

HOMELESSNESS IN SALEM

A Collaborative for Hope

City of Salem | Salem Police Department | Lifebridge | North Shore
Community Health | North Shore Community Action Program | North
Shore Workforce Investment Board

Tonight's Conversation

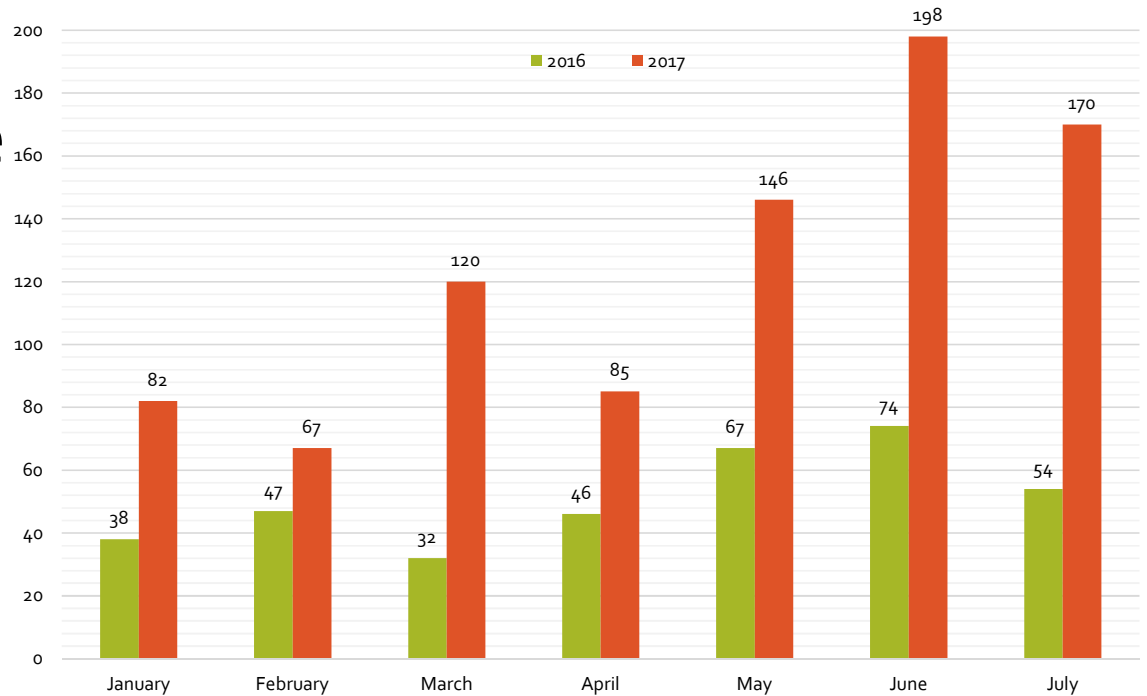
- Existing Statistics & Practices
- New Strategies:
 1. Added Patrols & Police Training
 2. Alternative Giving & Day Employment
 3. Housing First
 4. Hub Model
 5. Outreach Caseworkers
- What you can do
- Open Q&A and Discussion

Existing Statistics & Practices

- Two types of homeless populations:
 1. Chronic homeless: 13 individuals constituted 1,000 calls for service in a one-year period.
 2. Larger group of transient individuals, often new to area or recently homeless, couch-surfers, often more responsive to treatment and services.
- Each require a different response.

Existing Statistics & Practices

- Salem Police homeless-related calls for service 2016 vs. 2017
 - January: 116% increase
 - February: 43% increase
 - March: 275% increase
 - April: 85% increase
 - May: 118% increase
 - June: 168% increase
 - July: 215% increase
 - Monthly average – 2016: 51 vs. 2017: 124 (+143%)
 - Change in coding may account for some of the increase.



Existing Statistics & Practices

- 2017 Survey of Homeless Individuals by Lifebridge & SSU School of Social Work
 - Interviewed 26 homeless or transient individuals.
 - 24 self-identified as homeless, 1 week up to 9 years (1 all their life)
 - 20 male, 6 female
 - Ages: 19-56, average 34.5
 - How long in Salem? 1 day up to 9 years.
 - Hometown? 12-Salem or North Shore.
 - 6-other MA town. 8-Out of state.



Existing Statistics & Practices

- 2017 Survey of Homeless Individuals by Lifebridge & SSU School of Social Work
 - Where do you sleep? 3-car. 4-Lifebridge. 6-couch surf. 11-outdoors or elsewhere.
 - 13 say they're in Salem for good.
 - 8 have some kind of work or job.
 - 5 report pan-handling – none of them work.
 - 2 have engaged in prostitution, 2 in selling drugs.

Existing Statistics & Practices

- 2017 Survey of Homeless Individuals by Lifebridge & SSU School of Social Work
 - Why Salem?
 - Personal or family connection to area: 17
 - Access to services or current job: 6
 - Attracted due to lifestyle, “witchcraft,” etc.: 3
 - Came to find housing: 2
 - Social services received: 15-SNAP, 4-Lifebridge, 1-DMH, 1-MassHealth, 1-Medicaid, 10-none at all.

Existing Statistics & Practices

- 2017 Survey of Homeless Individuals by Lifebridge & SSU School of Social Work
 - What services would be most helpful to you?
 - Housing: 14
 - Mental health counseling: 5
 - Job training or employment program: 3
 - Substance abuse services: 3
 - "A safe place": 2
 - "There's nothing that can help me" and "There are no services for people like me.": 2
 - Doesn't want any help: 1

Existing Statistics & Practices

- 2017 Survey of Homeless Individuals by Lifebridge & SSU School of Social Work



55 year old father, laid off from his job, he's slept in a truck for the last eight years. In prison briefly a decade ago, can't find work and won't stay at Lifebridge.



26 year old woman originally from Methuen and living on a friend's couch in Salem. Getting by on food stamps and prostitution.



37 year old male bounced around group homes growing up and got out of Bridge-water Hospital yesterday. Getting a meal tonight at Lifebridge, he'll sleep outside and has a court date tomorrow.

Existing Statistics & Practices

- Practice to Date
 - Cite or arrest, if possible, often returning to the street.
 - Services for high-needs individuals happening by agencies in isolation, when it should be coordination.
 - Differentiation of service needs between chronic homeless and temporarily homeless or transient.
 - Reactive response to calls for service, when a pro-active approach may be more sustainable in long term.
 - No clear alternative for charitable giving makes pan-handling highly profitable.

New Strategies: Patrol Training

- Increased patrols with reserves and new officers/strategic task force/CIU & outreach worker.
- “Homeless Solutions & Resources: A Police Officer’s Guide to Policing the Community”
 - Constitutional rights & relevant court decisions
 - Shelters’ contact information
 - Mental health treatment programs’ contact information
 - Medical programs’ contact information
 - Employment programs’ contact information
 - Housing programs’ contact information
 - Trespass Orders: Public and Private Property
 - Section 35 Commitment
 - Outreach Worker process
 - CIU and Patrol responsibilities
 - Applicable Ordinance & MGL, with fines/arrest info.



New Strategies: Alternative Giving & Day Employment

- Panhandling can be a disincentive to seeking employment.
- Which populations of homeless or transient need or would make use of day employment opportunities?
- Day employment connections: WIB/Career Center, City, private companies.
- Alternative giving campaign: text-to-donate.



New Strategies: Housing First

Typical "Housing Readiness"



Housing First



New Strategies: Hub Model

- Monthly check-in meeting of service providers and organizations to coordinate activities.
- Review status of benchmark statistics.
- Review cases of specific high-risk individuals.
- Check in on effectiveness of existing strategies.



New Strategies: Outreach Caseworkers

- Outreach workers on call out of Salem PD.
- Funded through CDBG, in partnership with North Shore Community Health.
- Contact Outreach to report non-emergency transient or homeless issues: hope@salem.com.
- Identify & work to connect those in need with health insurance, primary care, behavioral health, substance abuse treatment, housing, and/or employment.



What you can do

1. Call: Salem Police at 978-744-1212 or Outreach worker at hope@salem.com (number forthcoming).
2. Alternative giving option, not panhandlers.
3. Employers: offer temporary job opportunities and connect with the WIB/Career Center.
4. Keep an open mind about alternatives and options, such as housing first.
5. Share your ideas.

Open Q&A and Discussion

