

EVERETT COMMUNITY STREETS INITIATIVE TASK FORCE
Outreach and Emergency Services Subcommittee Recommendations

Chris Adams, Adams and Duncan Law
Alan Dorway, First Presbyterian Church
Cassie Franklin, Cocoon House
Bill Kirlin-Hackett, Interfaith Task Force on Homelessness (King County)
GeorgaDee MacLeod, Council of Neighborhoods
Jason Mohn, First Covenant Church
Craig Skotdal, Skotdal Real Estate

Wendy McClure, City of Everett Coordinator Office of Neighborhoods
Dan Templeman, City of Everett Police Chief
Deborah Wright, City of Everett Administrator

Outlined below is a list of recommendations regarding Outreach and Emergency Services for consideration by the Everett Community Streets Initiative Task Force in order to improve the street-level social issues in Everett both short and long-term.

Increase Resource Training and Coordinate Training Between Systems: First responders such as EPD and EMS are the first line of support for chronically homeless and vulnerable populations. Volunteers from the faith-based communities are also working with our street populations. This committee recommends investing in and coordinating training for EPD, EMS, faith-based volunteers as well as homeless service providers on Mental Health First Aid and First Aid, volunteer safety and outreach best practices, and available community resources to empower the faith-based community and others to better support street populations and improve referrals into supportive services.

Short-term, lower cost recommendation, but needed ongoing.

Drop-in / Day Centers: During the day there are limited places for at-risk, homeless, mentally ill or vulnerable individuals to go, which increases Everett's street-level social issues. There is currently a drop-in day center for youth and young adults on Broadway and 14th which is open 2 – 7pm. The center includes laundry, showers, food served indoors 3 days a week, clothing, computer lab, WorkSource, drug and alcohol counseling, case managers and navigators as well as recreational opportunities. This committee recommends 1) replicating such a center for the adult population so that the centers would be open 6am – 8pm (to cover time where the most street issues arise) and 2) expanding current day center hours at the youth drop in, adding lockers. This would reduce the number of vulnerable or homeless individuals using public spaces such as the library. There should be consideration into the best locations for these day centers to ensure a good provider / business partnership, transit access and good neighbor relationships.

Short-term and lower cost (expanding existing youth drop-in) and long-term and higher cost (replicating for adult population).

Outreach: There is currently very limited street outreach in Everett. Youth and young adult outreach is currently available through Cocoon House covering all areas of Snohomish County, with generally 1 day of outreach a week to hot-spots where youth are congregating in Everett (transit center, library, County

jail, parking lots, etc.), street-level case management of homeless populations and 24/7 on call response. This committee recommends ongoing funding for expanded youth and young adult outreach. We also recommend establishing funding for adult outreach to ensure pro-active, on-going outreach to street populations in order to build relationships, help meet basic needs of individuals, and better connect individuals to needed services. In addition, 24/7 on call outreach would be ideal, and/or an embedded social worker with EPD or EMS to provide comprehensive street-level case management. Outreach target sites should include meal programs, the library, transit center, day centers, and other identified spots where street-level social issues arise.

Short-term, lower cost recommendation, but needed ongoing.

Meal Programs: Multiple local churches generously provide meals to vulnerable individuals in downtown Everett. This committee recommends that meal programs implement best practices such as providing indoor waiting and serving areas, monitored restroom facilities and proactive clean –up to minimize spillover impacts, and engaging participants in operation of the meal service where possible. Coordination between meal program times and locations should be considered to best serve people attending the meals throughout the community, eliminate unnecessary overlap, and ensure a good partnership between the faith-based and business communities.

Short-term, lower cost recommendation, but needed ongoing.

Rest Rooms: Access to public restrooms is important. This committee recommends mapping all current downtown restrooms that are available to the general public where street populations would be welcomed and adding signage to indicate locations of existing public restrooms (Police Station, Public Library, Wall Street Building, County Buildings etc.). Once mapped, the committee recommends exploring options for expanded public restroom access to reduce negative impacts to the Everett Public Library, Transit Center, and core areas. Another consideration would be to further explore urban rest stops and public restroom solutions that are working well in other communities.

Short-term and lower cost (mapping and signage). Long-term and potentially higher cost (adding additional urban rest stops and/or public restrooms).

Funding for Treatment: De-Tox and Mental Health: There is a significant lack of housing and services for addicted and mentally ill populations. Federal and State funding should be sought whenever possible to develop more funding for treatment and support services such as De-tox programs. The locations of such facilities should be carefully considered again to minimize the impact on Everett’s business areas.

Long-term, higher cost recommendation.