WASHTENAW COUNTY
2019 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT
COMMUNITY DEBRIEFING

WASHTENAW COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MAY 20, 2019
WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

MORGHAN WILLIAMS BOYDSTON
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (OCED)
AGENDA

1. Pit Count 101
2. 2019 Data & Statistics
3. Street Outreach
4. Homelessness & Race Equity Focus Groups
5. Built for Zero Updates
6. Panel Discussion
PIT COUNT 101

AMANDA CARLISLE
WASHTENAW HOUSING ALLIANCE (WHA)
WHAT IS THE POINT-IN-TIME COUNT?

• A federally mandated count of all sheltered AND unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness on a single day in January

• Volunteers and staff canvass the streets and congregate settings, such as meal programs, to survey and count every person experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County

• During the count, we collect demographic information from survey respondents, including, but not limited to:
  
  • Date of Birth
  • Gender
  • Race
  • Ethnicity
  • Housing Status
  • Disability Status
  • Veteran Status
  • Chronicity
We had over 25 volunteers and staff canvass between 10 p.m. & 2 a.m. for the unsheltered count.

The county was divided among 11 teams. Teams travelling along highways also canvassed communities they passed through.

We are very grateful to all of our volunteers! We could not do this without you!
WHO IS INCLUDED IN THE PIT COUNT?

**Sheltered**

Persons who are living in a supervised, publicly- or privately-owned shelter designed to provide temporary living arrangements:

- Shelter
- Transitional Housing
- Hotel or Motel paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government funders

**Unsheltered**

Persons with a primary nighttime residence that is a place not designated for human habitation:

- Car
- Park
- Abandoned Building
- Bus or Train Station
- Airport
- Camp ground or site
WHO IS EXCLUDED FROM THE PIT COUNT?

- Persons residing in a **hotel or motel they paid for themselves**
- Persons **staying with friends or families**
- Persons **admitted to the hospital** (staying in a hospital, not including the emergency room)
- Persons who did not explicitly meet the definitions on the previous slide
PIT COUNT DATA

- PIT Count data comes from two sources:
  1. Data for persons in shelter comes from HMIS, our local Homeless Management Information System
  2. Data for persons who are unsheltered comes from surveys conducted by volunteers
- In both cases, all data is self-reported
- The count is conducted once per year, so it is better understood as a snapshot then as a full census.
TOTAL PERSONS

Sheltered

261 People were in emergency shelter or transitional housing

Unsheltered

12 People were on the streets or in places not meant for human habitation
HISTORICAL OVERVIEW: WASHTENAW COUNTY

Total Homelessness has declined by almost 27% since 2015

95% of people we counted are in shelter

2015: 292 (28°F) - 80
2016: 301 (33°F) - 40
2017: 260 (45°F) - 40
2018: 256 (36°F) - 28
2019: 261 (-13°F) - 12

Homelessness has declined by almost 27% since 2015.
Michigan PIT Count Totals

- 2015: 10,516
- 2016: 9,316
- 2017: 9,051
- 2018: 8,351

Michigan saw a 21% decrease in sheltered homelessness since 2015.

Total homelessness in Michigan has decreased 21% since 2015.
Total homelessness in the U.S. has decreased 2% since 2015.

Sheltered homelessness fell by 8% nationwide since 2015.
HOUSEHOLD TYPES

70% of persons experiencing homelessness are individuals not in a family

No unsheltered families were found in 2019!

24 family households were counted with an average family size of 3.3
DEMOGRAPHICS: GENDER

ALL PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESS

- Male: 63%
- Female: 37%

FAMILY HEADS OF HOUSEHOLD

- Single Mother: 88%
- Single Father: 4%
- Two Parent: 8%
DEMOGRAPHICS: AGE

- Children under 18: 54
- Young Adults 18-24: 33
- Adults 25-54: 135
- Older Adults 55-64: 39
- Seniors 65+: 12
There is a lot of variation in the number of people self-reporting mental illness.

In 2019, 91% of those reporting mental illness were sheltered, up from 72% in 2015.
Total chronic homelessness has fallen by 36% since 2015.
Total Veteran homelessness has dropped by 61% since 2015. Veteran homelessness is falling faster than total homelessness.
STREET OUTREACH

JOHN STACY

PROJECT OUTREACH TEAM (PORT/PATH)
PORT ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES

- Discovery and assessment:
  - Locate individuals in the community experiencing homelessness.
  - Provide assessments of category of homelessness and documentation/verification
  - Assess for a Severe Mental Illness and and SMI/Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorder
  - Assess for possible income and entitlement challenges.

- Link and connect:
  - Provide connections to community resources, and make referrals as appropriate
  - Assist individuals with completing documentation
  - SOAR process when able/appropriate
  - Connect with shelter, and other CoC members with warm hand-offs when able
PORT ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES

- Resource Provision:
  - Assist individuals with gear and set-up if appropriate
  - Connect individuals with monies for a variety of purposes:
    - Security Deposits
    - Move-in Costs
    - Hotel Stays (with screening and determination)

- Transportation:
  - Bus passes
  - Linking to appointments (medical, housing, legal)
HOMELESSNESS & RACE EQUITY FOCUS GROUPS

MORGHAN WILLIAMS BOYDSTON
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (OCED)
BUILT FOR ZERO UPDATE

AMANDA CARLISLE
WASHTENAW HOUSING ALLIANCE (WHA)
- Talk about current Vet goal of 7/15
- Talk about what it means to reach functional zero
- USICH Benchmarks
WHAT IS BUILT FOR ZERO?

• Rigorous national change effort designed to help a committed group of U.S. & International communities end veteran and chronic homelessness
  • Adopt proven best practices
  • Deploy existing resources more efficiently
  • Use real-time data to improve performance

• Led by Community Solutions, with assistance from federal partners:
  • U.S. Dept of Housing & Urban Development (HUD)
  • U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs (VA)
  • U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)

• Benefits to participating communities:
  • Coaches and technical assistance resources
  • Direct access to HUD, VA, and other top national officials
KEY COMPONENTS OF BUILT FOR ZERO

- Single Point of Entry
- Common Assessment Tool
- One List of Homeless Households
- Housing Referral & Placement through Prioritization
WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED AND ACCOMPLISHED

- Focus on **systems transformation**
- Incorporation of a **real-time data** on who is experiencing homelessness in our community (by-name)
- Total Veterans & Chronically Homeless housed nationwide: **83,000+**
  - Veterans & Chronically Homeless Individuals Housed in Washtenaw County since 2015: **719**
- Systematic approach to **prioritizing permanent housing resources**
- **Continuous process improvement** → **optimal system performance**
  - Using data for systems improvement
- **Breaking Down System siloes** (increased collaboration with stakeholders & service providers)
UP NEXT IN BUILT FOR ZERO

- Continue the sense of urgency to identify and house people as quickly as possible
  - Streamline access and assistance
  - Continue to prioritize scarce permanent housing resources
  - Adapt to changing environment
- Finalize and submit veterans homeless data to U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)
- Continue progress being made on chronic homelessness and family homelessness
- Leveraging the success of the initiative for youth experiencing homelessness
- Focus on Diversion
PANEL DISCUSSION
MODERATED BY MORGHAN WILLIAMS BOYDSTON
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Marla Conkin
Salvation Army

Barbara Niess-May
SafeHouse Center

Krista Girty
Ozone House

Placeholder for Potential Individual
RECOGNITION & THANKS

MORGHAN WILLIAMS BOYDSTON
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
THANK YOU

2018 PIT Count Planning Committee.

25+ outreach staff, case managers, board members, citizens, advocates, and community partners for all their hard work!

Questions?

Contact Morghan Williams Boydston, Human Services Manager
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