

Economic Self Sufficiency Committee Report

February 9, 2016

We believe that the issue of eliminating homelessness for the individual is ultimately solved when the homeless individual reaches some level of economic self-sufficiency. This can occur in a number of ways, including reuniting with friends or family who can provide economic support, through governmental resources like Social Security, Medicare, Veterans' benefits, etc. or getting a job.

Attaining one or more of these results requires a series of steps each overseen by a person who has expertise with the issue being addressed.

Unless these prior steps are taken economic self-sufficiency will not occur. Thus this report concerns itself with identification, intake, housing, mentoring, counseling, health issues including substance abuse and mental health. Each one of these steps must take place in some form before economic self-sufficiency is reached. For example: housing can't take place unless some source of economic help is identified.

Each step requires an area of expertise and resource of knowledge.. No one person or department will necessarily have the resources or techniques to do all steps at a high level of effectiveness. Changing the homeless behavior in many cases requires behavior modification. This can be difficult and complex, however if the resources for doing so are not available the homeless problem will never be solved. There is the mistaken belief that punishment or withdrawal of benefits will cause the homeless person to change. This has been tried and found not to work. In fact, the lack of financial resources probably is the major cause of homelessness. If that issue is not addressed, solving the homeless problem will fail and may even get worse.

In cities the step like process can often be started with resources already at their disposal. Additional resources may be added.

For example, the identification and intake process is well handled by the police department. The next step of counseling, mentoring and identification of resources can be handled by social workers or trained volunteers using a case management approach. A social worker hired on a contract is far less expensive than the cost of a policeman. The steps dealing with health problems and housing are also best handled by personnel trained in these areas. Finally, identification of economic resources especially jobs must again be addressed by people schooled in the effort in an employment center type of environment. Interestingly the City within its existing structure has some of these socially oriented resources and techniques available. This includes Project Self –Sufficiency whose efforts include finding housing, education and economic support. The Youth Shelter has at least two social workers to deal with

issues facing young people. Community Services deals with Senior Citizens issues with at least one social worker. These are all resources which should be reviewed for techniques which may be applicable to the homeless. Further there are resources whose membership is directly involved in dealing with economic self-sufficiency, namely the Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce, and the Visit Huntington Beach Organization both of whom are interested in reducing homelessness for economic reasons. The County of Orange also offers the "One Step Program" which is a type of employment bureau and does identify jobs. Resources for education and training are also available. The Huntington Beach Union High School District can offer help obtaining a high school diploma. The Coast Community College District offers specialized certificates which qualifies people for employment on completing the course work. Of course the many nearby four year colleges and universities also will provide employment resources. Finally it should be noted that a significant and number of the non-governmental organizations operate in Huntington Beach a part of whose activity is to find jobs for the homeless. These include but is not limited to the following: Beach Cities Interfaith Services, Build Futures, Off The Streets, Collette's Children, The Illumination Foundation, SPIN(Serving People in Need), SHIP(Self Help Interfaith Program) and Interval House.

These organizations can be contacted directly to determine what resources are available to the City and to learn the techniques for finding jobs which could be adopted by the City.

In order to formulate a successful job seeking strategy for the homeless in Huntington Beach it is strongly recommended that the City convene a conference of all the organizations mentioned in this summary.

A number of Orange County Cities have had some success dealing with the homeless including Costa Mesa (Including Save Our Selves and Fresh Beginnings Ministry), Anaheim, Laguna Beach and Fullerton. There may be others. It is suggested that the Huntington Beach City Administration make contact with other Cities to determine the nature of these successes. The most successful program in the U.S. for dealing with the homeless is in Salt Lake City, Utah. The leader of the program, Lloyd Pendleton, is available as a consultant and has been a consultant to the Federal Government, Los Angeles, Phoenix and New Orleans. A printed presentation of his slide program is available from the staff ofr the Task Force. A member of this committee has met Mr. Pendleton and made him aware of Huntington Beach needs.

The Faith Community offers support for dealing with the homeless issue. A number of churches currently are addressing the homeless issue with some success. A list of Faith groups can be found in a report to the City by Brad Fieldhouse of CityNet or from the Homeless Task Force. The Faith groups are also a good source of volunteers. Coordination of City activities with the efforts of the Faith groups would be very helpful.

Reports and information of items previously presented to the Homeless Task Force have been included in this report. This was done to provide useful information to the City Council.

The County of Orange has stepped up its efforts in dealing with the homeless. It has appointed a Homeless Commission. It has an approved Ten Year Plan.- It has approved building a 200 hundred bed temporary homeless shelter. The 211 OC program offers immediate help on homelessness. The Health Care Agency has become very responsive to health care needs. A close relationship with the County would be extremely beneficial. To answer the complaint that an attractive program by one city will attract more homeless to that city, homeless efforts must be regional. However a lack of regional program should never be an excuse for doing nothing.

The Need for Office Space

The activities recommended in this report will require office space for them to be carried out. It is suggested that temporary trailers with office space be placed on the five acre site near the BCIS activity. This site was formerly a trash transfer station and is owned by the County. The site is to some extent contaminated and thus may need remediation to make it more user friendly. Interestingly, if this property is remediated it could also be used for low cost housing. Its location in the industrial area would minimize public objection.

Financial Incentive for Reducing the Homeless Population

Some believe that assigning more police to the homeless issue will solve the problem We believe police support is extremely important,. however, alleviating the homeless problem also requires other specialized skills. In the absence of those skills on the current staff, people with those skills must be hired or trained volunteers must be sought.

An estimate of the amount of money which may be required in Huntington Beach to deal with the homeless can be derived from what Los Angeles County believes their costs will be. According to the Los Angeles Times, Los Angeles County will need \$150,000,000 annually to deal with the estimated 44,000 homeless in the County. This amounts to \$3,409 per homeless person. Thus, for the estimated 200 homeless in Huntington Beach the total cost to the City would be about \$681,818. The actual amount for Huntington Beach may be more because of lack of economies of scale . This is illustrated by figures for the City of Los Angeles whose estimate d cost \$100,000,000 for serving 12,536 homeless results in a cost of \$7977 per homeless person

These numbers do not include costs of building housing. For housing Los Angeles ^{City} County costs are estimated to be \$1.85 billion over the next 10 years or 185 million per year for 12,536 homeless The costs in Huntington Beach may be less however, these numbers give one a

feeling for potential obligation. This summary of costs gives a very powerful argument for reducing homelessness and returning them to the work force.

In closing, we should comment that whatever strategies are adopted by the City Council, regular reports should include the following: the contacts made, numbers of homeless in the case management system, successes in moving people out of the homeless category. The number calls for service to the police, and a periodic homeless count. Such information will help determine the success or failure of strategies being employed

Hector Valdez

Ralph Bauer

Charlene Bauer

From: H E K <hektattoo@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 2:08 PM
To: Charlene Bauer
Subject: addition to economic self sufficiency

Hey Ralph
I just had once small addition to ESS -

Reach out to local businesses to devise a network of possible employers dedicated to employing people in need. Whether that be homeless individuals currently in the homeless shelters or individuals at risk of becoming homeless. This network of local businesses would offer employment to those in need. These jobs would be entry level positions designed to help give these individuals a platform to build a better life from. Different ways we can motivate local businesses to participate include; promotion of those businesses through advertising, tax breaks and incentives, as well as helping to make their own community a better place.

Let me know what you think.
Thank You,

-HEK
--
HEKTATTOO.COM
"PMA"

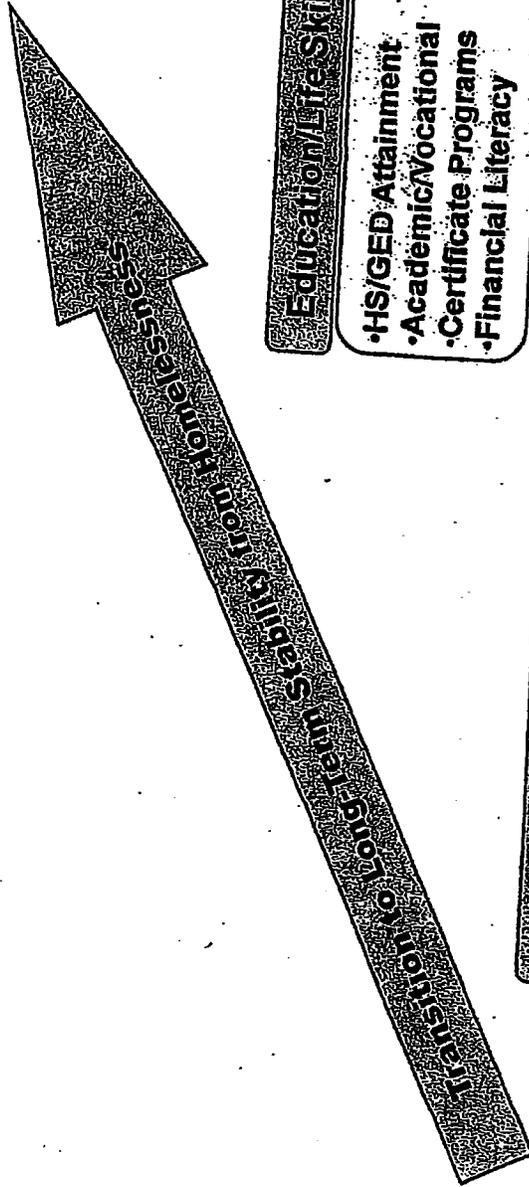
KEUL EE,

WOULD YOU ADD THIS AT THE
ECONOMIC SELF SUFFICIENCY REPORT
THANK YOU

Ralph



"Steps to Success"



Independent Living

- Permanent Housing
- Living Wage
- Driver's License

Education/Life Skills

- HS/GED Attainment
- Academic/Vocational
- Certificate Programs
- Financial Literacy

Initial Placement Needs Addressed

- Food Stamps
- Medical Insurance
- Mental Health
- Medical Issues
- Legal Issues

Initial Placement

- Emergency/Rapid Re-housing
- Mentor
- Phone
- Transportation

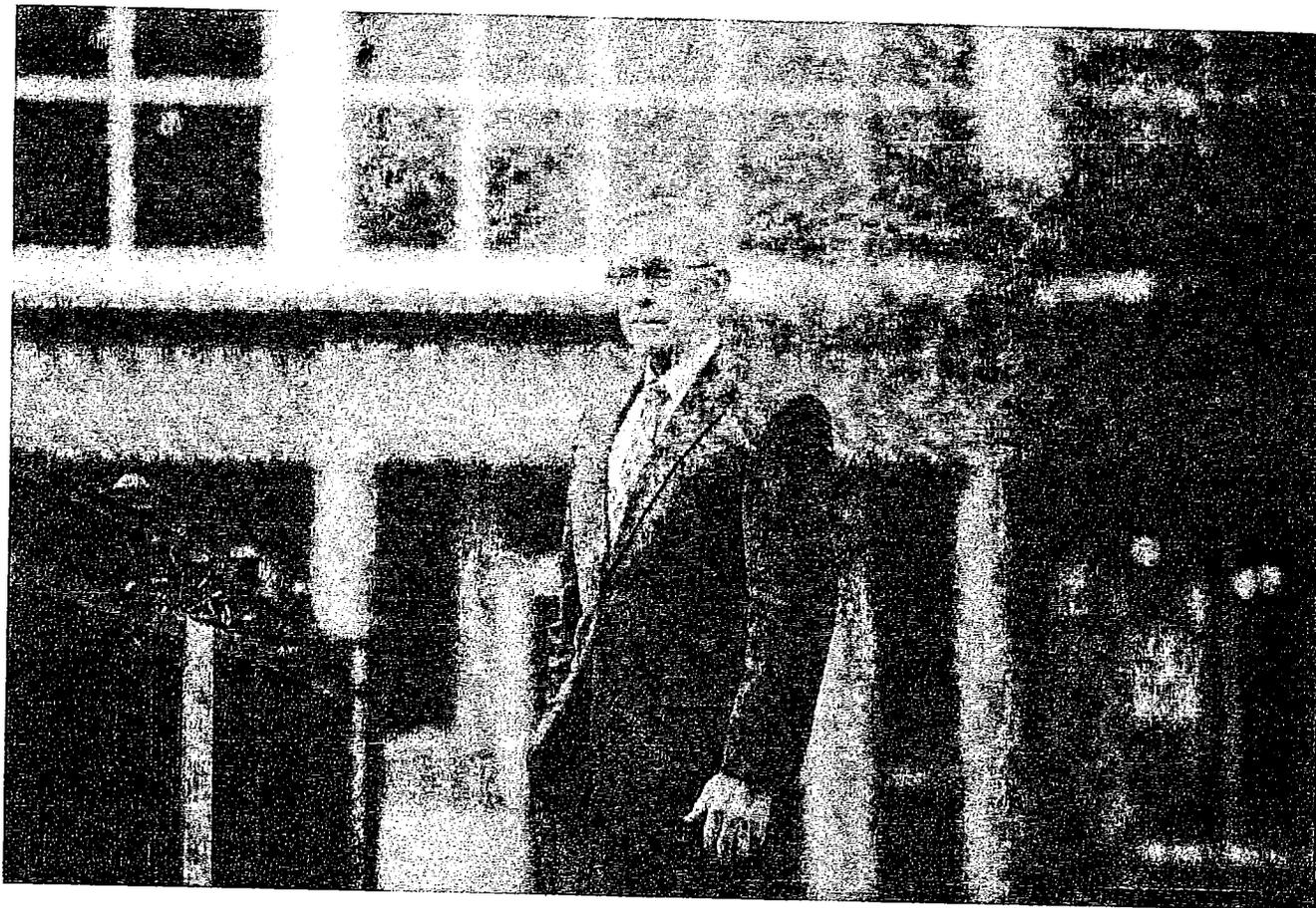
Work Readiness

- Resume
- Transportation
- Computer skills
- Job Readiness Training
- Job Placement
- Childcare

Mandatory for Initial Placement Needs/Work

- California ID
- Social Security Card
- Transportation

 NationSwell



Lloyd Pendleton, the Director of The State of Utah's Homeless Task Force, in the courtyard of the Palmer Court Apartments, Jan. 16, 2015, in Salt Lake City. The complex provides housing for people who are chronically homeless.

Kim Raff for NationSwell

Meet the Courageous Man Who Has Housed 1,393 Chronically Homeless Individuals in Utah

In part three of NationSwell's series examining Utah's campaign to end homelessness, read about the man behind the pivotal program.

by [Chris Peak](#) on January 29, 2015

Lloyd Pendleton is the most efficient man in Utah. By the hour, he ticks off small achievements in a pocket planner, marking progress toward long-term goals. His mind routinely calculates volumes and outputs; he thinks in returns on investments. When Pendleton speaks, you begin to suspect he's just sifted through a file cabinet's worth of data. But then, he tosses in one of his signature colorful aphorisms, and you realize, nope, that's just Lloyd.

After retiring from high-ranking positions at Ford Motors and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Pendleton began a second career in Utah's Department of Workforce Services, a seemingly unglamorous government job in Salt Lake City. "I retired on a Friday and went to work with the state on Monday," he says. As a pet project of sorts, Pendleton set an ambitious goal: To functionally eliminate chronic homelessness across Utah within 10 years. Nine years later, as Utah's homelessness czar, he's on track to reach that milestone by year's end.

“He gets things done” is how his colleague Liz Buehler, Salt Lake City’s homelessness coordinator, describes her state counterpart.

Raised on a ranch at the far western edge of Utah, Pendleton’s early experience working the land gave him a dogged work ethic and a quiet-the-bells directness. He admits he once thought street people panhandled because they were lazy. “I used to tell the homeless to get a job, because that’s all I thought they needed,” he recalls.

But later, through the Mormon Church, he was tasked with restructuring struggling food pantries, emergency shelters and other charities across the country. After working directly with the homeless, including a year on-site at Utah’s largest shelter The Road Home (then known as the Travelers Aid Society), Pendleton had a “major paradigm shift.” Viewing the homeless as his brothers and sisters, he realized that when they suffered, so did the entire community. “We’re all connected,” he now says.

I used to tell the homeless to get a job, because that’s all I thought they needed.”

Lloyd Pendleton

Pendleton’s years of bolstering charities earned him credibility from many nonprofit executive directors. When they knew he was considering retirement, several service providers and then-Gov. Jon Huntsman began lobbying the L.D.S. Church to “loan” Pendleton out to head up the state’s nascent homelessness task force. The church agreed, and Pendleton did the job part-time for two years before committing to being its full-time director in 2006. “We got Lloyd involved before he realized,” one executive director says.

Described by one Salt Lake City social worker as a “voracious reader and researcher,” Pendleton started by signing up for conferences on the latest strategies. While at one in Chicago in 2003, he learned about the 10-year plans to end homelessness taking shape around the country, and he heard the buzz about an innovative idea called “Housing First.” Two years later, after a conference in Las Vegas, Pendleton started chatting up a fellow passenger on the airport shuttle: Sam Tsemberis, considered the originator of the “Housing First” model.

Tsemberis explained how Pathways to Housing (the organization he founded in New York City in 1992) threw out drug tests and waiting lists — the old trappings of getting someone “housing ready.” Instead, the homeless were moved into apartments in Manhattan and Westchester County, N.Y., within two weeks. “You’re curing the housing problem first. You cure the person later,” Tsemberis explained. After its first five years, 88 percent of tenants had stayed in the program’s housing — double the rate for the city’s step-by-step rehab programs. “Recovery starts when you have something you care about, a place where you can go,” he added. Pendleton took an instant liking to Tsemberis and together, they convinced Utah lawmakers and foundations to take a chance on “Housing First.”

Just because it worked in New York City, however, didn’t mean the program would be a fit for Utah. During one tense early meeting, a contractor worried about his reputation almost backed out of building 100 units. As Pendleton listened, a thought came to him: why not test a small pilot program consisting of 25 of the toughest, most distressed people? The idea partially came from a truism he learned on the ranch while chopping kindling for their wood-burning stove: “Chop the big end of the log first.” In other words, if you can house the most chronically homeless, you can house anybody.

The task force gathered the best case managers, convinced landlords across the city to participate and handed over keys to 17 people. “I felt the sweat on my forehead, and I know others did too,” recalls Matt Minkevitch, the executive director of The Road Home, a Salt Lake City shelter. “You’d give each other a casual smile and say, ‘We’ll work through it, okay?’ But they couldn’t hear your stomach growling, hear you praying under your breath,... and just hoping, hoping that you don’t hurt people and damage all these important programs.”

He gets things done.”

Liz Buehler, Salt Lake City’s homelessness coordinator

The first night, Pendleton recounts, one man placed all his belongings on the bed and curled up on the floor to sleep. The following few nights, he dozed outside, near a dumpster. Finally, after several days, he moved in and slept on the bed. Housing isn’t “rehabilitation,” Pendleton noted, “because so many of them were never habilitated to begin with. You are

creating new lives for them.” With the exception of one person who died, all the tenants remained in housing 21 months later.

Pendleton isn’t striving for prestige or fame in solving an ill that blights much of urban America. He just likes ideas that work, and he wants to see them take root, regardless of who sows the first seed. “Housing First” isn’t unique to the Beehive State, but Pendleton’s precise methods are a primary reason why Utah’s rates of chronic homelessness are so low. The fingerprints of his orderly approach can be spotted all over the 10-year plan: its clear articulation of vision, its far-reaching collaboration and its experimental pilot projects.

According to Pendleton, every action must answer this question: Does this help the homeless into housing or not? “If you don’t have a crystal-clear vision about the homeless situation, then you just muddle along. You get poor results. You’re not getting people housed,” he says.

For Utah to solve such an intractable social problem, it also had to find support beyond the traditional partnerships. Pendleton’s résumé helped win the involvement of the business community and the L.D.S. Church, one of the most influential forces in the region. Their monetary contributions and participation in programs like job placement meant even “more and more people carrying the load with the county, city and state,” Pendleton tells the Deseret News. And once the strategy had been distilled, all those agencies focused their individual expertise on a specific aspect of the problem.

Despite playing different instruments, “We have been pretty much on the same sheet of music in the symphony,” Pendleton says of the collaboration.

To meet the goal Pendleton first dreamed of a decade ago, Utah still needs to house approximately 539 chronically homeless and 200 homeless veterans, according to the latest comprehensive report — far fewer than the 1,932 chronically homeless on the streets when he first started.

Pretty good for an “encore career,” don’t you think?

READ MORE:

Part 1: Utah Set the Ambitious Goal to End Homelessness in 2015. It’s Closer Than Ever

Part 2: 13 Images of Resilient Utah Residents Who Survived Being Homeless

Part 4: Far From Finished: Utah’s 5-Step Plan to Continue Helping the Homeless

Making House Calls, To People Without Homes



Julie Sokolow, Bryan Heller, Jacob Templin

The Hidden Cost of Homelessness

- Annual cost of homelessness in the USA is \$35,000 - \$150,000 annually per homeless person
 - includes programs, law enforcement, medical, food, psych holds, ambulances, etc.
- The cost to HOUSE someone is \$12,000 - \$25,000 annually per homeless person



Giving housing to the homeless is three times cheaper than leaving them on the streets

Updated by Matthew Yglesias on February 4, 2015, 10:50 a.m. ET

 @mattyglesias  matt@vox.com



The new Central Union Mission shelter in Washington, DC

Jewel Samad/AFP

The final week of January saw an annual ritual in government statistical gathering that few people know about — the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Point-in-

Time survey of the homeless population, in which HUD recruits volunteers around the country to go out and try to count up all the homeless people living in America. This year, White House Chief of Staff Dennis McDonough even joined up, volunteering as part of the San Francisco PIT crew (<http://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Obama-s-right-hand-man-joins-S-F-homeless-count-6050710.php>).

Counting the homeless is, of course, a critical element to making appropriate homelessness policy. But good policy also requires greater awareness of a discovery that research continuously confirms — it's cheaper to fix homelessness by giving homeless people homes to live in than to let the homeless live on the streets and try to deal with the subsequent problems.

The most recent report along these lines was a May Central Florida Commission on Homelessness study indicating that the region spends \$31,000 a year per homeless person (http://articles.orlandosentinel.com/2014-05-21/news/os-cost-of-homelessness-orlando-20140521_1_homeless-individuals-central-florida-commission-tulsa) on "the salaries of law-enforcement officers to arrest and transport homeless individuals — largely for nonviolent offenses such as trespassing, public intoxication or sleeping in parks — as well as the cost of jail stays, emergency-room visits and hospitalization for medical and psychiatric issues."

*BETWEEN 2005 AND 2012 THE RATE OF
HOMELESSNESS IN AMERICA
DECLINED 17 PERCENT*

By contrast, getting each homeless person a house and a caseworker to supervise their needs would cost about \$10,000 per person.

This particular study looked at the situations in Orange, Seminole, and Osceola Counties in Florida and of course conditions vary from place to place. But as Scott Keyes points out

(<http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2014/05/27/3441772/florid-homeless-financial-study/>), there are similar studies showing large financial savings in Charlotte (<http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2014/03/24/3418140/char-homeless-study/>) and Southeastern Colorado (<http://thinkprogress.org/economy/2013/09/05/2579451/colo-homeless-shelter/>) from focusing on simply housing the homeless.

The general line of thinking behind these programs is one of the happier legacies of the George W Bush administration. His homelessness czar Philip Mangano was a major proponent of a "housing first" approach

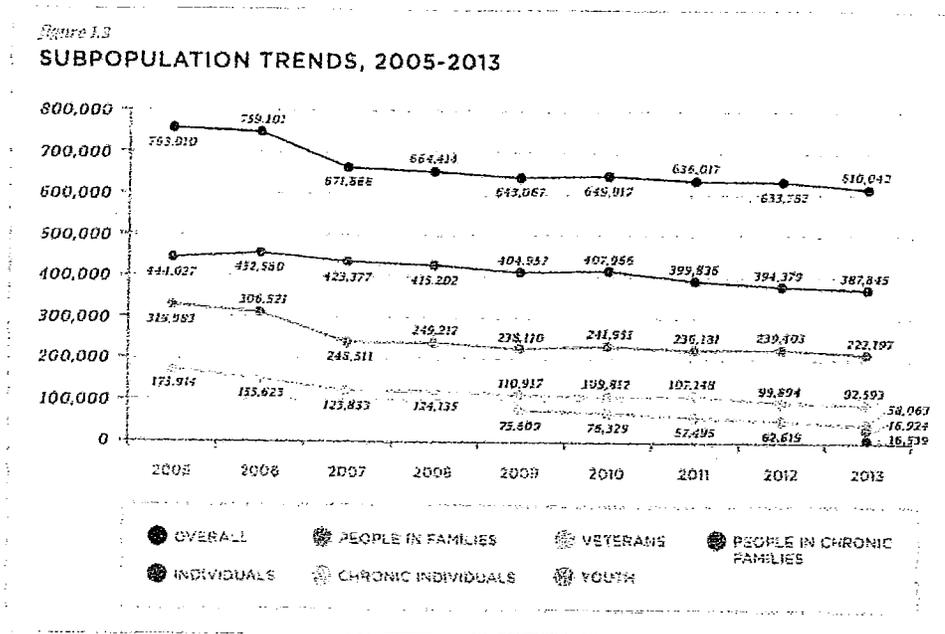
(http://www.newyorker.com/archive/2006/02/13/060213fa_fi to homelessness. And by and large it's worked. Between 2005 and 2012, the rate of homelessness in America declined 17 percent

(<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2013/08/the-astonishing-decline-of-homelessness-in-america/279050/>).

Figures released this month from the National Alliance to End Homeless showed another 3.7 percent decline

(http://b3cdn.net/naeh/d1b106237807ab260f_qam6ydz02.pdf)

That's a remarkable amount of progress to make during a period when the overall economic situation has been generally dire.



Source: National Alliance to End Homelessness

But the statistical success of anti-homelessness efforts even in the face of a bad economy underscores the point of the Florida study.

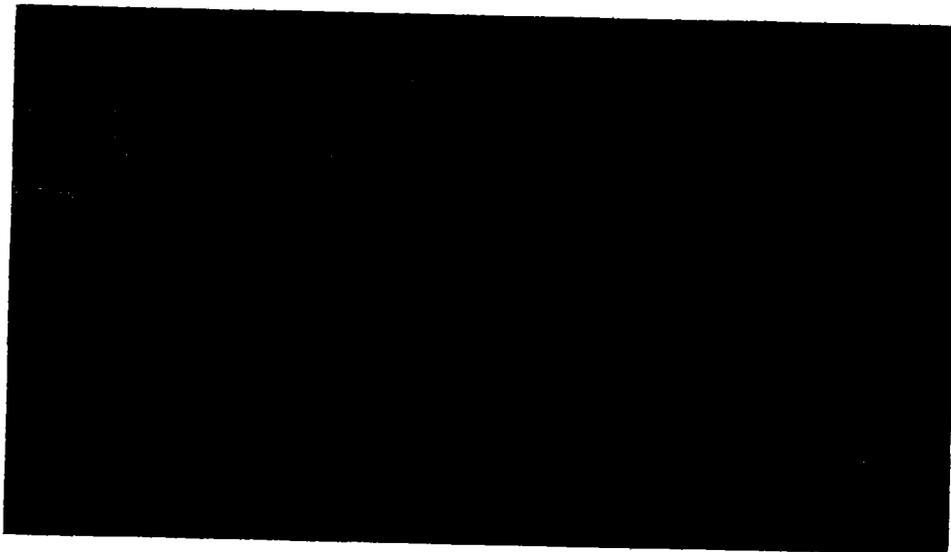
When it comes to the chronically homeless, you don't need to fix everything to improve their lives. You don't even really need new public money. What you need to do is target those resources at the core of the problem — a lack of housing — and deliver the housing, rather than spending twice as much

on sporadic legal and medical interventions. And the striking thing is that despite the success of housing first initiatives, there are still lots of jurisdictions that haven't yet switched to this approach. If Central Florida and other lagging regions get on board, we could take a big bite out of the remaining homelessness problem and free up lots of resources for other public services.

Further reading:

- [11 myths about homelessness in America](http://www.vox.com/2015/1/15/7552441/homeless-facts-myths)
(<http://www.vox.com/2015/1/15/7552441/homeless-facts-myths>)

WATCH: 'Obama on why income equality has skyrocketed' (Vox Conversations with the President of the United States)



Was this article helpful?

A Proposal to the Homeless Task Force

Ralph Bauer

It is suggested that the following issues be forwarded to the City Council by the Homeless Task Force..

To the City Council with Regards to the Homelessness Issue in Huntington Beach

It is recognized that the homelessness is a deep seated complex problem. It is likely will remain a problem for years to come. The problem tends to occur for a variety of reasons including a downturn in the economy, high cost of rental housing, health issues, and substance abuse. Many of the homeless do not want to be homeless and thus respond well to remedial efforts. Some homeless have adopted homelessness as a life style or are plagued with substance abuse and mental health issues. In these cases conventional remedial efforts often fail and an effort toward behavior modification must be made. Behavior Modification of adults is of course extremely difficult and even threats of punitive measures do not work. In these cases comprehensive mentoring or counseling can be an effective tool.

Below we have made some suggestions on how the council can take action to address this issue. For each proposal a rationale is provided. It is also recognized that these problems may take time to implement, however the proposals have shown to be to a degree successful. The fundamental basis of the proposals has to do with the process of identifying the problem and then putting together an organization which has the structure, process (including strategies), measuring outcomes against a standard and then if necessary reiterate the process to improve the outcome. It is requested that the City Council consider the following:

1. Appoint a full time employee to oversee and help implement measures which address homelessness. **Rationale:** We recognize that a part time employee has been retained for this purpose. However we believe that the problem is sufficiently difficult so as to require so a full time person probably on a permanent basis.
2. The appropriate staff members should familiarize themselves with the in house activities of the Youth Shelter and Project Self-Sufficiency, the Police Department, Coast to Coast and Business Development. **Rationale:** Although these organizations do not have homelessness as their prime mission (except Coast to Coast) their activities address some of the issues which homelessness implies. Since these

organizations are operating under City perview their proximity makes them convenient partners in the homeless activity.

3. Develop a four pronged approach to the problem by formally addressing intake and mentoring, housing, health including substance abuse and mental health, and economic self-sufficiency **Rationale:** In reviewing the homelessness issue it has been found that addressing these four issues will likely solve the problem in most cases
4. Use trained volunteers or paid employees organize formal operational units to address each of the four key issues. Trained volunteers are available from Bill Nelson of Fresh Beginnings. The City must become expert in each of the four issues mentioned above. The aspect of intake and mentoring must be done using a case management approach and must be handled with confidentiality. **Rationale:** Addressing the four issues will go a long way towards dealing with the homeless. The County has volunteered some help in the form of social worker to help with case management process. The Huntington Beach Collaborative also identified a social worker from Los Angeles who lives in Huntington Beach and has volunteered her services.
5. .Provide office space and secure file space for each of the four areas of activity as mentioned above. Locate the space in an expanded area where B.C.I.S. is now located. **Rationale:** Some specific space office space is necessary somewhere and logically it could be a place near where homeless now visit for food and clothing and some informal counseling. It is understood that the area in and around B.C.I.S. may require some remediation. It is suggested that the City undertake the remediation at City expense
6. Extend the hours that B.C.I.S. is operating and provide an independent 24 hour intake process when B.C.I.S.is closed. **Rationale:** Homeless issues are 24 hour a day activity. Currently if a specific homeless person requires attention there is no facility other than B.C.I.S. which is only open 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. If the situation requires immediate attention by the police or others the intervening authority must shepherd the homeless person until a facility is open.
7. Establish a relationship with the County including the Health Care Agency , the Community Service Agency, OC211, the County Homeless Commission, and Michelle Steele , our County Supervisor. **Rationale:** In recent years the County has improved their homelessness activities in all regards. Central Cities close to the County offices seem to be receiving more resources, than the Cities which are farther away. To obtain our fair share establishing relationships with County Resources are essential. Former Huntington Beach Councilman Joe Carchio has indicated that he would be happy to facilitate this.

8. Contact cities adjacent to Huntington Beach to develop a joint effort to deal with homelessness. **Rationale:** Homelessness is a regional issue and must be addressed as such. In addition pooling resources could reduce costs of remedial activities.
9. Contact the City of Anaheim and city manager Paul Emery and review their current effort on homelessness. It is noted that Costa Mesa is also assisting Huntington Beach with the homelessness effort. **Rationale:** In discussions with Paul Emery, it was noted that they have made perhaps made the best start in the vertical integration of the homeless effort. Paul Emery is a former Assistant Manager in Huntington Beach and seems interested in helping us. It is felt that contact with more advanced efforts will help the Huntington Beach effort to be more effective.
10. Review the slide presentation of Lloyd Pendleton-(from Utah), a leader of the effort on homelessness. Consider using him as a consultant. **Rationale:** The Utah effort in dealing with the homeless is considered to be the most successful in the U.S. Mr. Pendleton has consulted with the Cities of Los Angeles, Phoenix, New Orleans and possibly others. He has spent time in Washington D.C. to help the Federal Government address homelessness.
11. Utilize all the resources of Huntington Beach professional staff to obtain both transitional and permanent housing in Huntington Beach. Contact builders like ALCAM and Jamboree Housing who are builders of affordable housing. Contact the Federal Government for grants to purchase available housing like motels and apartment units. Investigate the conversion of industrial warehouse space for conversion to transitional housing. **Rationale:** Currently there are few housing resources in West Orange County similar to the recently approved housing project in Anaheim and the existing transitional housing resource in Laguna Beach.
12. Make contact and form partnerships with: Build Futures, Off the Streets, Illumination Foundation, Collette's Children, Self Help, Interfaith Program, and Serving People in Need, St Vincent De Paul, Mercy House, and Interval House, as well American Family Housing. All these organizations are active in the Huntington Beach area. **Rationale:** Although these organizations may serve only certain homeless populations, their techniques in solving the homeless problem are excellent and have been successful. Learning from them would be helpful. There are a number of faith groups and individuals which deal with the homeless however they don't always supply full service as do the groups mentioned above.
13. Contact all faith based groups and all others who provide at least some help to the homeless and develop a City sponsored resource list similar to that developed by Build Futures. **Rationale:** Many of these organizations are also a source of volunteers who can be trained by Bill Nelson of Fresh Beginnings.

14. Make contact with Alta Med and Save Our Selves in Costa Mesa to help with the health issues **Rationale:** These organizations will provide triage resources to help define the health needs of the homeless.
15. Make contact with the four local hospitals to determine if they could work together to better serve some of the health needs of the homeless in a coordinated effort. **Rationale:** Currently the homeless will use the emergency services of the hospitals. . Their often times unexpected appearance causes some disruption of emergency room activity. A coordinated effort may improve this situation.
16. Make contact with the County "One Stop" system and Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce to help with employment of the homeless. If necessary the Huntington Beach High Union School District can give help with a GED for those without a high school diploma and GoldenWest College can help with specialty certificates. **Rationale:** All of these resources could make the homeless person more likely to be employed, thus financially able to find housing.
17. Using the County 10 Year Plan as a model, develop a Huntington Beach 10 Year Plan for dealing with the homeless. **Rationale:** A plan provides a road map not only for existing staff and elected officials, it also provides information for future individuals in these positions.
18. Publish a response often asked by the citizens "I encountered a homeless person what do I do now?" **Rationale:** The public at large is often resistant to problems of the homeless. If they understand what to do and show them that a City Plan will actually reduce costs, as many cities have found the citizens will be more positive toward the homeless programs.
19. Issue regular reports to the City Council about the progress of the homeless activities. **Rationale:** Elected officials not only hold the purse strings, they are responsible to the electorate. A comprehensive report is more likely to generate a positive response towards funding and justify the Council's efforts to the public.
20. Establish a policy about the Homeless who remain unhoused including those living in cars. As a minimum provide toilet and shower facilities as well as a safe place to store personal belongings. **Rationale:** There is insufficient housing currently available thus many homeless are still required to live on their own. For humanitarian considerations certain basic needs must be provided.
21. Establish a formal transportation policy possibly including use of the Senior Citizen busses or an arrangement with O.C.T.A. **Rationale:** Transportation is needed to access shelter outside the City especially during inclement weather .Transportation may also be needed to health care venues.

22. Make contact with the schools districts serving Huntington Beach,(OceanView School District, Huntington Beach City School District, Huntington beach Union High School District, and Goldenwest College). Rationale: The Mc Kinney-Vento Act requires school districts to seek housing for students. In addition Goldenwest College has programs for dealing the housing especially veterans. Rationale: These organizations have unique resources.

23. Establish a collaborative of organizations dealing with Homeless in Huntington Beach. The organization would meet monthly. The Collaborative could be made of but not limited to the following:

City Organizations:

Police department

Business Development

Youth Shelter

Project Self- Sufficiency

Non-Governmental Organizations

Assistance League

Colette's Children

Huntington Beach Chamber of Commerce

Off The Streets

Alta Med

Build Futures

Illumination Foundation

Beach Cities Inter-Faith Services

Project Ship

SPIN

American Family Housing

St. Vincent De Paul

Interval House

Fresh Beginnings

Churches and Faith Groups

First Christian Church

Community United Methodist Church

St. Simon and Jude Catholic Church

Greater Huntington Beach Inter-Faith Council

St. Bonaventure Catholic Church

Grace Lutheran Church

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

St. Wilfrid's Episcopal Church

Ohana Christian Fellowship

St. Peter's By the Sea

Huntington Beach Baptist Church

Koinonia Membership

First Church of Christ Science

(and many others)

School Districts

Huntington Beach Union High School District

OceanView School District

Huntington Beach City School District

Goldenwest College (O.C.C.D.)

Rationale: These organizations all address homelessness in some way. Coordination of their efforts as well as cross fertilization of ideas would be helpful. They are also a source of volunteers.

24. Establish a grant writing team. Rationale: Federal, State, County, and Local organizations are a good source of funds. Private Foundations, such as Orange County

Community Foundation, are also a good source of funds. Rationale: Funding may be needed for housing. Grant will reduce funding be the City.

25. Make contact with governmental Veterans' support organizations. Rationale: There are special housing and other resources designated specifically for Veterans

A Proposal to Deal with Homelessness in Huntington Beach and an Invitation to Comment by Interested Residents

Overall Outline

1. A successful program by Lloyd Pendleton
2. An opportunity for citizen input
3. Some observations
4. Rhetorical questions to be answered
5. The proposal

A Successful Program

The most successful program in the United States today was authored by Lloyd Pendleton in Utah and Salt Lake City. Cities like Phoenix, New Orleans and recently Los Angeles are adapting Mr. Pendleton's approach. A paper copy of a recent slide show presentation by Mr. Pendleton given in Orange County is available at 16511 Cotuit Cr. Huntington Beach 92649

An Opportunity for Citizen Input

It is intended that this current document will ultimately be presented to the City. Rather than having each citizen submit his or her ideas over a period of time citizens are invited to submit their comments on the internet to Rbauer1022@verizon.net. These comments, unedited, will be added to this proposal when it is submitted to the Homeless Task Force and the City Council.

Some Observations

1. Homelessness is an ongoing, permanent situation and has recently increased, thus a permanent City Office for the Homeless is necessary
2. There is much uncoordinated activity by a variety of faith based, nonfaith organizations, as well as governmental organizations, and even individuals. It is thus

- incumbent upon Cities with their resources and influences to take leadership by coordinating the resources for homeless activities.
3. Homelessness is caused by people without homes. Thus all other activities, though important, must be second to housing. Ironically once the homeless are housed all other activities become far more successful than when the homeless remain unhoused.
 4. A number of studies have shown that providing housing is cheaper in the long run than not doing so.
 5. Substantial public opposition to homeless housing is unjustified, since the homeless are not leaving a given area anyway and they will continue to do whatever they want. If criminal or anti-social behavior is an issue it is far more likely to continue if the homeless remain unhoused. Thus the homeless will continue occupy the parks, beaches, and other public venues. A domicile will make oversight and remediation simpler and more effective.
 6. In some, maybe many, cases homelessness has become a way of life, and thus behavior modification becomes very difficult. This suggests that early intervention and non-coercive mentoring must be in place. The mentoring system must be non-confrontational and gain the trust and respect of the homeless person so that the person will readily accept suggestions for a change in life style.
 7. Partial support such as food, money, clothing or other satisfaction of immediate needs without addressing housing, health, and economic issues, although humanitarian, is counterproductive since it serves to support the homeless life style.
 8. An interesting psychological situation exists in homeless issue. In the absence of a remedial plan the establishment often institutes a punitive stance towards unpredictable behavior. Thus the establishment reacts to the homeless with little success. With a proven plan in place, the homeless must react to the establishment giving the establishment the psychological edge. An example of this is illustrated by some recent legal decisions. These decisions indicate that in the absence of a place to stay the homeless can squat in any public place they choose.

**Some Questions about the Homeless Program in Huntington Beach submitted
July 8, 2015**

What is the City policy in dealing with the homeless who remain unhoused?

What is the City policy for homeless sleeping in cars?

Given the change in homelessness may require behavior modification, what sort of mentoring program is the City using to modify this behavior?

How will the City measure the success of the homeless program that is currently in place or that may be instituted in the future?

What is the City's program both for temporary and permanent housing for the homeless?

Further Questions About the Homeless Program in Huntington Beach

Submitted October 14, 2015

1. According to a Police Department report, Huntington Beach has had a program dealing with the homeless since 2012. How many homeless have been taken off the streets since that time?
2. Huntington Beach has retained **Coast to Coast** to address the homeless issue. Has Coast to Coast issued any reports? How many homeless have been taken off the streets since **Coast to Coast** was hired?
3. What criteria is Huntington Beach using to measure the success of the Homeless program?
4. A number of studies show that providing housing for the homeless is a key issue for getting homeless off the streets. These studies have also shown that providing housing is less expensive than any other alternative. Will Huntington Beach engage in such a study?
5. Senate Bill 2 requires certain action on the part of the City to deal with homelessness. What is Huntington Beach doing to implement S.B.2?
6. A number of cities developed very successful homelessness programs. Salt Lake City is perhaps the best example. Would Huntington Beach consider hiring representatives of such cities to act as consultants to help Huntington Beach with its homeless program?
7. There appear to be seven different organizations who are expert at finding resources for the homeless. Four are in the City and three are outside the City. **Beach Cities Interfaith Services, Off the Streets, Collette's Children, and Build Futures** are all in the City. Whereas **Save Our Selves, the Illumination Foundation, and American Family Housing** are outside Huntington Beach. Since these organizations, all have special skills in finding resources for the homeless; we would ask if the City could form an informal partnership with one or more of these organizations. Further would the City support satellite offices within the City for those organizations currently outside the City?

8. Laguna Beach has been sued twice for issues dealing with the homeless. Will Huntington Beach investigate the causes of action in these cases and make sure they are being addressed in Huntington Beach to avoid legal action?

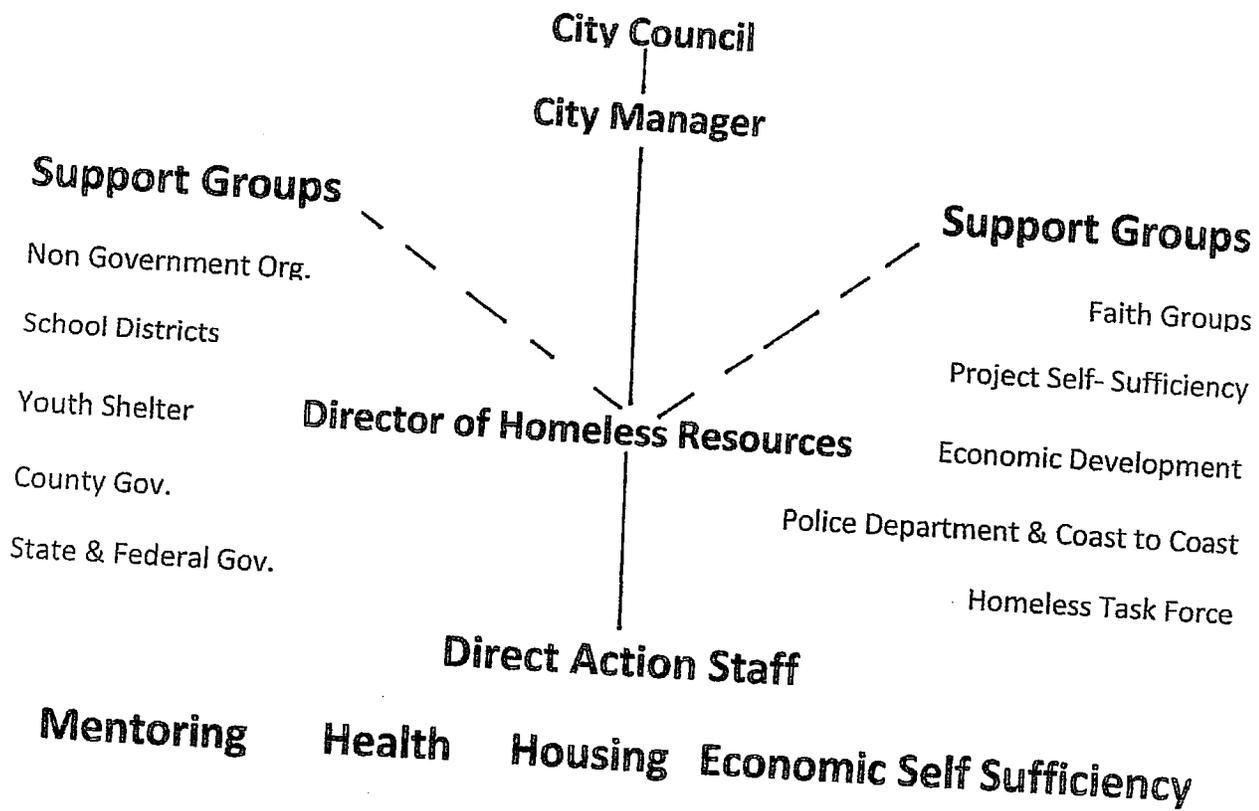
The Proposal

Building an organization to address an issue requires a structure, a process and an evaluation procedure. As time goes on vision, mission, and value statements need to be developed. Finally goals and objectives together with measureable criteria must also be developed. An iterative system to correct failed strategies is also important.

Below we have outlined a possible a possible structure together with some chores which will give rise to ongoing procedures.

It is proposed that the City appoint a permanent "Director of Homeless Resources" with the appropriate office space to deal the big four of Homelessness: Housing, Mentoring, Health and Economic Support. These four areas can be supported by trained volunteers or paid City employees schooled in the art. Having a private office for individual homeless mentoring is critically important.

As the chart shows support would be given by a variety of organizations



There is a solid line relationship between the City Council, the City Manager, Director and the Direct Action Staff. There is a dotted line relationship between the support groups and the Director.

Suggested Activities

Director

1. Intake could occur by the activities of the support organizations shown
2. Each client would be identified by name and social security number. A formal individual case management system would be set up. An evaluation would be made whether the client would continue with a City process or an outside organization who addresses the "Big Four" of Homelessness. Such organizations and others will be discussed below.
3. There are a variety of organizations that provide at least some services to the homeless. Identification, qualifications, a basic description of services and an index of all these organizations should take place. Lists of these organizations are available. Currently the most comprehensive list is from **Build Futures** and can be found on their web site. It is about 123 pages long, but as far as we can tell it is not indexed. Since it is well known that services are often limited, it is important that the Huntington Beach Program cultivate a positive relationship with all providers to maximize chances of receiving services in a timely fashion. Just a phone call to a service provider and nothing else will tend to meet with a negative response. There are a number of organizations within Huntington Beach and Orange County who have been found to be particularly helpful. They should be contacted not only to avail oneself of the services but to learn the successful techniques which deal with the homelessness. Some of the non-governmental organizations have criteria which not all homeless meet. However, if on intake it is discovered a client fits the criteria, then that client can be referred to an outside full service organization and relieve Huntington Beach from the responsibility of dealing with that particular client. Within Huntington Beach there are a number of organizations which to deal with all needs including housing. These include: Collette's Children, Off the Streets, Build Futures, Project Self Sufficiency, Beach Cities Interfaith Services, The Youth Shelter, Self Help Interfaith Program and Serving People in Need. The school districts also have resources which need further investigation. Outside Huntington Beach, important organizations include: Save Our Selves, Illumination Foundation, St. Vincent de Paul, Interval House, O.C.211, American Family Housing, and Orange County Health Care Agency. There are numerous other organizations which provide food and bathroom and shower facilities. These are mostly faith based and

- include individual citizens and small businesses. Coordination of the effort of all service providers through periodic meetings could be helpful.
4. The training of volunteers to deal with the four major issues is important, Bill Nelson of Fresh Beginnings can be very helpful in this regard.
 5. Review the Pendleton report for possible inclusion for some of its features in a Huntington Beach Plan.
 6. Establish a homeless hot line

Housing

Some have estimated that the number of homeless is about 250 in Huntington Beach. This suggests the order of magnitude of housing needed. Currently, we are not aware of any City sponsored housing for homeless in Huntington Beach. Although the City does receive some housing vouchers, they have not always been used.

Below are some concepts for housing which should be investigated:

1. Work with American Family Housing
2. Work with rental housing providers to make sure the vouchers are used
3. Contact various organizations like Save Our Selves, Illumination Foundation, Collette's Children, Off the Streets, Build Futures, 211 Orange County, St. Vincent de Paul and others for their help in finding housing.
4. Require all new development to adhere to State requirements for very low income rental housing including housing for Veterans.
5. Carry out the provisions of Senate Bill 2
6. Contact commercial builders like Jamboree Builders and AMCAL
7. Be aware of opportunities for City purchase of motels or multiple units for housing
8. Contact commercial realtors for industrial buildings
9. Contact Cities like Laguna Beach, Anaheim, and Fullerton for an allocation for Huntington Beach homeless
10. Provide transportation to housing outside the City possibly through the use of Senior Citizen vehicles or O.C.T.A. bus passes
11. Through The Faith Community start an "Adopt the Homeless" Campaign where they will underwrite the cost of housing for at least one month.
12. Review the opportunities for housing homeless in the City owned mobile home park in Central Park
13. Explore the possibility of providing reconfigured shipping containers for housing as is done in Honolulu

5. Discussions with the four major hospitals could take place to develop a cooperative health program which is more effective and minimizes unanticipated impacts on emergency rooms.
6. The Orange County Health Care Agency has a strong homeless health care program and should be used
7. Utilize the resources of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Economic Support

Frequently Homelessness occurs because of a loss of employment, thus evaluation of skills and helping homeless person to find a job could solve the problem. In some instances the homeless person could find financial support from family.

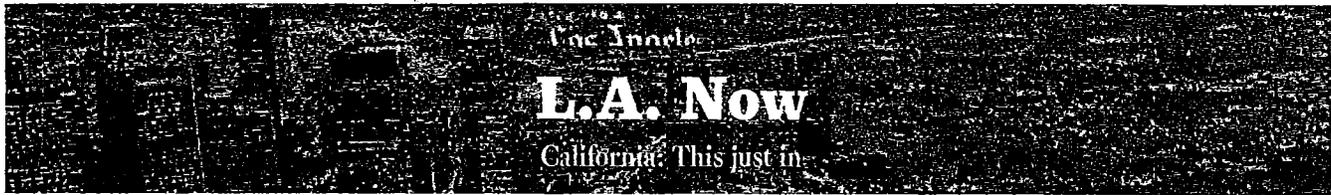
The opportunity to be reunited with family needs to be explored. If funds for bus, train or air fare are required, a travel fund could be established through a 501C3 organization so that donations are tax deductible. Some activities to enhance employment opportunities are shown below:

1. Establish skill resources of the homeless person and help write a resume which can be circulated
2. Contact the Chamber of Commerce and individual companies and ask for help. Set up an employment bureau
3. If a general education diploma is needed, contact the Huntington Beach High School District for help.
4. Contact the County One Stop System for help
5. Contact Golden West College to determine how "certification programs" could help

For comments and questions, please contact:

Ralph Bauer

714-846-3927



ACLU again accuses Laguna Beach of targeting the homeless

By JOSEPH SERNA

AUGUST 20, 2015, 5:31 PM

A lawsuit by the American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California accuses Laguna Beach of trying to push homeless people, particularly those with disabilities, out of the city.

The suit, filed Thursday on behalf of five disabled homeless people, claims that city officials took the earliest opportunity available under a previous legal settlement to enact laws targeting the homeless and ramped up enforcement to force them out of the city.

Though Laguna Beach has a homeless shelter, it doesn't offer a full range of programs to assist the population and it has limited housing. Five to 15 people are turned away every night and have to find somewhere else to sleep, the ACLU says.

This isn't the first time the city has been sued over its treatment of the homeless -- a fact the ACLU says bolsters its argument in the current suit.

In 2008, the organization sued Laguna Beach, alleging that the city conducted "sweeps" targeting transients and criminalized homelessness. The city settled that lawsuit within three months and repealed laws that criminalized camping and sleeping in public places, according to the lawsuit filed Thursday.

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But once the life of that settlement expired, the ACLU suit says, Laguna Beach officials added a new law that had the same effect as the old one: criminalizing homelessness.

The city added a temporary homeless shelter, but it is loud and crowded -- making it difficult for people to sleep -- and it doesn't offer programs for the myriad mental and physical issues that the people who stay there have, the ACLU contends.

City Manager John Pietig defended Laguna Beach's track record on homelessness in a statement issued Thursday afternoon.

The city's temporary housing shelter is the only year-round shelter and it has air conditioning, laundry, showers, meals, storage and transportation to a bus depot downtown, Pietig said. The city just added a case worker to help homeless individuals find resources.

"It is well known that no single public entity can solve the issues associated with homelessness, especially at the local level," the statement said. "It is very disappointing to be a target of the ACLU given the city's proven track record of being a leader in providing services to the homeless community."

The ACLU is seeking to elevate the case to a class-action lawsuit and lists five initial plaintiffs: Kenneth Glover, 46, an unemployed fisherman diagnosed with alcoholism and depression; David Sestini, 53, who has bipolar disorder, depression, anxiety, alcoholism and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease; Douglas Frederes Jr., 35, an unemployed handyman with bipolar disorder; Jeffrey Aiken, 54, an Air Force veteran with a physical disability, depression and schizophrenia; and Katrina Aune, 35, a mother diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and obsessive compulsive disorder.

Aune's two children have permanent housing, the ACLU said.

The organization is asking for Laguna Beach to rescind the laws pertaining to homelessness and create a permanent homeless shelter with programs to help its residents.

For breaking California news, follow @JosephSerna.

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SanLuisObispo.com

Judge orders police to stop citing homeless for sleeping in cars

Preliminary injunction prohibits San Luis Obispo from enforcing ordinance

By AnnMarie Comejo

acornejo@thetribunenews.com July 3, 2012

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San Luis Obispo police must stop issuing citations to homeless people sleeping in their vehicles on city streets, a Superior Court judge ruled Tuesday.

The preliminary injunction issued by Superior Court Judge Charles Crandall is the result of a lawsuit filed by attorneys Stewart Jenkins and Saro Rizzo alleging that the law prohibiting people from sleeping in their vehicles is unconstitutional, vague and results in arbitrary enforcement.

The ruling also questioned the enforcement methods used by police who issued the citations, saying the homeless appear to have been unfairly targeted.

"The city's overall enforcement choices and methods cause this court grave disquietude," Crandall wrote in the ruling. He added that police appeared to be singling out the poor and homeless for "harsher treatment."

Jenkins said he was "ecstatic" at the ruling. "This is perfect for Independence Day, and it is the Constitution at its best," Jenkins said. "All of these people are going to be freed from being hunted."

In a separate court case, Jenkins is trying to retroactively rescind fines imposed based on dozens of tickets already issued to homeless people sleeping in their cars.

San Luis Obispo police Chief Steve Gesell backed his officers' enforcement strategies. "The judge used some very strong words that aren't indicative of the professionalism and patience our officers have demonstrated throughout the last six months," Gesell said. "I don't see it as fair, and it is certainly not accurate."

City Attorney Christine Dietrick said she finds the ruling to be unfounded. In a written statement, she called the ruling "extraordinary and unprecedented" by inferring that the City Council "did not mean what it said," when adopting the ordinance that prohibits people from sleeping in vehicles. The city, she said, disagrees with the legal conclusions and factual assertions used in the ruling. The City Council will be asked in closed session Tuesday how to legally proceed, which may mean asking the court to reconsider or vacate the ruling.

Crandall's preliminary injunction states that the law being used by the city does not apply to public streets, and it orders police to stop issuing citations until a full court hearing can be held.

"The city does not believe it should be legally compelled to allow unsafe and unsanitary residential occupancies anywhere in the city, including on the public streets," said Dietrick in a statement. "So, while the city is currently prohibited from enforcing its illegal occupancy provision on the streets, all laws governing related illegal behaviors often associated with that activity will continue to be enforced in the best interests of community health and safety."

The ordinance overturned Tuesday was the only method police had for dealing with a rising number of people sleeping in vehicles on public streets — particularly on Prado Road.

Police stepped up enforcement of that ordinance in February after business owners complained about nuisances such as trash, assaults, trespassing and the stench of urine and feces.

Officers began knocking on vehicle doors and windows during the night, rousing people from slumber and issuing tickets when they answered the door.

Crandall, in the ruling, was critical of those enforcement methods.

"These methods include, but are not limited to, the use of late-night police forays needlessly utilizing flashing lights, blaring horns, intimidation, threats and other scare tactics," Crandall wrote. "These methods are apparently designed not only to force legal compliance, but also to intimidate plaintiffs into leaving the city altogether."

Gesell said he found the judge's commentary to be a one-sided reflection of the plaintiffs' perspective.

He said that since 2002, citations issued for violating the ordinance have ranged from eight to 25 per year. So far this year, more than 50 have been issued.

Those numbers spiked, Gesell said, because of the growing number of people sleeping in their vehicles on public streets. "It got to a point of critical mass on Prado Road," he said.

Robert Watts, who had his trailer impounded while parked on Prado Road, said the ruling was "finally justice for the people out there on the streets."

A case management conference is set for July 24 to discuss the case.

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Los Angeles court strikes down ban on sleeping in cars

Judges rule 1983 law is 'unconstitutionally vague' after homeless plaintiffs sue Venice police over inconsistent enforcement

Jessica Glenza

Thursday 19 June 2014 17.07 EDT

A Los Angeles law that sought to bar people from living in vehicles on the street has been struck down by a federal appeals court after four homeless people sued the city.

The three-judge panel of the ninth circuit court on Thursday ruled unanimously that the ordinance was vague and opened the door to discriminatory enforcement.

In 2010, the the city council received a spate of complaints about human waste and trash on Venice streets, a three-sq-mile, affluent and colorful beachside neighborhood of about 40,000 in Los Angeles.

In response, the city formed a 21-officer task force and enforced a 1983 law that barred residents from living in their vehicles. Police officers held varying interpretations of what the ordinance outlawed, resulting in selective enforcement against the homeless.

"Despite plaintiffs' repeated attempts to comply with [the law], there appears to be nothing they can do to avoid violating the statute short of discarding all of their possessions or their vehicles, or leaving Los Angeles entirely," Judge Harry Pregerson wrote in the opinion.

The four plaintiffs appealed a decision from a lower district court that ruled in favor of the city. Los Angeles' law is unique compared to other local laws that bar sleeping in vehicles or overnight parking, according to the Los Angeles Times.

Officers cited and arrested homeless residents after finding personal belongings in their vehicles, while driving and parked, on public streets and despite sleeping in private parking lots.

All four plaintiffs were arrested or cited for different behavior which violated the law against using a vehicle, "as living quarters either overnight, day-by-day, or otherwise".

In one instance, a homeless artist was driving her RV through Venice, bringing her art to a festival. Police pulled her over after she neglected to turn off her left turn signal, but she wasn't cited for that.

Instead, she was cited for living in her vehicle. The artist legally parked in a church parking lot each night to sleep.

How police supervisors told officers to enforce the law also varied. One internal memo said officers should look for people who had slept or were sleeping in their vehicles. But supervisors also instructed officers "to look for vehicles containing possessions normally found in a home, such as food, bedding, clothing, medicine and basic necessities", according to the decision.

Judges said the ordinance, "paved the way for law enforcement to target the homeless and is therefore unconstitutionally vague".

"As noted, [the ordinance] is broad enough to cover any driver in Los Angeles who eats food or transports personal belongings in his or her vehicle. Yet it appears to be applied only to the homeless," Pregerson wrote.

Topics

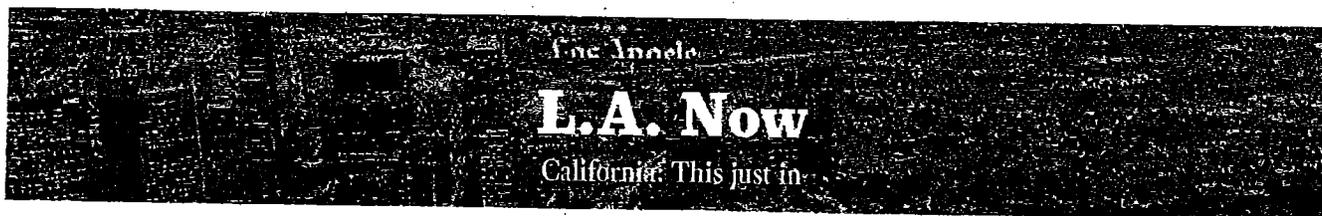
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California

US constitution and civil liberties

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L.A.'s voided law against sleeping in cars costs it \$1.1 million in legal fees

By GALE HOLLAND

AUGUST 19, 2015, 4:15 PM

The city of Los Angeles agreed Wednesday to pay \$1.1 million to lawyers who successfully challenged a municipal ordinance prohibiting homeless people from sleeping in their vehicles.

The payout comes as the city continues to press new enforcement laws against homeless encampments that have spread into residential neighborhoods over the last two years.

Lawyers have warned that the new laws, which make it easier to dismantle camps and dispose of homeless people's property, are unconstitutional.

Attorney Carol Sobel said the fee payout is one of a half-dozen agreements the city has reached with lawyers who brought civil rights challenges to police crackdowns on homeless people.

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"They never learn," said Sobel, who will share the newly awarded fees with the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and two other lawyers. "Instead of having money to spend on addressing the real problem of homelessness they are constantly feeding money into the bottomless pit of police suppression."

A spokesman for City Atty. Mike Feuer said he declined comment.

The vehicle-dwelling case was filed on behalf of a group of homeless people, including several disabled individuals, over a 2010 police crackdown on 250 people who began sleeping in their cars and motor homes on Venice streets at the height of the recession, Sobel said.

A federal appeals court last year struck down the ban, ruling it was unconstitutionally vague and an invitation to discriminate against the poor. The court said the ordinance could have

been enforced against people for napping or keeping food in their car, including road trippers or tourists.

"The city of Los Angeles has many options at its disposal to alleviate the plight and suffering of its homeless citizens," 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Harry Pregerson wrote in the decision. "Selectively preventing the homeless and the poor from using their vehicles for activities many other citizens also conduct in their cars should not be one of those options."

In March, Feuer proposed a new vehicle-dwelling ordinance with a tighter focus that he said could pass court muster. Feuer also suggested that the city institute a limited permit process to allow car camping on nonresidential streets.

The city still faces an attorney fee claim in the case of an activist arrested during a noisy skid row protest, Sobel said. The federal appeals court ruled that the arrest by the LAPD was improper.

A fee claim also is outstanding in an appellate case concerning homeless people's belongings. The court ruled in that case that police violated homeless people's constitutional rights by seizing and destroying their property, also on skid row.

Twitter: @geholland

MORE ON HOMELESS:

L.A. city, county will expand homeless outreach on skid row

Appeals court panel ends L.A. ban on homeless living in vehicles

As L.A. moves toward more homeless sweeps, long-term solution elusive

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Fort Collins looks into letting homeless sleep in public

Sarah Jane Kyle, The Coloradoan 7:05 a.m. MDT June 12, 2015

City of Fort Collins staff are considering policy changes that would give homeless individuals the right to rest in Fort Collins.

Deputy City Manager Jeff Mihelich said the city is looking at drafting proposals that would allow sleeping in a car on private property, such as a church parking lot...

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It's unconstitutional to ban the homeless from sleeping outside, the federal government says

By Emily Badger August 13

We all need sleep, which is a fact of life but also a legally important point. Last week, the Department of Justice argued as much in a statement of interest it filed in a relatively obscure case in Boise, Idaho, that could impact how cities regulate and punish homelessness.

Boise, like many cities — the number of which has swelled since the recession — has an ordinance banning sleeping or camping in public places. But such laws, the DOJ says, effectively criminalize homelessness *itself* in situations where people simply have nowhere else to sleep. From the DOJ's filing:

When adequate shelter space exists, individuals have a choice about whether or not to sleep in public. However, when adequate shelter space does not exist, there is no meaningful distinction between the status of being homeless and the conduct of sleeping in public. Sleeping is a life-sustaining activity — i.e., it must occur at some time in some place. If a person literally has nowhere else to go, then enforcement of the anti-camping ordinance against that person criminalizes her for being homeless.

Such laws, the DOJ argues, violate the Eighth Amendment protections against cruel and unusual punishment, making them unconstitutional. By weighing in on this case, the DOJ's first foray in two decades into this still-unsettled area of law, the federal government is warning cities far beyond Boise and backing up federal goals to treat homelessness more humanely.

"It's huge," says Eric Tars, a senior attorney for the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, which originally filed the lawsuit against Boise, alongside Idaho Legal Aid Services.

[Lifting bans on sleeping outside won't stop criminalization of homelessness]

According to a NLCHP report last year that surveyed 187 cities between 2011 and 2014, 34 percent had citywide laws banning camping in public. Another 43 percent prohibited sleeping in vehicles, and 53 percent banned sitting or lying down in certain public places. All of these laws criminalize the kind of activities — sitting, resting, sleeping — that are arguably fundamental to human existence.

And they've criminalized that behavior in an environment where most cities have far more homeless than shelter beds. In 2014, the federal government estimates, there were about 153,000 unsheltered homeless on the street in the U.S. on any given night.

Laws like these have grown more common as that math has actually grown worse since the recession.

"Homelessness is just becoming more visible in communities, and when homelessness becomes more visible, there's more pressure on community leaders to do something about it," Tars says. "And rather than actually examining what's the best thing to do about homelessness, the knee-jerk response — as with so many other things in society — is 'we'll address this social issue with the criminal justice system.'"

It's also easier, he adds, for elected officials to argue for criminal penalties when the public costs of that policy are much harder to see than the costs of investing in shelters or services for the poor. Ultimately, though, advocates and the federal government have argued, it's much more expensive to ticket the homeless — with the court, prison and health costs associated with it — than to invest in "housing first" solutions that have worked in many parts of the country.

Criminal citations also compound the problem of homelessness, making it harder for people to qualify for jobs or housing in the future.

"You have to check those [criminal] boxes on the application forms," Tars says. "And they don't say 'were you arrested because you were trying to simply survive on the streets?' They say 'if you have an arrest record, we're not going to rent to you.'"

NLCHP's goal, Tars says, isn't to protect the rights of people to live on the street, but to prevent and end homelessness. That means adding a lot more shelter beds and housing options in places like Boise — which has three shelters run by two nonprofits — so people have options other than the street.

The DOJ's argument is based on the logic in an earlier Ninth Circuit decision, striking down a vagrancy law in Los Angeles, that was ultimately vacated in a settlement. That logic specifically says it's unconstitutional to punish people for sleeping outside if there aren't enough beds for them to sleep indoors. If there are, the constitutional question would be different, although the moral and policy implications may remain the same.

"Homelessness never left town because somebody gave it a ticket," Tars says. "The only way to end homelessness is to make sure everybody has access to affordable, decent housing."

Emily Badger is a reporter for Wonkblog covering urban policy. She was previously a staff writer at The Atlantic Cities.

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It's unconstitutional to ban the homeless from sleeping outside, the federal government says By Emily Badger August 13

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonkblog/wp/2015/08/13/its-unconstitutional-to-ban-the-homeless-from-sleeping-outside-the-federal-government-says/>

A homeless man takes a nap on a bench at the snow-covered Lafayette Park near the White House in Washington in February 2014. (Jewel Samad/Agence France-Presse)

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When adequate shelter space exists, individuals have a choice about whether or not to sleep in public. However, when adequate shelter space does not exist, there is no meaningful distinction between the status of being homeless and the conduct of sleeping in public. Sleeping is a life-sustaining activity — i.e., it must occur at some time in some place. If a person literally has nowhere else to go, then enforcement of the anti-camping ordinance against that person criminalizes her for being homeless.

Such laws, the DOJ argues, violate the Eighth Amendment protections against cruel and unusual punishment, making them unconstitutional. By weighing in on this case, the DOJ's first foray in two decades into this still-unsettled area of law, the federal government is warning cities far beyond Boise and backing up federal goals to treat homelessness more humanely.

"It's huge," says Eric Tars, a senior attorney for the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, which originally filed the lawsuit against Boise, alongside Idaho Legal Aid Services.

[Lifting bans on sleeping outside won't stop criminalization of homelessness]

According to a NLCHP report last year that surveyed 187 cities between 2011 and 2014, 34 percent had citywide laws banning camping in public. Another 43 percent prohibited sleeping in vehicles, and 53 percent banned sitting or lying down in certain public places. All of these laws criminalize the kind of activities — sitting, resting, sleeping — that are arguably fundamental to human existence.

And they've criminalized that behavior in an environment where most cities have far more homeless than shelter beds. In 2014, the federal government estimates, there were about 153,000 unsheltered homeless on the street in the U.S. on any given night.

Laws like these have grown more common as that math has actually grown worse since the recession.

"Homelessness is just becoming more visible in communities, and when homelessness becomes more visible, there's more pressure on community leaders to do something about it," Tars says. "And rather than actually examining what's the best thing to do about homelessness, the knee-jerk response — as with so many other things in society — is 'we'll address this social issue with the criminal justice system.'"

It's also easier, he adds, for elected officials to argue for criminal penalties when the public costs of that policy are much harder to see than the costs of investing in shelters or services for the poor. Ultimately, though, advocates and the federal government have argued, it's much more expensive to ticket the homeless — with the court, prison and health costs associated with it — than to invest in "housing first" solutions that have worked in many parts of the country.

Criminal citations also compound the problem of homelessness, making it harder for people to qualify for jobs or housing in the future.

"You have to check those [criminal] boxes on the application forms," Tars says. "And they don't say 'were you arrested because you were trying to simply survive on the streets?' They say 'if you have an arrest record, we're not going to rent to you.'"

NLCHP's goal, Tars says, isn't to protect the rights of people to live on the street, but to prevent and end homelessness. That means adding a lot more shelter beds and housing options in places like Boise — which has three shelters run by two nonprofits — so people have options other than the street.

The DOJ's argument is based on the logic in an earlier Ninth Circuit decision, striking down a vagrancy law in Los Angeles, that was ultimately vacated in a settlement. That logic specifically says it's unconstitutional to punish people for sleeping outside if there aren't enough beds for them to sleep indoors. If there are, the constitutional question would be different, although the moral and policy implications may remain the same.

"Homelessness never left town because somebody gave it a ticket," Tars says. "The only way to end homelessness is to make sure everybody has access to affordable, decent housing."