ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS

Community Update Meeting
April 17, 2019
History of Addressing Homelessness in LE

• April 2014 – New Subcommittee for Feeding in Parks, Started Pathway Project
• 2015 & 2016 – Increasingly Proactive Enforcement of Illegal Encampments
• October 2016 – Adopted Regional Homeless Alliance Resolution
• May/June 2017 – Created Homeless Task Force
• November 2017 – Launched Homeless Outreach Community Coalition
• December 2017 – First Community Update Meeting
• January 2018 – Hired New Community Services Deputy
• March 2018 – Start Street Outreach Team
• June 2018 – Special Enforcement by Police Department
• March 2019 – Awarded $1.5M Grant for New Regional Homeless Program
The City’s Role

Enforcement

Policies & Programs

Engagement & Education
Lake Elsinore Homeless Task Force

Strategic Objectives

✓ Assess Homeless Population
✓ Communication & Outreach to Community
✓ Form Community Collaborative
✓ Create List of Available Resources & Services, Identify Gaps
✓ Review, Assess and Create Best Practices for Homelessness
✓ Update Municipal Codes Based on Homelessness
✓ Develop New Programs to Reduce Homelessness
✓ Coordinate with Regional Efforts
✓ Clarify City’s Role and Partnership with Non-Profits and Faith Based Orgs
✓ Begin to Create Local Housing Crisis & Response Team

Members
Mayor Pro Tem
Natasha Johnson
Councilmember
Brian Tisdale
City Staff
Police Department
County of Riverside, District 1 & Flood Control
Chamber of Commerce
Key Community Stakeholders
PSAC Member
Latest Successes

• Established Street Outreach Team – Social Work Action Group (SWAG)
• Proactive Law Enforcement Partnership – New Problem Oriented Policing Team
• Collaborative Approach to Addressing Encampments
• Connected with More than 400 Community Members – Community Coalition
• Ongoing Tracking and Review of Existing Homeless Population
• Point-in-Time Count – 78 Homeless last year, new data coming April 30
• Seeking New and Existing Resources to Address Homelessness Locally and Regionally
• Building Momentum of Success including Securing Funding Sources

Learn More About the Task Force at www.lake-elsinore.org/homelesstaskforce
Encampment Efforts

• Since July 1, 2016:
  • More than **100 transient camp locations** in City.
    • Four Corners/Riverside Drive, Mission Trail, E. Lakeshore Drive, and Rosetta Canyon.
    • Abandoned Buildings – Commercial and Residential
    • Public Parks, Beaches and Public Right of Ways.
  • **300 Transient Camp Clean Ups** (includes multiple locations per clean up)
  • Total Cost: Approximately **$600,000**.
  • **500 tons** of junk and debris removed from these camps.
Law Enforcement Update
Homeless Outreach Efforts

• Since Inception of Position
  • Majority of Time Spent Developing Relationships
    • Community Partners
    • Homeless Subjects
  • Little To No Enforcement
    • Needed To Build Trust
    • 70 + Interactions
    • Continual Reminder Of Help
• Not All Ideas Were Successful
  • Faith Based Program
  • County Partner Barriers
Change of Direction

• WHY?
  • Need To Put Pressure On Those Who Are Resistant
    • Tells Officers They Are Working With Swag And I
    • Uses It As An Excuse Not To Go To Jail
      • Reality No Effort Put Forth By Subject
  • Those Who Want Help Will Take It
    • Needs To Be Consequences For Actions
      • Not For Being Homeless
      • Crimes Associated (Trespass, Drugs, Stolen Items)
      • Educating Those Who Are Affected About The Need To Prosecute
  • Still Treating Those Affected With Dignity And Respect
    • Help Is Always Offered
The Process

• DARLENE MINCHK

• Number 1 Priority In County For Housing
  • Started Process Last Year
    • 84 Years Old
    • Meth Addict
    • Dementia And Other Memory Problems
  • Has Walked Away From Multiple Locations
  • County Housing Partner Has Dropped Ball (It Happens)
    • Need To Stay Vigilant And Hold Accountable
  • Swag Involvement - Housed Yesterday!!!!!!
The Process

• MELISSA SCHHOFIELD
  • Heroin Addict
  • Started Working With Her Last Year
    • Client Dragged Her Feet
    • Went To Jail Multiple Times
    • Constant Contact
    • Swag Involvement To Push For Needed Items
    • Agreed To Detox
    • Succeeding
      • Likes Sleeping In A Bed
      • Forgot What A Warm Shower Was Like
      • Has No Desire To Go Back To Old Life
      • Knows It Will Be A Struggle And Needs Support
Street Outreach Team
Social Work Action Group (SWAG)

• In August 2017, a group of individuals working for different governmental agencies addressing homelessness formed Social Work Action Group.

• SWAG was born out of the team members frustration with the current programs and services available to people living on the streets.

• Currently, we provide homeless services to the cities of Chino, Lake Elsinore, Menifee, Perris, and Wildomar.

• Later this year, we will begin serving Murrieta, Temecula and the unincorporated area of Supervisory District 1.
63 Street Exits

- 18 - in Permanent Housing
- 23 - Emergency Shelter/Transitional Program
- 14 - Substance Abuse Treatment Facility
- 5 - Bridge/Transitional Housing
- 3 - Trip Home/Family Reunification
Lake Elsinore Homeless Assessment

121 individuals engaged

- 70% - Mental Illness*
- 74% - Substance Abuse*
- 69% - Elsinore resident*
- 74% - Homeless more than 1 year*

*Self-reported
Wildomar: March 1, 2018 – April 15, 2019

26 Street Exits

- 6 - Permanent Housing
- 5 - Emergency Shelter/ Transitional Program
- 8 - Substance Abuse Treatment Facility
- 3 - Bridge/ Transitional Housing
- 4 - Trip Home/ Family Reunification
Wildomar Homeless Assessment

42 individuals engaged

- 83% - Mental Illness*
- 79% - Substance Abuse*
- 79% - Wildomar resident*
- 83% - Homeless more than 1 year*

* Self-reported
House LE/House Wildomar Program

What’s Next?
Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) authorized by Governor Brown in June 2018.

- Purpose: To provide direct assistance to cities to address the homelessness crisis throughout California.

City of LE, City of Wildomar and County Areas Applied for Housing Assistance and Support Program in Dec.

- Two of Three Cities in Riv. Co. to be Awarded Funding.

- A second round and additional housing funding expected in coming year.
The Need for More Services

• Homelessness is Increasing
• Homeless Individuals are Dying on Our Streets
• No Local Beds or Housing Available
• Currently No Funding for Cities for Homelessness
• High Number of Police Calls for Service
• Negative Impacts to Quality of Life for Citizens & Businesses
• Minimal Service Providers
• Increasing Abatement Costs
• Leveraging Limited Resources
• Removing Barriers
Proposed Program – House LE/Wildomar

• $1.5 Million Grant Award, Expected August 2019.

• Regional demonstration effort to build and implement a Housing First Program.

• Innovative, collaborative approach to serve a high need, under-served area of Southwest Riv. Co.

• Identify ways to create housing in areas with little to no resources for the homeless that can be replicated.

• Aimed at finding those with the greatest need and to get them housed as soon as possible.
Key Proposed Services

• Homeless Street Outreach
• Enforcement – **New** Community Services Deputy
• Housing Outreach – **New** Housing and Outreach Specialist
• Housing Database
  • Landlords/Property Owners
  • Possible Housing Options
  • Community Service Providers
  • Develop Incentives, e.g. Eviction Protection
• Housing Navigation
• Community Outreach
Key Proposed Services

- **Housing Subsidies** – Up to 5 in the region, leased by non-profit.
  - Covers rent, utilities, landscaping, maintenance and more.
  - House for 30 to 120 days until a more permanent option found
  - Reviewed and approved by Homeless Task Force

- **Rental Assistance** – Includes Down Payment Assistance

- **Intensive Case Management and Supportive Services**
  - Permanent, Supportive Care

- **Data Collection & Reporting** – Ongoing Evaluation
More to Come...

• SWAG awarded more than $2.7 million dollars from Riverside County:
  • $1.796 million for Acquisition and Rehabilitation of 18 Permanent Supportive Housing units for Lake Elsinore, Wildomar, Perris and Unincorporated Areas
  • $627,000 for Encampment Response Team Support Services
  • $304,000 for Flexible Housing Subsidies (e.g. Motel Vouchers)
Ways to Help Our Efforts

2. Property Appearance & Maintenance – The appearance you have is the attention you attract.
4. Give to Established Organizations - Time, Talent and/or Treasures.
6. Sign Up as Interested Landlord/Property Owner
7. Offer to Volunteer for Supportive Services
8. Spread the Word!  www.TheSWAG.org
Report, Report & Report

- Alert LE
  - Online at www.lake-elsinore.org/alertle
  - Facebook @LakeElsinoreCityHall
  - App Store – search Alert LE

- Police Non-Emergency Dispatch - (951) 776-1099
  - Trespassing
  - Vandalism
  - Theft
  - Panhandling
  - Encampments

- Emergency – Dial 911
  - Aggressive/Threatening
Total Reports Since June 2017: 999