



Results of Task Force Member Homework on Concerns and Underlying Causes

Everett City Streets Initiative

Task Force

Meeting 2 – August 7, 2014



Concerns: Most Frequently Mentioned Issues

- Increasing homeless/ mentally ill/ addicted/ other/ street population
- Public safety concerns and crime
- Inadequate services to help the homeless/ street population
- Inadequate shelter/housing for the homeless
- Larger community issues—knowledge, coordination



Increasing homeless/ mentally ill/ addicted/ other/ street population

- Perception of increased numbers of such persons on street
- Recognition that many of these individuals appear to have mental health and/or addiction problems
- Panhandling, sleeping in doorways, hanging out in parks, other areas



Public safety concerns, crime

- Drug use, drug dealing, especially heroin
- Public intoxication
- Theft
- Public urination
- Graffiti
- Litter, garbage, abandoned belongings
- Trespassing
- Solicitation
- Customers, residents don't feel safe
- Harmful to economic vitality of City

Locations specifically mentioned:

- Clark Park
- Libraries
- Central & North Everett neighborhoods
- Everpark Garage
- Street in front of Renee's
- Alleys
- Broadway, Broadway & Evergreen Way
- Gas stations
- Smith Street north of the Mission



Inadequate services to help the homeless/ street population

- Lack of treatment services
- Lack of job training, jobs



Inadequate shelter/housing for the homeless

- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of shelter beds—emergency & transitional housing
- Lack of detox beds
- Lack of a safe place for homeless/others to go during the day
- Lack of toilets



Larger community issues— knowledge, communication

- People don't know the best way to help the homeless, even when they want to
- Growing social divide, lack of compassion
- Fear, stigmatization of homeless
- City and service providers not communicating
- Community not working together—efforts disconnected
- Band-aids, not addressing root causes



Underlying Causes: Most Frequently Mentioned

- Population challenges: mental health, addiction, no family connections, etc.
- Lack of affordable housing and shelter
- Lack of services: mental health, addiction, training, crisis intervention
- Lack of public understanding
- Lack of pro-active coordination, communication between City and providers
- Too few police resources, jail issues

Population challenges

- Mental health, addiction, disabilities
- Trauma, lack of family support systems,
- Lack of education, job retraining
- Lack of jobs, related poverty cycle
- Low paying jobs
- Homeless don't know how to get the help they need
- Some homeless don't trust services/shelters
- Some are preyed upon



Lack of affordable housing and shelter

- Lack of long term affordable housing
- Lack of sufficient short term / crisis housing
- Not all homeless can be served by the same housing solutions
- Not enough detox beds, triage capacity
- Lack of a place for people to go in the day

Lack of services

- Need more mental health and addiction treatment services
- Lack of jail transition services
- Lack of access to primary health care, and/or health insurance
- Some services are not helping people move on to end homelessness. Some may be causing more problems (phones, bikes)
- Not enough unrestricted services
- Education system not meeting needs



Lack of public understanding

- People don't understand the issues of those in poverty
- There's no comprehensive strategy to help
- People don't always know how to help in constructive ways
- Other priorities for scarce funding
- Lack of compassion, "NIMBY" views



Lack of pro-active coordination, communication between City and providers, others

- No one is in charge
- Services not coordinated
- Services duplicated
- City doesn't talk to service providers
- Are we providing the right services?
- How can we help?



Too few police resources; jail issues

- Need more bike cops, more foot patrols
- Need park rangers
- Police should be more proactive
- Police not sufficiently staffed
- People not getting tough sentences
- “Frequent cyclers” through jail-no good solutions;
- Can’t book some in jail



In sum...

- Lots of commonality in terms of identified concerns and underlying causes
- Different perspectives
- Several concerns are also underlying causes
- Knowledge gaps, coordination gaps
- Resource challenges
- Lots of ideas about ways to improve the situation