



Stephen W. Christy
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PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 2, 2024

TO: Melissa Manriquez
Clerk of the Board

FROM: Steve Christy
District 4 Supervisor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "SC", is written over the name "Steve Christy" in the "FROM" field.

SUBJECT: Addendum Item

Please place the following item on the Addendum to the Agenda for the Board of Supervisors meeting of May 7, 2024.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**Discussion/Direction/Action regarding the Pima County Office of Emergency Management and Grants Management & Innovation's Southwest Border Executive Situational Report, for the period of April 18 to April 24, 2024.
(District 4)**

Thank you.

Highlights:

This reporting period the Tucson Sector Border Patrol (BP) continued releases of Legally Processed Asylum Seekers (LPAS) in Tucson (referred to as Tucson Soft-Sided) and Nogales. No LPAS were released in Douglas. CBP Nogales Port of Entry (POE) also processed and released. Due to the size of the BP Tucson Sector, this is a regional support operation covering three counties.

Catholic Community Services Casas Alitas Welcome Center (CAWC) received from BP and CBP a daily average of 730 arrivals and 5110 total arrivals for the week, a 1377 LPAS increase from the previous period. 70% were family members. The number of releases were manageable within the shelter system. County, CAWC, and City monitor the situation daily and balance operations.

Federal funding managed by GMI continues to support operations. County departments including GMI, Communications, Health, and Emergency Management (OEM) with County Administration are working with CAWC and the City.

- *BP Safe Community Release: Term used for BP released LPAS at a public location with access to transportation services (i.e. bus station, transportation hub) during daylight hours and BP communicates the release to stakeholders. For releases in border towns like Nogales and Douglas, Pima County and/or DEMA transport LPAS directly to a CAWC or other humanitarian partner to prevent overwhelming border communities with limited resources.*
- *BP Station: Nine Stations are located within the Tucson Sector and the Tucson and Nogales Stations currently process and release LPAS into the local community. In the past Douglas and Naco have processed and released. The vast majority of LPAS released daily are from BP Stations.*
- *CBP Port of Entry (POE): There are five POE in Arizona and four within Pima, Santa Cruz, and Cochise counties. CBP Nogales POE currently processes and releases approximately 100 LPAS per day. During normal operations there is a transition of the LPAS to the humanitarian network.*
- *Legally Processed Asylum Seeker (LPAS): Term used for individuals that BP has qualified and allowed legal status into the United States. It has been stated that to gain that status, BP interviews, collects biometric and biographic information, and completes a background check before individual is released. During normal operations there is a transition of LPAS to the humanitarian network.*
- *Street Release: Term used when BP initiates a release other than to a humanitarian or other partner and LPAS are released into the local community with little to no support resources and LPAS will navigate their own way. Can occur when CAWC is at over-capacity with no shelter space available, when transportation support is not available to move LPAS to a humanitarian partner, federal funding no longer support operations, and BP can no longer detain. The release location has been coordinated between BP and the local government. When street release occurs Pima County will work with CAWC, the City of Tucson, Santa Cruz, and Cochise County to prioritize who will enter shelter as shelter space is available.*

Weekly Arrivals received by CAWC after release by BP and CBP:

CCS/CAWC received from BP and CBP a daily average of 730 arrivals and 5,110 total arrivals for the week.

Historical operational volumes (*The cumulative total of LPAS arrivals in Pima County and LPAS transported to Phoenix with Pima County support)

- Record Day of Releases = 1,642 (12/22/23)
- Record Week of Releases = 9,114 (12/21/23-12/27/23)
- Record Month of Releases = 39,561 (12/23)
- Total Releases to Date = 464,368 (since 1/1/2019)

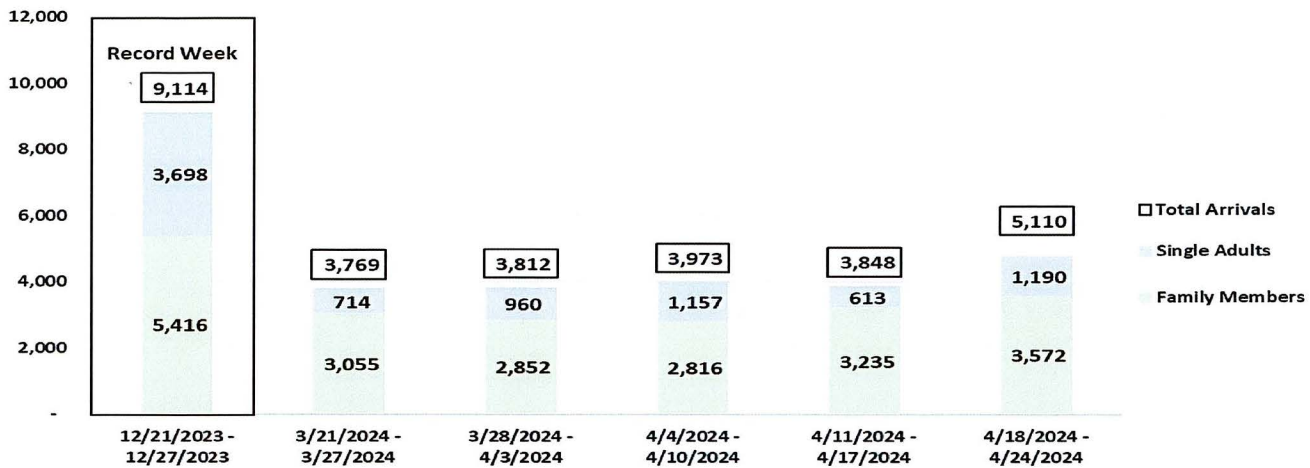
Weekly Arrivals	Total Arrivals	Single Adults	Family Members	Family Units
Current Week Total	5,110	1,190	3,572	1,100
Daily Average	730	170	510	157

Family Members: The total number of individuals who arrived as part of a family group.

Family Units: The overall count of separate families that arrived on a given day.

Please note: All data is a "snapshot" reported in real time and is subject to change because of new information, data is verified, changes in process requirements, and the availability of resources.

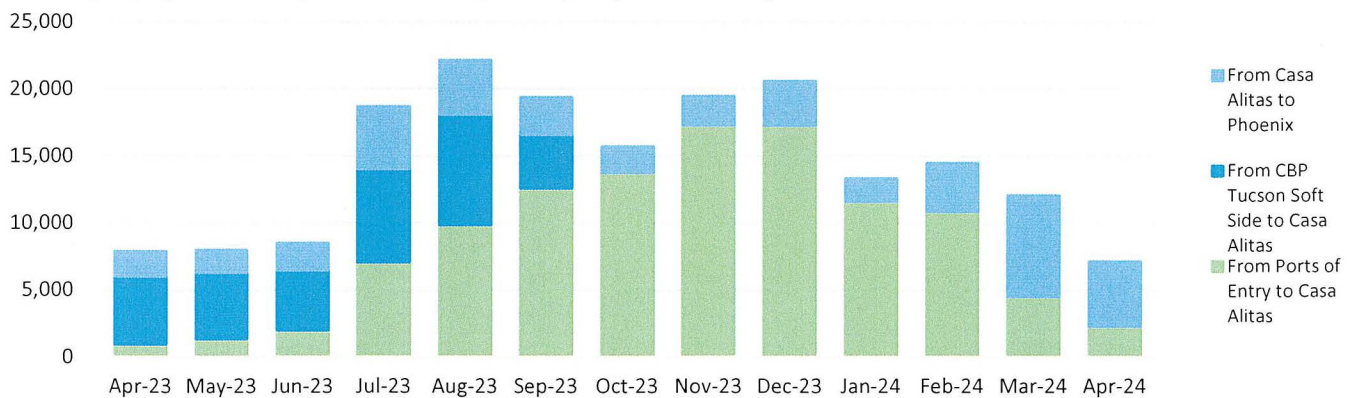
5-week Overview of Legally Processed Asylum Seeker Arrivals Compared to the Record Week of Arrivals



Transportation

BP transports LPAS only as far as the closest safe community location. From the Tucson BP Soft-Sided, BP transports LPAS directly to CAWC Drexel. The BP Nogales Station will coordinate for transportation resources provided by Arizona Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA) or Pima County to pick up directly at the Station or will release at the Nogales Reception Center. BP Douglas Station release location has changed from a local church to the Douglas Welcome Center and state or county transportation resources will pick up there. In Nogales and Douglas BP this is coordinated with the assistance of Santa Cruz and Cochise OEM with DEMA and Pima transportation coordinators to support a smooth transition and reduce the risk of releases into those communities. Both DEMA and Pima have the ability to transport LPAS from Nogales and Douglas to CAWC and other humanitarian partners and from CAWC to another shelter to decompress CAWC. Other transportation options are considered as needed. The flexibility of transportation enables shelter operators to support each other and maximize available space. County utilizes van shuttles and cabs to move LPAS between CAWC shelter network and to airport or bus station. The County has contracts with four long distance vendors and one short-distance vendor. The City can utilize SunTran for the local operation. This operating period DEMA provided transportation to transfer LPAS out of Nogales to humanitarian partners and there were no requests for Douglas. Pima transportation focused on supporting local needs.

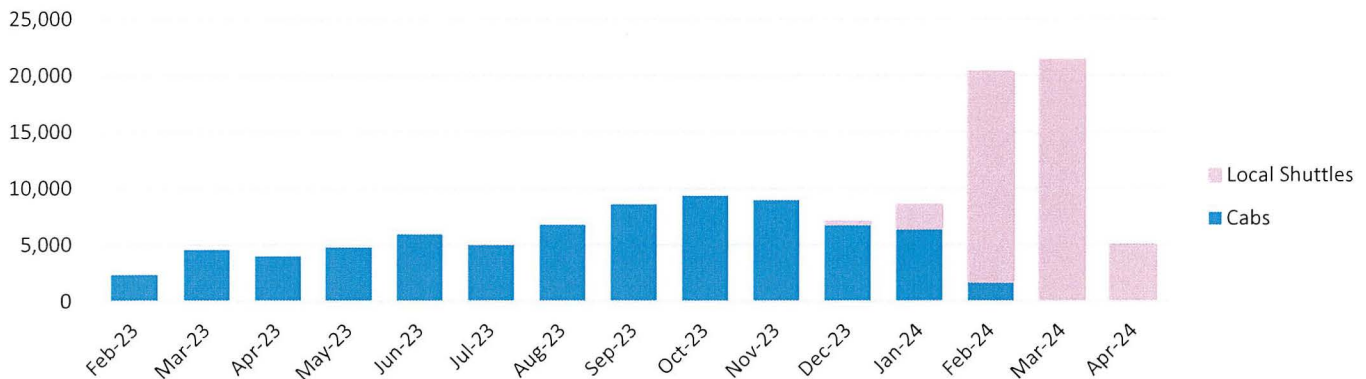
Number of Legally Processed Asylum Seekers Transported by Long Distance Transportation



- A total of **259,791** Legally Processed Asylum Seekers have been transported by Long Distance Transportation from May 2021 – April 2024.
- Since September 2023, Pima and DEMA have transported 86,394 from Nogales and from Douglas.
- **Forty-six (46%)** percent of long-distance trips are from BP Stations and Ports of Entry to Casa Alitas.

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Number of Legally Processed Asylum Seekers Transported by Short Distance Transportation



- A total of **146,069** Legally Processed Asylum Seekers have been transported by Short Distance Transportation from August 2021 – April 2024.

Congregate and Non-Congregate Shelters

Congregate Shelters are CAWC Ajo and CAWC Drexel. CAWC Ajo provides support and shelter to LPAS that require specialized assistance and include vulnerable families and single adults. CAWC Ajo is uniquely suited with individual rooms and common spaces. CAWC Drexel is a large communal facility where one LPAS demographic can be served and currently supports family units. This facility can transition easily to serve single adults depending on release demographics or operational changes. CAWC Drexel serves as the Intake Center when LPAS are released by BP and CBP. During Intake LPAS are processed and it is determined if LPAS can travel immediately or require respite, shelter, and supportive assistance. Non-Congregate locations are the hotels needed to support surge beyond the congregate locations and reduce the chance of a street release. These locations provide “rooms as needed” and are flexible to serve both family units and single adults simultaneously. It is at the shelter location where staff provide quality of life support like showers, acquire a change of clothes, diapers, care kits, etc. and work with the LPAS family or sponsor on their forward travel arrangements. LPAS average stay is 1-3 days. The City has contracts with four hotel properties (La Palma formally known as Ramada, two Quality Inns, and a Best Western). Medical isolation occurs at a city contracted hotel. Humanitarian partners that provide additional Shelter support when available include Phoenix-based International Rescue Committee (IRC), Helping With All My Heart, Monte Vista Cultural Church, and Tongan United Methodist. In recent weeks only IRC has provided shelter, the other shelters are reporting sporadic to no capacity due to federal funding challenges. A shelter in New Mexico and a church in Douglas have also provided critical support as needed.

Pima County and NGO partner (CCS) Shelter Summary

Shelter	Total LPAS Served	Total LPAS Sheltered	Total Overnight Rooms Used	Available
Drexel	4,509	2,006	2,006	400
CAWC	882	943	828	39
Additional Non-Congregate Shelter	24	24	7	As Needed
Total	5,415	2,973	2,841	439

- **Total LPAS Served:** The cumulative total of LPAS who have received services at a shelter, encompassing both daytime and nighttime use.
- **Total LPAS Sheltered:** The cumulative total of LPAS who stayed one or more nights.
- **Total Overnight Rooms Used:** The cumulative total of rooms that were used for an overnight stay.
- **Available:** The number of cots (Drexel) and rooms (CAWC, Non-Congregate Shelter/hotels) allocated for use.

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Public Health / Infectious Disease Prevention

All LPAS undergo medical screening by federal paramedical staff prior to release. LPAS are assessed again when they arrive at CAWC during the Intake process. Trained staff ask all single adults and heads of family a series of medical questions and the staff visually assess all individuals for signs of sickness. If there is a positive response to the screening questions or if there is suspicion based on the assessment, the individual is tested for COVID and undergoes a clinical evaluation. Individuals (and their contacts) testing positive for COVID who are symptomatic or suspected of other communicable illness are offered isolation and medical support in a hotel room setting until cleared for travel based on current communicable disease guidelines. Additional medical evaluation and care may be provided as needed by El Rio and coordinated by Southeast Arizona Health Education Center.

From 1/1/23 to the 2/29/24 almost all LPAS underwent medical screening; 66,661 LPAS were identified as at risk for COVID and subsequently tested for COVID. 7344 tested positive and followed the PCHD COVID positive LPAS protocol including isolation until medically cleared for travel. From 1/1/23 to 1/12/24 Public Health identified 74 cases of Varicella (Chicken Pox) and <10 cases each of Malaria, Tuberculosis, and Scabies infestation.

In general, LPAS are healthy and have low levels of communicable disease.

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