

# Homelessness Engagement Meeting Responses

## What current efforts to reduce homelessness are working and how can we continue or further support those efforts?

### Group 1

- GED: @ decrease more help larger facility, more facilitators.
- Turning Point is good just needing more room to (breath)
  - Adding more programs within
- New Horizons: housing=VAC housing vouchers
- Problem with background and landlords
- How can we make vouchers work better
- Insurance for landlords for their property
- Transportation is very hard struggling on days without bus running
- Transportation period
- Dedicated facility
- Short term housing for up to 90 days for families, non-abused

### Group 2

- Efforts

### Group 3

- Rapid rehousing is working but we need more
- Case workers assisting as helpful but need more assistance in using the section 8 voucher program
- Places that will accept the vouchers but have a bad history-maybe a place like public housing for these people that give them a chance to develop a position history
- Move places where the unsheltered can come at night to get out of the weather doesn't have to have cots-open city spaces for this
- The outreach professionals on Fridays are making a difference

### Group 4

- (Temp) More "Night at the Inn" Spaces/places for people that opens earlier in the day and houses more homeless during "cold days"
- Permanent options-what's working?
- Transportation:
  - Church Buses
  - "Providence" -> Community United Builders has a bus
- RATI expanding, public housing, PHC street outreach, functional zero team-revised focus' mental health; folks need hope and purpose.-> Jobs, incentivized progress (gas card?)
- Love inc counseling expand-transportation vouchers, lyft, uber, taxi

### Group 5

- Efforts are good-just not enough
- Operation Safe Winter-collect and distribute goods to "rough sleepers" tents, coats, shoes etc.
- Acute, immediate needs

- Fresh start-Columbia has lots of social services and they are centrally located close to each other. And they work together well.
  - Each service is a net to catch potential clients
  - Good networking
- New Horizons-the personal relationships are key and take time to build
- Street outreach help with application and “hoops”
- Most efforts are not reducing #'s but just mitigating problems/effects
- Functional 0
- Student housing impact on housing-debate on if raising or lowering rents
- Services will not solve problems
- Harbor House, Welcome Home, Room at the Inn
- Pay not enough
- Service will not solve problems
- Need year round sheltering

#### Group 6

- Safe houses-partners meetings
- Homeless Lives Matter
- Education Services
- CMCA Taxi vouchers ended
- Coordinated VAC, Turning Point, counseling, Housing, more discussion
- Harbor House families, need more
- Churches-tying up facilities
- Having more shelter, larger facility
- Help you get BIC's and ID, driver to take to work, working Sunday buses
- Vouchers-barriers-landlords-insurance
- More space, knowing who to ask for resources
- Continuing after housing to preventing homelessness>follow up case management, volunteers, peer support

#### Group 7

- People engaged with case managers for grants, Love Inc.'s work helping with employment, budgeting
- Day program, homeless person at table important
- Employed but can't afford housing
- Welcome home, and Turning point are working.
- Structural approach, tiny houses in shipping containers, very basic/cheap
- Partisan divide between homelessness and housed, CBDG \$ repairing abandoned alley for smaller house construction.
- Social capital development, Individualized attention to needs.
- Wilkes Blvd UM needs help with the effort, shelters needed. Houses needed, bathrooms

#### Group 8

Supportive Services, private sector help

## What community stakeholders feel the impacts of homelessness in our community and how are these stakeholders impacted differently?

### Group 1

- Churches
- Public library
- Public schools (kids)
- Homeless kid having to go to outside free wifi to do their homework
- Silent homeless=very important
- Washing machines
- Battling through after 12 noon
- Bum k house sleeping
- Safe resting area at night
- More volunteers
- Voice in the community
- An official liaison to the homeless community
- An outreach team living among the homeless
- Private land for homestead
- Rule governed
- Group control

### Group 2

- Impact
- ER of housing
- Kids into the system-> Jail
- Trespassers, jail crowding
- Negative economy, health care, negative social impact (social oppression)
- Yards as flopped clean it up
- Not addressing homelessness is a community black eye

### Group 3

- The homeless service agencies, neighbors, community entities, business holders
- People wanting to use city parcels-the arc over ridden by drunk people and messes they leave behind-we need more restrooms available
- Neighborhoods with services are increasing traffic to areas and causing safety issues. Results in compassion fatigue
- The neighborhood drives cannot drive anywhere without being approached by panhandlers. Has resulted in accidents and injuries. Law enforcement is a low priority-make emergency funds available-some panhandlers aren't homeless.
- People have a lot of people that are not stability employed
- The service providers are overwhelmed and turning people away

### Group 4

- Coordinators at CPS for keeping kids in school zones- they don't change schools so much. Stability for children
- Healthcare providers in ER. Medzou, etc. Impacted by homelessness
- Police station and post office open 24/7
- Library
- Convenience stores-24 hour gas station parks and property owner (camps)

#### Group 5

- Mental health community-homelessness or housing crisis looming drives them to door. So it could be positive that it is bringing people to door
- Property owners-have people living on their land and developers
  - We need a safe zone tent camp and have services
- Downtown businesses-grocery stores
  - Loitering/panhandling congregations
- Breaking into sheds/outbuildings, vacant properties or common areas in apartments
- Trash complaints from neighbors of service providers
- Environment-trash, human waste
- Public school system-unstable home=behavior and low test scores
- Chronic homeless lead to foster care
- Law enforcement/legal services
  - Respond to calls; facing the system
- Get people to understand that people must exist somewhere

#### Group 6

- Public library-homeless, temp
- Piecemeal services-how to refer 211 showme.org
- Homeless children-academically, financially, teens kickout, couch-surfing, moving, bullying, ipads for kids, wifi for teacher engagement
- Mortgage insurance
- Ban the box can't ask until after offer what about on housing application?

#### Group 7

- People don't know about safety nets
- perception of "No safety net", high cost of living in COMO, can't move outside CL because of trans cost

#### Group 8

- Stakeholders: Business, time
  - Medical, time, money
  - Police, time
  - Everyone's issue

### **What strategies should we consider in serving the different populations that are impacted by homelessness?**

- a. Veterans**
- b. Persons with disabilities**
- c. Families with children**
- d. Unaccompanied youth**
- e. All other individuals**

#### Group 1

- Halfway houses-after rehab homes
- Less money or even scholarships, to get into sober living
- Different guidelines for landlords in choosing who bases on felonies
- Sober living for couples
- Less money getting into the these halfway houses
- Ban the box: the box that asks you have you committed felonies
- Can we integrate this into the application for housing

- Homeless connect land
- Who's it owned by?
- Pets for mentally ill

#### Group 2

- Job, record, ban the box
  - Application fees
  - Housing discrimination
- Build and staff a shelter 365/24/7
- Same
- Perm. Housing. Education for public
- Use existings
- Money property tax, sales tax
- Prove to decision maker

#### Group 3

- a. Veterans-There are a lot of designated service but there is a disconnect between services and individuals-through CMOT could be used to assist the disconnect-these programs could be expanded to the larger population
- b. Medicaid has become too hard for the disabled to maintain resulting in an inability to maintain healthy, then income and eventually housing. Many benefits are tied to benefits. Look at what help do you need and not tie them to medicaid when medicaid is necessary provide advocates.
- c. We need more family units for families with children. The children need more stability to function
- d. More shelter options for unaccompanied youth
- e. If the city could have a commission to focus on the issues of homelessness specifically with the community and those that want to get off the streets. Can we turn some of the hotels outside of town be turned into safe places for the homeless but some of the homeless need to clean of their act

#### Group 4

- Veterans: Landlords (Bernard King) VASH
- Trauma support for all groups
- Families with Children: Shelter Space, auto repair
- Unaccompanied Youth: Job Point House, 6-8 bedrooms; support for LGBTQ folks that come out and get thrown out
  - Substance abuse treatment
- Housing first and follow up support
- Starter packs-tennis ball tube
- Medication assistance
- a. College, house them and educate, GI. Voc Rehab (college partnership), veterans court (drug court, MH court)
- b. Access and healthcare, need for free services?
- c. Money for more shelters for families. Money for car repair (VAC funding stopped).
- d. Job Point-house for kids, rainbow house (ask questions) Center project needs money (LGBTQ)
- Housing First- Placing people then addressing mental illness and addiction issues

## Group 5

- Hire a city manager who prioritizes homeless issues
- Leadership in city hall, need clear actions and goals, measurable and attainable goals
- Vets: VA and Welcome Home referrals to Fresh Start not working out because they are clean/sober living must stay in rehab program
- Living Wage Job for People: Job Training, specialty jobs
- Disabilities-wide variety of problems
- Health Care-need medicine, can't get meds
- Injuries-teeth/dental, amputations, broken bones
- Families with children
- Unaccompanied youth-high prevalence of LGBTQ community, more counseling for them and safe space for them
- Be open to food sharing
- Keep 'spikes', and criminalization of homelessness out of Columbia
- Rainbow Trailer Park
- \*\*NIMBY
- Budget House Inn-would make a great homeless shelter

## Group 6

- Interpersonal differences, profiling
- Recovering, folks clean and sober access/teens too
- Rest-sleep
- Application barriers, velted landlords
- Records barrier
- Scholarship to get access to housing
- Have to be able to use the vouchers
- Group homes to mentor skills for those who need socialization on Job training-schools
- Disabled and elderly tech help and transportation
- Medication and food stamps
- Service animal fees
- Need a place after noon when Turning Point closes.
- St. Francis-kicked out/off of porch
- Parents, Boys and Girls Club, Blind Boone, Dominoes effect on family
- St. Louis schools-washing machines
- Douglas has this
- Land owned by and not be bothered to live on without hassles
- A safe place to live without a home
- Dental, healthcare, mental health providers, social services

## Group 7

- Housing first
- Deal with trauma/mental health issues must happen first
- Funding mechanism at local level, not federal
- Tax credits for people who want to help, open their homes etc. ADU's
- Four types of people need different help, Bob Woodson model
  - Character but given up
  - Mental ill, trauma
  - Character issues
  - Common sense

- 24/7 shelter, some unsheltered have minimal funds, could be used to support shelter. City's land trust is still too expensive for homeless, they need shelter.
- Business community wants to help, esp models that work
- Love Inc-putting mentors together with people

#### Group 8

- Baby boomer generations=call list, Tax credit-volunteer mentors