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

• Update on Statistics

• Update on Strategies:
  1. Police Patrol
  2. Alternative Giving & Day Employment
  3. Housing First
  4. Hub Model
  5. Outreach Caseworkers

• New Strategy: Day Program

• What you can do

• Open Q&A and Discussion
Update on Statistics

• Two types of homeless populations:
  1. Chronic homeless: 13 identified in 2017 survey; down to 8. All 4 received treatment/services; 3 are now housed locally, 1 is in Lifebridge and doing well, and 1 has found housing in Haverhill after 15 years living on Salem streets.
  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.
Update on Statistics

• Homeless children (K-12) in Salem (2017-2018 school year):
  • **220 Salem students are homeless**: “no fixed, adequate, and regular nighttime residence, including those living in a shelter, a motel, hotel, or campground, a car, abandoned buildings or other inadequate accommodations, staying with others due to loss of housing or economic hardship, and unaccompanied or migrant youth living in the above situations.”

![](Homeless_Students_by_School.png)
Update on Statistics

- SPS has spent FYTD $379,000 on transportation for homeless students and students in foster care.

- 2017-2018 is 2\textsuperscript{nd} year of SPS receiving McKinney-Vento Federal grant ($30,000). This grant funds all of the following for homeless students:
  - Students 8 years old and up to attend Boys & Girls Club after school program at Collins, including transportation costs.
  - Up to 10 homeless students to attend the licensed child care summer camp program for 9 weeks.
  - Purchase of over 70 backpacks and assorted school supplies.
  - Purchase of winter hats and gloves.
  - Purchase of personal care products.

- SPS partnerships/resources for homeless students, parents, grandparents/guardians, and non-school age children in the family: DTA/DHCD, NSCAP, Centerboard, YMCA, FKO, B&G Club, DCF, HAWC, multiple medical practices, SPUR, SPS Holiday Giving Tree, SFD Operation Warm, Salem Children’s Charity, and a Bed for Every Child.

- Haven Project partnership, City Connects tool, existing SPS Homeless Education Liaison
Update on Statistics

Homeless-related Calls for Service

January 1, 2018 – April 22, 2018: 62 no trespass orders issued to 38 homeless individuals. This is 55% of all no trespass orders issued during this period.
Update on Strategies: Police Patrol

• Increased patrols with reserves and new officers/strategic task force/CIU & outreach worker.

• Distribution of “Homeless Solutions & Resources: A Police Officer’s Guide to Policing the Community” as part of Patrol Training.

• Added five FTE to ranks for FY2018.

• Adjusted patrol schedules based on calls for service data.
Update on 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.
Update on Strategies: Housing First

**Typical “Housing Readiness”**

1. Homeless
2. Shelter
3. Medical, Behavioral, Mental
4. Ownership
5. Permanent

Fail Points:
- Medical
- Behavioral
- Mental
- Income
- Landlord Relationship

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**Housing First**

1. Homeless
2. Permanent
3. Medical, Behavioral, Mental, Income, Landlord Relationship
4. Life Stability

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Update on Strategies: Housing First
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- Five Lifebridge residents will go into apartments at Boston Street Crossing (26 units in all).

- Lifebridge congregate housing: 22 units.

- NSCDC housing: Congress/Dow and 15-17 Harbor (17 units for formally-homeless, low-income youth aging out of foster care system).

- CDBG funded homeless prevention (FY17): 33 Salem families (65 people) kept from falling into homelessness.
Update on 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.
Update on Strategies: Outreach Caseworkers

• Outreach workers on call out of Salem PD. Funded through CDBG, in partnership with North Shore Community Health.

• Haven Project partnership with Salem Public Schools to support homeless students.

• 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.
Update on Strategies: Outreach Caseworkers

Since program launch (August 2017): 70 homeless individuals contacted and assisted on Salem streets.

- 25 clothing vouchers provided.
- 15 established/reestablished primary care at NSCH.
- 13 received housing assistance (shelter, lottery application assistance, case management).
- 8 referred to opioid treatment (medication-assisted/Vivitrol).
- 8 referred to behavioral health or mental health services.
- 7 received financial counseling, primarily regarding medical insurance.
- 7 treated/cured of Hepatitis C virus.
- 2 sleeping bags provided.
- 1 homeless senior referred to SSI for benefits application.
- 1 referred to treatment/management for chronic illness.
- 1 homeless pregnant woman established prenatal Ob/gyn care.
New Strategies: Day Program

• Similar to facilities in Gloucester (Grace Center) and Haverhill (Community Action Inc.).

• Reduces number of homeless loitering outside.

• Provides comfortable space for access to services, facilities, food, etc.
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. Keep an open mind about alternatives and options, such as housing first.
4. Help form a community coalition and share your ideas.
5. Sign up with Lifebridge for the next Homeless Survey.
Open Q&A and Discussion