



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Office of the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

Date: March 7, 2012
To: Council Member Robert Lilligren, Chair, Committee of the Whole
Referral to: City Council
Subject: 5 Year Update on Heading Home Hennepin, Minneapolis and Hennepin County's 10 year plan to end Homelessness in Minneapolis by 2016.

Recommendation: Receive and File.

Previous Directives: None.

Department Information

Prepared by: Cathy ten Broeke, Director, County Office to End Homelessness

Approved by:

David Rubedor, Neighborhood and Community Relations Director _____

Jayne Khalifa, Interim City Coordinator _____

Presenters in Committee:

David Rubedor, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

Cathy ten Broeke, Director, County Office to End Homelessness

Financial Impact

- There is no financial impact

Community Impact

The Heading Home Hennepin Plan directly impacts the City Goal of:

- A Safe Place to Call Home
 - Homelessness Eliminated.

Background

This Request for Council Action provides an update on the work of the Heading Home Hennepin Plan (HHH). HHH is the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County community's 10-year plan to end homelessness by 2016. We are now at the mid, 5 year point in the plan. The plan was developed over the course of 100 days in 2006 by a commission of representatives from federal, state and local governments, business, nonprofit, faith, and philanthropic communities, and homeless and formerly homeless citizens. In December 2006, the plan was accepted by the Minneapolis City Council and Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. The Minneapolis/Hennepin County Office to End Homelessness (OEH) is charged with overseeing implementation of the plan, which began in January of 2007 and involves over 150 nonprofits throughout Hennepin County as well as multiple city and county departments.

Championed by hundreds of business, faith, philanthropic, government and nonprofit leaders, Heading Home Hennepin is a model for similar initiatives nationwide and the Office to End Homelessness has leveraged millions of private dollars to support its implementation.

Prevention

Heading Home Hennepin's first goal is to prevent homelessness whenever possible by keeping people in the housing that they have and ensuring people do not become homeless when leaving public institutions. Highlights include:

- Provided prevention assistance to over 3000 households between 2009-2011.
- Coordinated \$6.5 million in new city and county Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing funds from federal government as a result of the Recovery Act. These funds targeted renters in foreclosing properties, youth in Minneapolis Public Schools, refugee families in shelters, young moms in crisis, and additional rapid-exit from county shelters.
- Raised \$200k in private resources to assist over 200 households impacted by the North Minneapolis tornado with short-term rental subsidies to prevent them from entering shelter.
- Provided discharge planning assistance from various systems, including the county workhouse and Shakopee Women's Prison.
- Piloted Hospital to Home and Recuperative Care models to reduce costly, extended stays in hospitals.
- Improved discharge from Foster Care so youth have support and do not become homeless.

Outreach

The second goal of Heading Home Hennepin is to provide coordinated outreach to people who are experiencing homelessness and are unsheltered. The intention of coordinated outreach is to better serve and secure housing for people on the streets, as well as reduce livability offenses and concerns of citizens. Outreach staff has access to the downtown security community's RadioLink and can be dispatched to 911 calls when appropriate in order to intervene with a human services response rather than a criminal justice response. Highlights include:

- St Stephen's Outreach team has housed over 350 people since Oct, 2007.
- 40% reduction in street homelessness since 2010. The number of people counted as unsheltered in January 2012 was 204, down from 300 in 2011 and 341 in 2010.
- Downtown 100 collaboration (including the outreach team) reported a 78% reduction in offenses of top offenders. Many of these offenders are homeless and housing and services have proven key to this success.
- Downtown business community has committed to ending street homelessness in their Downtown Minneapolis 2025 Strategic Plan.

Housing

The third Heading Home Hennepin goal is to create 5,000 new affordable housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness. Opportunities counted toward this goal include any new construction of units affordable at 30% and below Area Median Income or long-term housing subsidies that make existing market rate housing affordable to people experiencing homelessness. Highlights include:

- Developed 2433 new housing opportunities between 2007-2011. The majority of these opportunities were created by utilizing state long-term rental housing subsidies in the existing market. Totals by population are shown below.

Youth 281 (52 new units and 229 tenant based rental subsidies)

Singles 1580 (333 new units and 1247 tenant based rental subsidies)

Families 572 (111 new units and 461 tenant based rental subsidies)

Total 2433

- Housed 5550 additional households with short-term rental assistance through the Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program at Hennepin County and the federal Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP Stimulus Funds).
- Achieved a 33% reduction in homeless veterans in Minneapolis through partnership with Minneapolis Public Housing Authority and the Veteran's Affairs Medical Center to house 205 long-term homeless veterans and their families through Veterans Administration Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH).
- Partnered with MPHA to secure 100 new Family Unification Program (FUP) Section 8 vouchers for families and youth.
- Established Housing First Partnership – 14 agencies housing nearly 1000 long-term homeless households in the existing market.
- Targeted housing and support to highest users of jail and shelter. The Frequent Users Services Enhancement Initiative (FUSE) was launched in 2008 to work with high users of both the shelter and county jail to provide permanent supportive housing. Through the end of 2011, FUSE has worked with 100 individuals. Evaluations of the FUSE program show that participants reduce their use of shelter and jail by 43 percent and 39 percent respectively.
- Established the Currie Avenue Partnership, a collaboration between the business community, faith community, local and state governments, individual donors, foundations, and non-profits.
- The Currie Avenue Partnership has raised over \$700,000 in private sector resources to date, leveraging many times that amount from the state to house hundreds of individuals with disabilities.

Service Delivery

The fourth goal of the plan is to improve the delivery of services to people experiencing homelessness. Highlights include:

- Coordinated 12 Project Homeless Connect events, serving 10,000 unduplicated people with the help of 5000 volunteers. Project Homeless Connect events co-locate over 400 service providers at the Minneapolis Convention Center two days each year. Services include employment, housing, legal assistance, medical care, dentists, eye doctors, haircuts, and state IDs and birth certificates.
- Held special PHC event for victims of North Minneapolis tornado on May 24, 2011.
- Opened two Opportunity Centers, one for single adults and one for youth. These service centers bring together multiple agencies under one roof to provide a comprehensive set of services to people experiencing homelessness. The Adult Opportunity Center opened in November 2010 and has served over 8,000 people in 2011 with almost 75,000 visits. The Youth Opportunity Center opened in March 2011 and has served 1805 young people.

Self-Support

The fifth goal of the plan is to build people's capacity to support themselves with educational opportunities and increased income, including access to benefits they are eligible for and employment when appropriate. Highlights include:

- Established an Employment Collaborative at the Adult Opportunity Center, serving over 100 people and currently employing 69. Thirty-five of these individuals have also been connected to stable housing. CPED and the United Way provided the start-up dollars for this program that have leveraged federal FSET (Food Support Employment Training) dollars that fund 50% of all training for eligible participants. This collaborative includes Catholic Charities, Project for Pride in Living, Goodwill/Easter Seals, St. Stephen's, and the Minneapolis Workforce Center.

- Re-enrolled over 60 youth back in school from Youth Opportunity Center (through the on-site We Want You Back staff).
- Connected hundreds of people with benefits and eligibility supports through on-site county workers at Opportunity Centers.

System Improvements

The final goal in the plan is to promote policies and practices that end homelessness and increase cultural competency of the service delivery systems. The Office to End Homelessness partners closely with state and federal agencies to ensure alignment of our plan with state and federal plans and communicates regularly with colleagues around the country to share and ensure best practices. The systems improvements The Office to End Homelessness works on range from city or county level coordination to state and federal policies. The Director of the Office to End Homelessness Chairs both the National Leadership Council on Homelessness, which advises the Obama Administration and the State Homelessness Coordinators Council, which includes coordinators from every region in Minnesota.

Multiple City Departments have been critical to the implementation of this plan, most notably the Community Planning and Economic Development Department, the Minneapolis Police Department, the City Attorney's Office, and Regulatory Services. The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority is also a key partner in multiple housing strategies. See attached powerpoint presentation for further details.