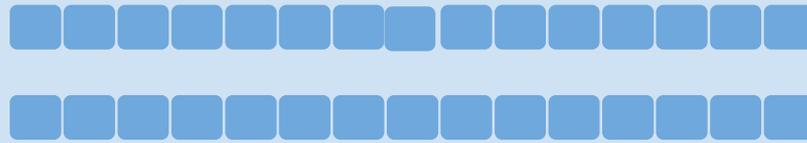
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- Housework and **communal chores** are required to live in this zone.
- Workforce and job readiness training including job fairs.
- Soft skills and financial literacy training.
- Available employment in Newmarket's Back2Work Program.
- **Mental health services** will be robust.
- Reentry services providing court case assistance and vital documents.
- Residents are encouraged to participate in **communal activities** and events (i.e. yoga classes, movie nights, art classes, etc.)

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Zone H: Pathway to Housing Stability

Community Area



Community Area

Individual Housing Unit

Features offered in this Zone:

- Mental health resources
- Employment services
- Exercise equipment/gym
- Soft skills training
- Financial literacy programs
- Shared cafeteria
- Outdoor area
- Recreation center
- Case management

Funding the Recovery Campus

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Revenues will come from...

- Federal, state, and city funding
- Private funding - business and real estate community including foundations
- Meds and Eds(hospitals and schools), private business
- Contributions
- State payment vs. reimbursement - why can other low threshold providers bill the State but Pallet couldn't? (same for BMC for example)
- Social Impact Bonds - 5 years, deferred interest, payback amount dependent on success of programs

Operational Timeline

Procurement (0-3 months)

Construction of pallet housing (3-6 months)

RFP for operational components, proposed and determination

Operational designation (0-6 months)

Opening a facility (6-9 months)

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Organizational Chart



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RFP Requirements

- Operational Metrics to be included in RFP
- payment partially based on successful returns.

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FAQs

