

Transition From Homelessness: OUTREACH Project Update November 2005 to June 2006

HELP of Southern Nevada

- Straight From the Streets
- Mojave Adult, Child and Family Services
- U.S. Vets
- Center for Independent Living
- The Salvation Army

Overview: Organizations United to Reach, Educate, and Assist Chronic Homeless (OUTREACH)

- ◆ State of Nevada funding via AB 580
- ◆ \$3.1 million to address chronic homelessness in Southern Nevada
- ◆ 20-month timeframe to provide collaborative approach for developing mobile outreach teams and intensive case management services
- ◆ Homeless Information Management System used by agency partners (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-HUD)

Define Chronic Homelessness

- ◆ A condition experienced by an individual with a disabling condition (as defined by a diagnosable substance use disorder, developmental disability, or chronic physical illness or co-occurrence of two or more of these conditions), who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has at least four episodes in three years, and has been sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation, (e.g., living on the street) and/or in an emergency homeless shelter)

OUTREACH Project Goals

- ◆ Six agencies collaborate to help reduce chronic homelessness in Southern Nevada
- ◆ Housing First model provides immediate and direct housing for eligible clients
- ◆ All agencies use HMIS to eliminate duplication; record initial client assessment, services and follow-up
- ◆ Program evaluator monitors agency collaboration and overall effectiveness of the project

Environmental Issues

- ◆ Homelessness is a complex public health problem in Southern Nevada
- ◆ Approximately 10,000 individuals are homeless in Clark County
- ◆ Rapid population growth - about 6,000 new residents each month

Environmental Issues (continued)

- ◆ Public services such as mental health assistance and substance abuse treatment have not kept pace with rapid population growth
- ◆ Critical shortage of low-income housing (average cost for an apartment is \$800)

Demographic Information

◆ Eligible Clients

- 174 Males (unaccompanied)
 - 67 Females (unaccompanied)
 - 11 Transgender (unaccompanied)
 - 20 Males (with families)
 - 19 Females (with families)
 - 1 Transgender (with family)
- 292 Total Eligible Clients**

Demographic Information (continued)

◆ Of the 292 clients:

- 136 or 46% of the clients were White
- 84 or 29% of the clients were Black
- 18 or 6% of the clients were Hispanic

Disproportionate Composition

Client Outcome Indicators

◆ From November 2005 to June 2006:

- As of June 2006, 196 eligible clients have been assessed by a case manager
- Ten case managers provided intensive case management and/or housing for 159 clients

Outcome Indicators (continued)

◆ From November 2005 to June 2006:

- 51 youth have been housed by the OUTREACH effort
- 107 adults have received short-term housing
- 56 adults have entered long-term housing (individual apartments)

Outcome Indicators (continued)

◆ From November 2005 to June 2006:

- 110 clients had psychiatric evaluations
- 41 clients had substance use disorders
- 26 clients found employment
- 16 consumers received social security entitlement awards
- 24 clients have a “pending” status (waiting to be matched with an available case manager)

Barriers for Providing Services

- **Housing:** Critical shortage of low-income housing and/or supportive housing
- **Mental Health Services:** Shortage of psychiatric beds and behavioral health services
- **Substance Abuse Treatment:** Lack of treatment centers for both adults and adolescents
- **Healthcare:** Limited primary care and emergency services

Barriers for Providing Services (continued)

- ◆ **Staff:** More personnel needed to provide outreach/intensive case management services
- ◆ **Families:** Support services for chronically homeless families:
 - Mental health counseling
 - Parenting classes
 - Physical exams (health, vision, dental, etc.)
 - School enrollment
 - Child protection services

Recommendations

- ◆ Conduct longitudinal study to monitor progress over time; evaluate impact on clients and community
- ◆ Analyze data and identify pathways that lead to homelessness to promote prevention
- ◆ Share findings and reports with key leaders to develop effective intervention strategies

Recommendations (continued)

- ◆ Educate the public about the plight of the homeless; engage whole community
- ◆ Expand the collaborative effort to include domains such as businesses and private foundations; leverage resources