

HOMELESS COORDINATOR'S REPORT TO THE HOME CONSORTIUM

Monday, March 11, 2013

Ten Year Plan

In 2005, the State Legislature passed House Bill 2163, titled the Homeless Housing & Assistance Act

Created a document recording fee providing revenue to counties for work to reduce homelessness. Requires Counties to:

- ❑ Develop a 10-Year Plan to reduce homeless by half of the baseline Point-in Time Count of 2006
- ❑ Establish a “Housing Task Force”
- ❑ Conduct Annual “Point-in-Time” Homeless Census
- ❑ Implement “Homeless Management Information System”, HMIS
- ❑ Use local recording fees to reduce homelessness
- ❑ Annual Report to the Legislature

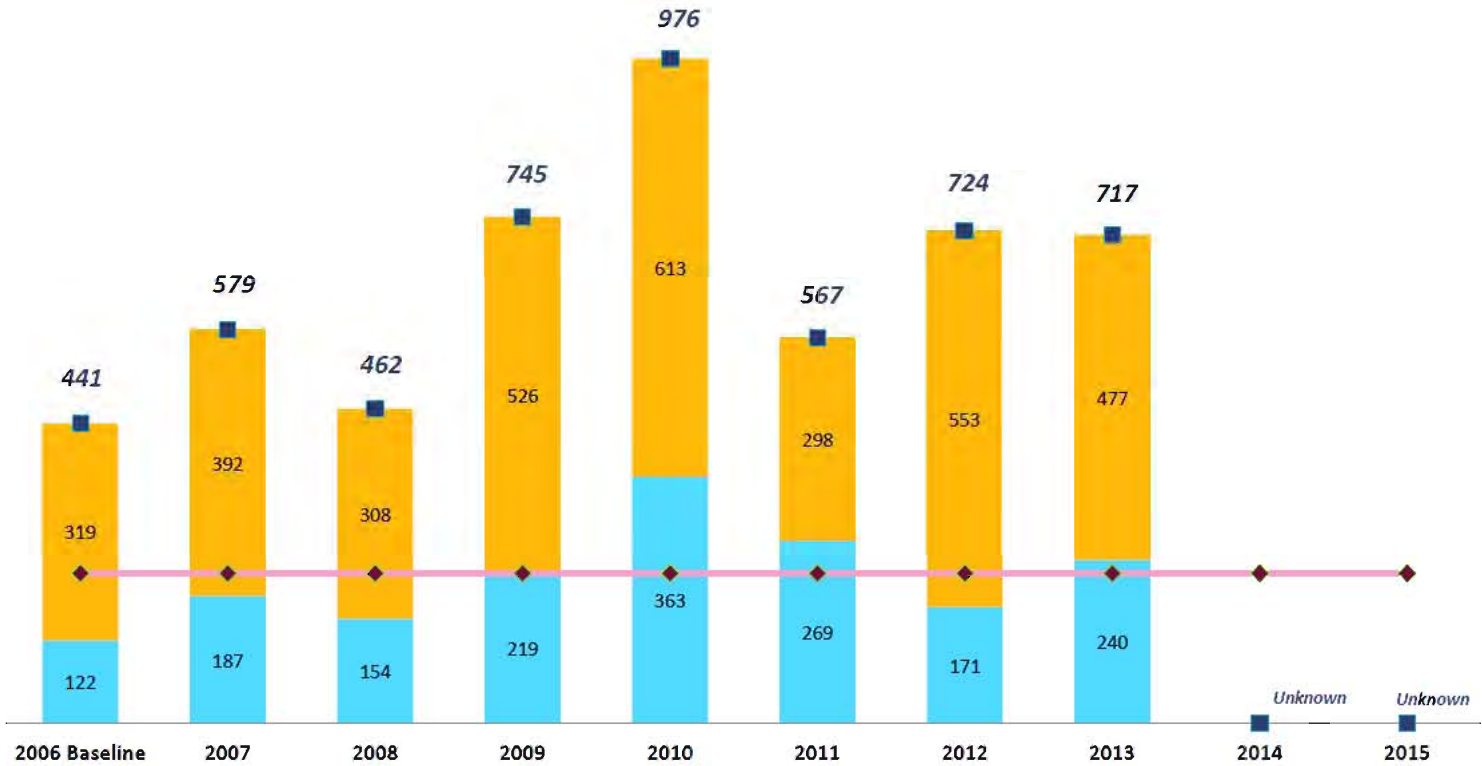
2013 THURSTON COUNTY POINT-IN-TIME TOTALS – Sheltered and Unsheltered Counts

2006 - 2013 County Point-in-Time Count

Goal: Reduce homelessness in Thurston County by 50% to 220 homeless people by July 2015.

Reality: Homelessness increased by 63% since 2006.

Unsheltered Count Sheltered Count 2015 Goal to Reduce Homelessness by 50% to 220 Individuals or Fewer Total Count



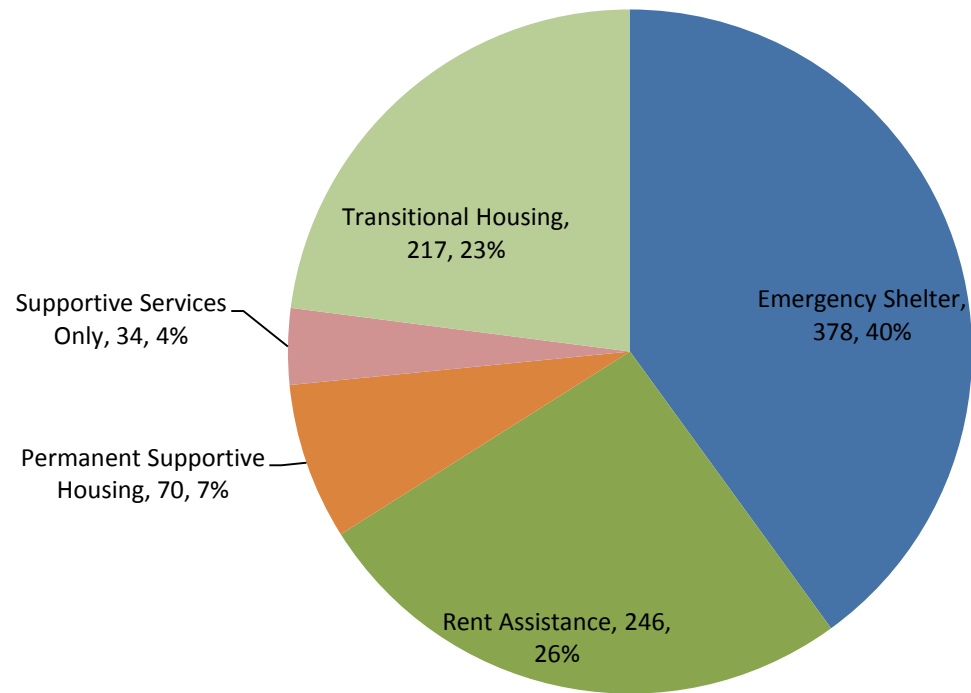
Thurston Homeless System 2012

December
2012 Snapshot

Households
served by
program type

*Does not include
providers not required to
use the Homeless
Management
Information System
(HMIS)*

Households Served - Monthly - All Programs



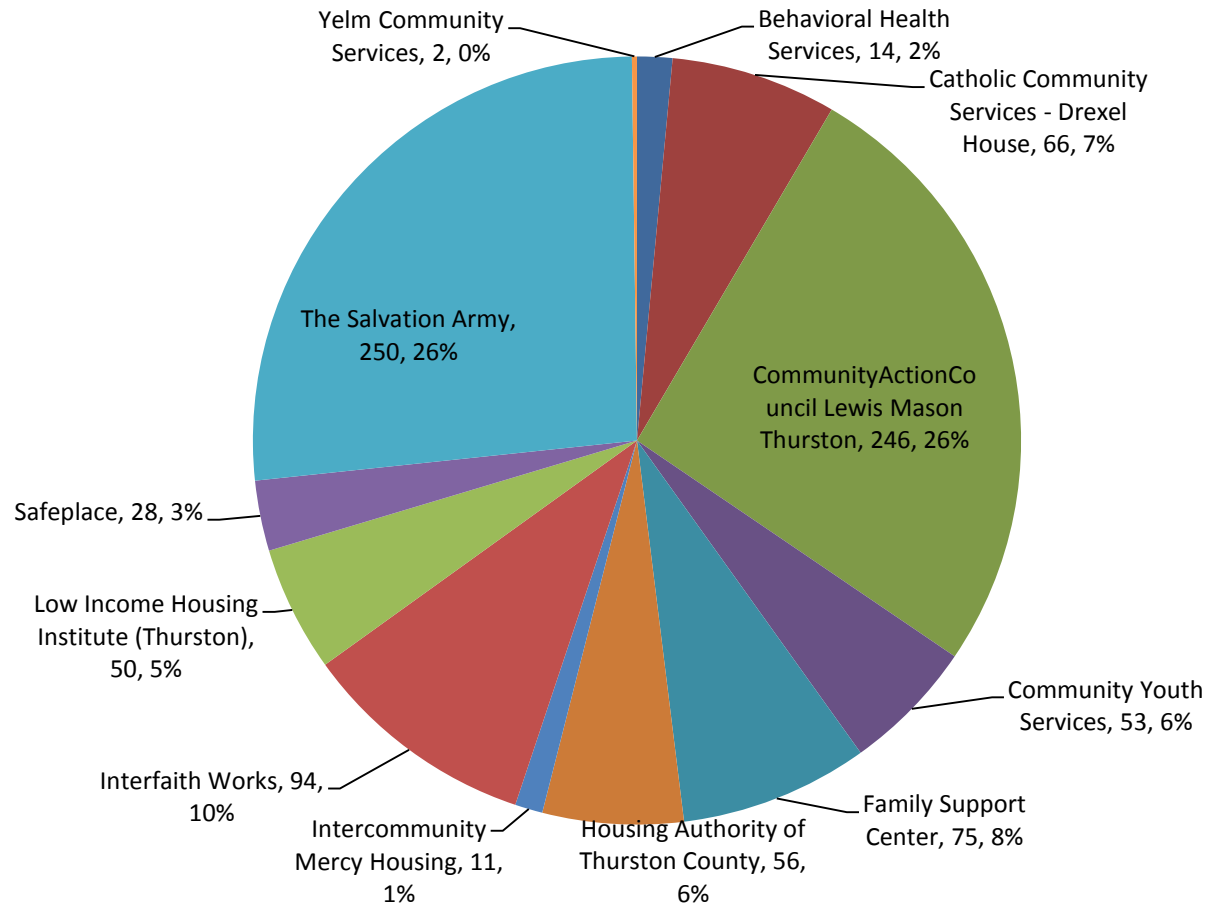
Thurston Homeless System 2012

December
2012
Snapshot

Households
served by
provider.

*Only includes HMIS user
data*

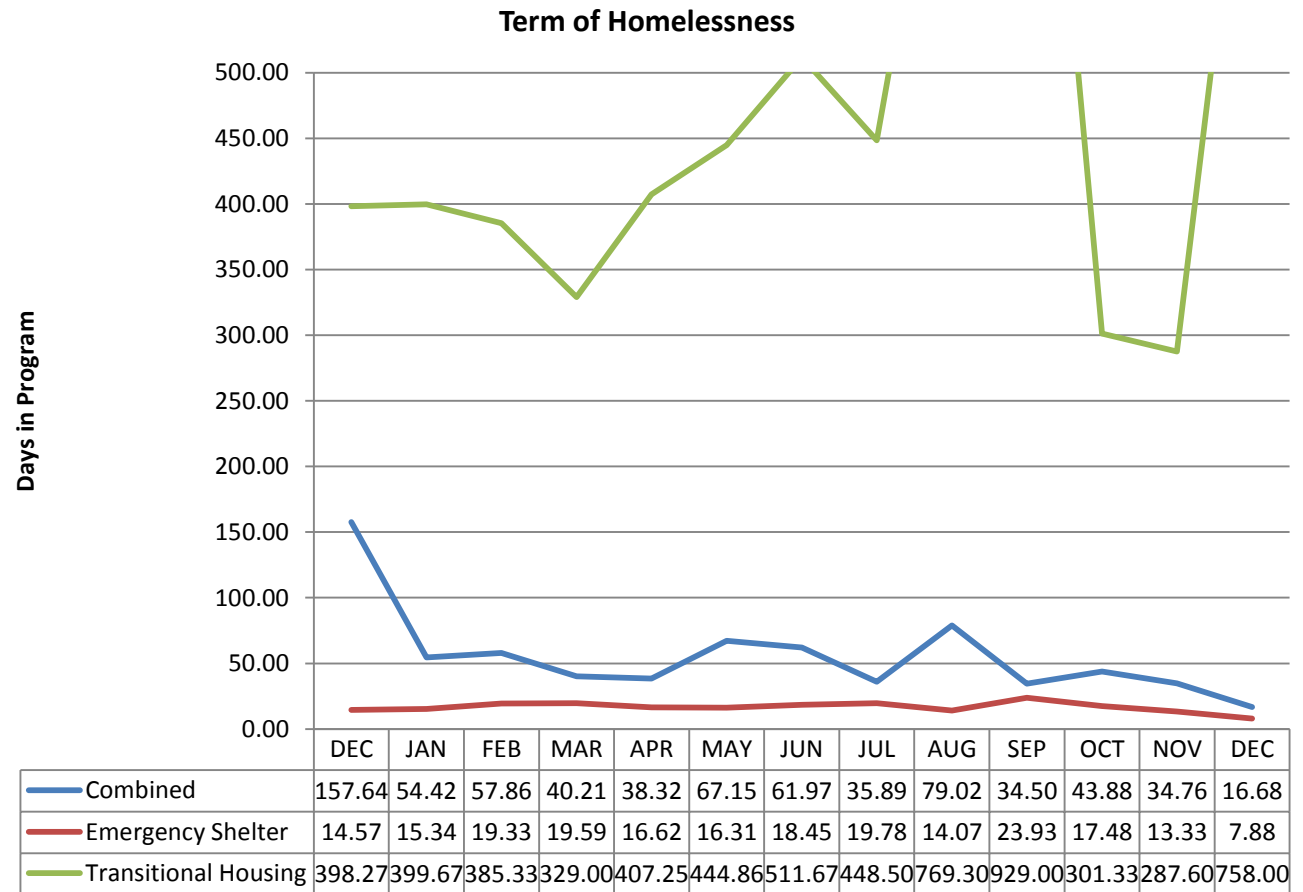
Households Served By Organization



Length of Homeless Episodes

Gap in between long term homeless housing programs and brief shelter stays

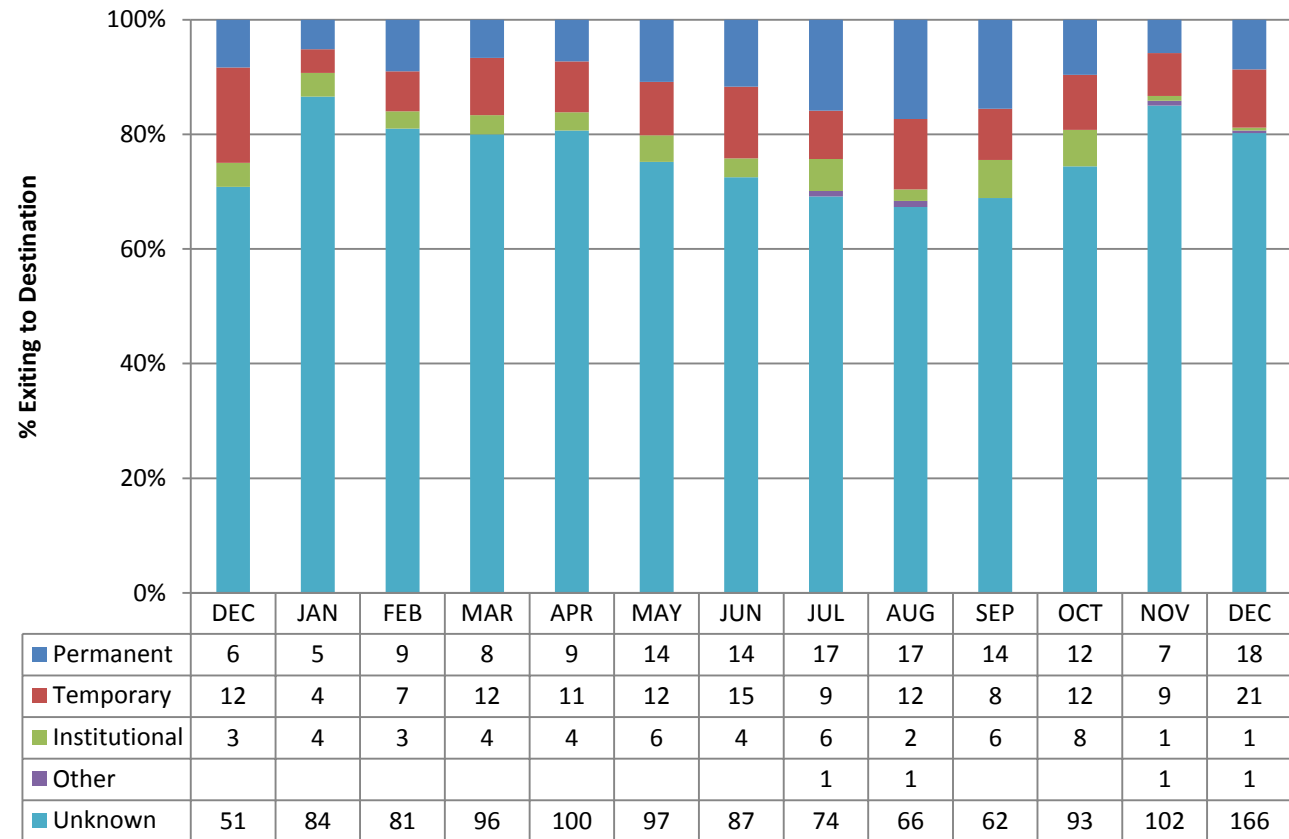
Shelter stays where we'd like them, but more info on next slide



Shelter Exits - 2012

70% of Shelter exits in 2012 were to an unknown destination

Emergency Shelter Exits

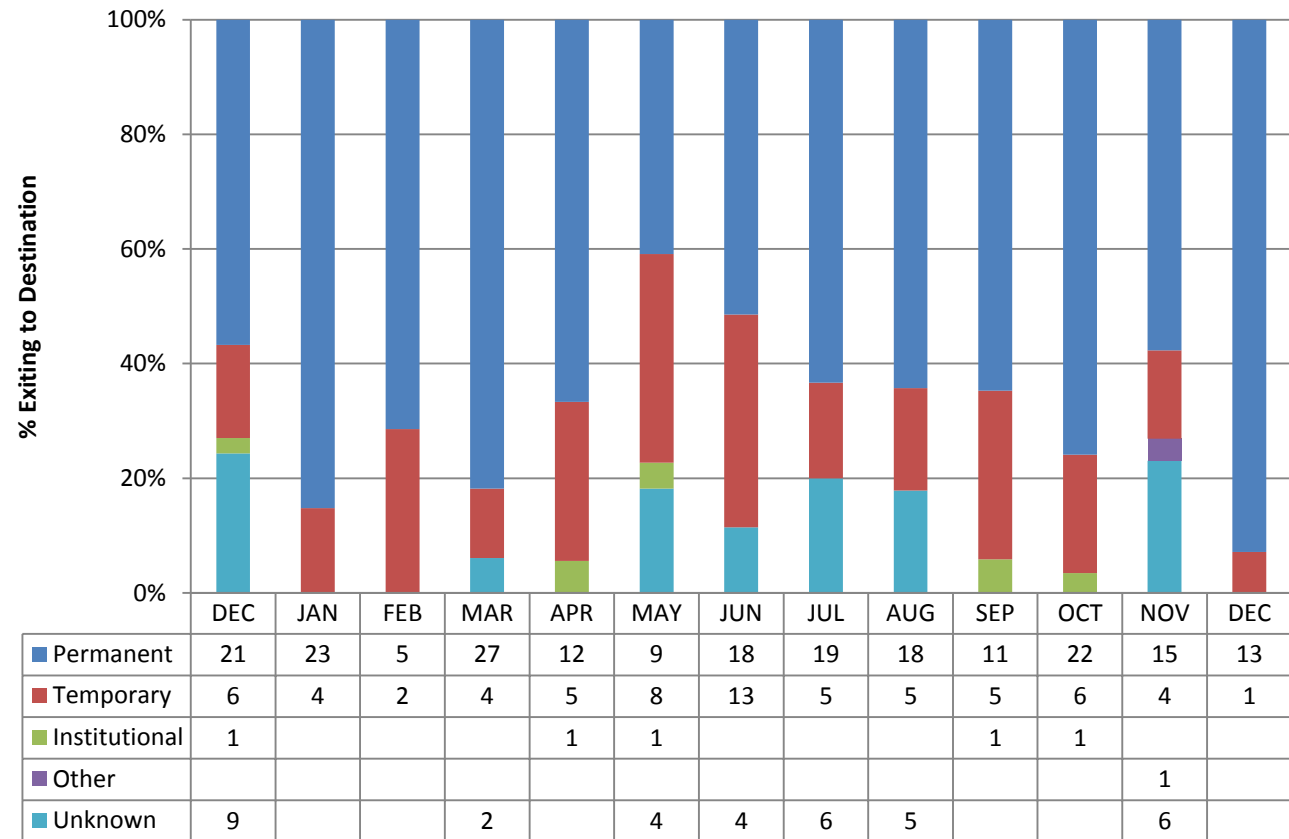


Rent Assistance Exits - 2012

Only 17% of Rent Assistance exits in 2012 were to an unknown destination

66% of Rent Assistance exits in 2012 were to permanent housing!

Rent Assistance Exits



Gaps by Population Type

| GAPS ANALYSIS: Families with Children and DV/SA | | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--|----------------|
| System Toolbox | Specifics | Current Inventory (in households/individuals) | Under Dev. | Gap | Priority Level |
| Coordinated Entry | Family Support Center | 48 households | ✓ | FSC needs capacity to handle intakes and referrals for this population | 2 |
| Outreach and Survival Services | HRA | ? | - | - | - |
| | Daycenter | 6 households | | | |
| Shelter | Family Support Ctr | 7/24 | Smith Building adds day use | Beds in dev at Smith Bldg not quite fully funded | 1 |
| | Housing Authority | 4/16 | | | |
| | Out of the Woods | 3/12 | | | |
| | SafePlace | 10/28 | | | |
| | Yelm Community Services | 1/6 | Rehab grant? | - | - |
| Rapid Rehousing | Family Support Ctr | 4 | - | | |
| | SafePlace | | | | |
| Transitional | Housing Authority HATS | 30 | | 50 Rapid Rehousing slots of various lengths of stay and enough to cover disappearing TBRA* | 1 |
| | Housing Authority WFF | 10 | | | |
| | FSC TBRA | 20-30* | | | |
| Permanent Supportive Housing | Family Support Center | - | 7 | Units in dev at Smith Bldg not quite fully funded | 1 |
| Other | System Training and Education | Housing Task Force offers some | | Improve employment outcomes for homeless families | 1 |

| GAPS ANALYSIS: Youth Includes Transition-Aged Youth Ages 16-24 | | | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------------|------------------|--|----------------|
| System Toolbox | Specifics | Current Inventory | Under Dev. | Gap | Priority Level |
| Coordinated Entry | CYS | ✓ | | To achieve full HGIS capturing of unsheltered, need capacity at CYS to handle volume | 2 |
| Outreach and Survival Services | Homeless Outreach for Youth at CYS | .2 FTE | | Need 2 FTE to cover schools and communities | 3 |
| | Rosie's Place - access to housing info, services and public benefits resources, phone, hygiene supplies, food, etc | | | In a climate of decreasing revenues, stabilization of this resource is a priority | 1 |
| Shelter | Haven House | 4 | | Year round capacity for youth 18-24 | |
| | Rosies at Night | 10 | | | |
| Shelter-transitional Bridge | New program combining shelter/drop-in center/outreach/transition al housing services could provide wrap around support customized for youth dynamics and needs | - | 10 slots | 10-12 slots (under dev is brand new idea, gap if this plan fails to move forward) | 1 |
| | | | 4-6 Bridge units | | |
| Rapid Rehousing/Transitional | TLP (5 TBRA) | 17 | | 48-60 Rapid Rehousing or Transitional Housing slots | 1 |
| | RISE (3 TBRA/2 ESG) | 14 | | | |
| | IYHP (3 ESG) | 14 | | | |
| | ECHO (1 TBRA/1 ESG) | 8 | | | |
| Other | System Training and Education | Housing Task Force offers some | | Needed: Harm Reduction Trauma Informed Care Housing First Model/Philosophy | 1 |
| | | CYS has some in-house | | | |

| GAPS ANALYSIS: Singles and Couples | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------|--|----------------|
| System Toolbox | Specifics | Current Inventory | Under Dev. | Gap | Priority Level |
| Coordinated Entry | SideWalk established with the intent to fill this role | | | - buy-in from Salvation Army -capacity at SideWalk to handle need | 1 |
| Outreach and Survival Services | Homeless Outreach for Mental Health Services Capital Recovery Center EGYHOP Outreach Dt Olympia | 2 FTE? | | No | - |
| | Downtown Ambassador Prog. | 8 x .4FTE | | No | - |
| | Bathrooms – 24/7 public bathroom access in downtown Olympia | 0 | | Yes | 1 |
| | Encampment/unsheltered Outreach | 0 | | Capacity for regular camp check-ins | 2 |
| Shelter *seasonal | Day Center - access to phone, housing info, services and public benefits resources, hygiene supplies, etc | 0 | | Some access/capacity needed for a community center type space | 1 |
| | Camp Quixote | 30 | -30 | See PSH below | |
| | The Salvation Army | 42 | | 40 beds of year round, low-barrier shelter, harm reduction model | 1 |
| | Drexel House | 16 | | | |
| St Michael/St Vincent de Paul* | 12 | | | | |
| Interfaith Women's | 18 | | | | |
| Rapid Rehousing/ Transitional | Cold Weather Overflow* CAC HEN Program | 31 | | 40 Rapid Rehousing or Transitional Housing slots | 2 |
| | Drexel House | 3 | ? | | |
| | SideWalk | 67 | 25? | | |
| | Bread & Roses | 12 | | | |
| | TBRA – Capital Recovery Ctr | 21 | | | |
| Permanent Supportive Housing | Arbor Manor | 5 | | -50 units of PSH targeted to most chronically homeless -Quixote Village has funding gap of | 1 |
| | Drexel House | 25 | | | |
| | Fleetwood Apts | 42 | | | |
| | Tumwater Gardens | 34 | | | |
| | Drexel House | 10 | | | |
| Other | Quixote Village | 0 | 30 | | |
| | System Training and Education | Housing Task Force offers some | | Needed: Harm Reduction Trauma Informed Care Housing First Model/Philosophy | 1 |

Gaps In Thurston County's Homeless System

Considerations:

- Right-sizing
- Location
- Leveraging other funding
- “How” needs to have broad support

Top 5 In no order of priority:

- ***Youth Shelter****
- ***Youth Bridge Programming***
- ***Low-Barrier Shelter Program for Adults****
- ***Rapid Rehousing for Families***
- ***Permanent Supportive Housing for Adults***

**Immediately needed to plug short-term, safety net-type gaps*

Where do we go from here?

Adopt common Vision, Goals

Update Ten Year Plan

Implementation

Vision, Goals and Objectives

Adopted by the HOME Consortium and its HOME Citizens Advisory Committee, the HCAC, at a joint meeting on August 13, 2012.

- **Vision Statement** - The Thurston County Homeless Housing and Services System is well-coordinated and efficient, provides a pathway to housing stability, reduces the length and frequency of homeless episodes and helps the most vulnerable be safe.

Vision, Goals and Objectives

These align with state and federal goals. (More on a later slide about this alignment)

Goals

- People know where to go when they need help (and others know where to refer people)
- People are helped within 24 hours with short-term help such as prevention, diversion or shelter
- Housing is stabilized within 30 days
- Supportive housing is reserved for the most vulnerable who need intensive services to maintain stability
- Adequate affordable housing stock is available to meet the need

Vision, Goals and Objectives

Also aligns with state and federal objectives.

Objectives (Performance Measures)

- ❑ Decrease new, first-time homeless episodes
- ❑ Reduced length of homelessness per episode
- ❑ Decrease returns to homelessness
- ❑ Increased exits to permanent (stable) housing
- ❑ Reduce unsheltered homelessness
- ❑ Reduce annual count of children in public schools experiencing homelessness
- ❑ Improve standardized use of HMIS
- ❑ Job and income growth for persons who are homeless

System Performance Tracking

It is recommended performance be reviewed quarterly so adjustments in strategy can be made if necessary to stay on target.

Data from the HMIS Annual Dashboard Report produced by the WA State Dept of Commerce

| Outcome Measures | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | Target |
|--|------|------|------|------|--------|
| New, first-time homeless episodes | | | | | |
| Average length of homelessness per episode | | | | | |
| Returns to homelessness | | | | | |
| Increased exits to permanent housing | | | | | |
| Unsheltered homelessness at PIT count | 171 | | | | |
| Annual number of children in public schools experiencing homelessness (OSPI rpt) | | | | | |
| Use/Data Quality with HMIS | | | | | |
| Job growth for persons who are homeless (HMIS) | | | | | |
| Income growth for persons who are homeless (HMIS) | | | | | |

Three Required Plans (related to housing)

Ten Year Plan

- Required to access *state and local homeless dollars*
 - CHG 311,000
 - ESG 250,000
 - HEN 1,200,000
 - 2163/1359 1,300,000
- System-based approach (outcomes)
- County writes plan
 - First plan written by the Consortium's temporary "Homeless Planning Workgroup"
- \$3,061,000 annually

Continuum of Care Plan

- Required to access *federal homeless dollars*
 - McKinney Program
- System-based approach (outcomes)
- Commerce writes for small counties including Thurston
 - Used to be managed under the Housing Task Force
- \$537,832 annually

Consolidated Plan

- Required to access *federal affordable housing dollars*
 - CDBG Program
 - HOME Program
- Jurisdiction-based approach (outputs)
- Thurston county and City of Olympia write as entitlement jurisdictions
- \$1,380,000 annually

We are not alone...

New alliances in the work to end homelessness are being formed. People are coming to the table and staying there because this work has some coordination behind it.

But these alliances are going to need support and encouragement to stay engaged.

- **Federal Partners**
 - National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH)
 - US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)
 - US Dept of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- **State Partners**
 - WA State Dept. of Commerce
 - WA Low Income Housing Alliance (WLIHA)
- **Local Partners**
 - United Way of Thurston County
 - Interfaith Works, Union Gospel Mission and other faith communities
 - Rotary Clubs in partnership with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
 - Housing providers, law enforcement, hospitals, schools, mental health providers, treatment providers, businesses, employment providers, colleges, citizens...

Emerging Issues

ACTION !

- ***Need to Invest in Low-barrier Shelter and PSH***
 - Serious short term unmet needs
 - Both interventions are expensive to create and maintain
 - **Task Force already formed and meeting weekly since the end of January**
- ◎ ***Disconnect between Criminal Justice, Mental Health and Homeless Housing***
 - Example: Homeless Connect Event
 - **Coordinator, providers and county housing and chemical dependency staff are already developing a plan to provide housing supports to homeless people as they exit in-patient treatment**
- ***Jurisdiction-focused Planning versus System- or Issue-focused Planning***
 - The mingling of seemingly like programs causes confusion and spreads staff and planners thin rather than allowing for specialization in work on homelessness
 - **Low barrier shelter task force example of strategic planning on issues (gaps) in the homeless housing system**

Next Steps

April and beyond...

- Fully Develop Coordinated Entry
 - How rural areas are addressed presents challenges and will need to be worked out
 - Full Implementation by the end of June, 2014 is mandated by Commerce
- Maximize Current System Capacity, Efficiency and Effectiveness
- Improve HMIS Data Quality
- Develop Low-barrier Sheltering capacity
- Develop Permanent Supportive Housing
- Work with CYs to Develop Youth Housing Solutions
- Work with Orgs Serving Families to Incorporate Smith Building and to Provide Adequate Rapid Rehousing
- Update Ten Year Plan to include:
 - Gaps, Goals and Strategies
 - Performance Measures and Timeline
 - Funding plan
- Monitor and Report on System Improvement
 - Establish an ongoing implementation, feedback and improvement loop
- Share Vision and Successes
 - Seek to leverage other support

Questions?

Thank you to the provider community and jurisdictions staff who warmly shared their knowledge, their passion and their time!