

Monroe Homeless Policy Advisory Committee

Summary of Homework April 6, 2019

1. Some of the things I am concerned about relating to homelessness in the City include:

Public and Personal Safety

What is being done to ensure the heart [downtown] is being saved? What efforts are being taken to ensure the safety of the business areas, schools, and neighborhoods?

The outward aggression from the homeless and the community's aggressiveness from the community toward the homeless [X2)

Overwhelming trash and garbage

Causes and Resources

- The divide within the community as to who/what are the causes, who is responsible, and what can be done seems wider than ever.
- Do we know what the needs are of the homeless?
- What efforts in the City are being provided and are successful in making a difference?
- How can we gain cooperation and participation from those homeless individuals who refuse help? There is sense that some of the homeless are more brazened and aggressive to others and generally disregard laws and city policy.
- A strong sense of hopelessness and indifference among some.
- No repository for low-barrier resources.
- Lack of Monroe centered social service agencies that include mental health and treatment options.
- Insufficient funding for social services.

2. I think some of the underlying causes of these issues include:

A. Underlying Causes

- How effective are the services being provided in the form of small contributes like food and sleeping bags, and are those efforts taking away from the more substantive programs specific to rehab, mental health, and food service facilities? [mental health and addiction X3]
- More information about the underlying contributors/root causes of homelessness that are not obvious?
- What role does the lack of family support play in homelessness issues?
- Systematic [institutional] racism
- Stigma
- There does not appear to be any consequences to the homeless that don't comply with the law – nor are there any consequences for these individuals.
- Community's lack of understanding about the generational differences versus addicts.
- Family homelessness: lack of affordable housing and low wages [working poor]
- Individual homelessness: lack of affordable housing, inadequate housing, mental health, substance abuse treatment resources, and in general social services agencies
- Lack of shelter beds available for males [programs for women and children do exist]

B. Resources

- What transitional/affordable housing is available in the City?
- What opportunities are there for the homeless to have access to basic personal hygiene resources and services?
- What treatment and rehab facilities exist in the City?
- How is or can social media be used?

3. I would like to learn more about the causes of homelessness, how services to the homeless are being delivered, how other communities have successfully helped people with long-term housing and being more self-sufficient.

- What do those that have recovered from addiction feel may be some solutions to the homeless issues?
- What legal constraints or decisions specific to homelessness issues may pose potential risk of litigation and how may it be avoided?
- What prevention or informational campaigns have been effective in curbing homelessness and educating the community about our shared responsibility in supporting our homeless?
- It will be important for everyone to make a concentrated effort to say on focus/task about “what can be achieved” by the committee – are to prepare a set of recommendations that are feasible?
- What services are available within the City of Monroe?
- What “successes” are other cities having in addressing the homeless issue?
- More information about Camp Hope in Yakima.
- How can we recognize vulnerable individuals before they become homeless?
- How can we work together [across many disciplines] better?
- Engage more conglomerate stakeholders/agencies to amalgamate community efforts.
- Learn more about evidence-based solutions to homelessness and whether those solutions are applicable to Monroe
- Affordable housing local and county-wide
- Landlord Engagement Projects
 - Rapid rehousing
 - Permanent Supported Housing
- Chronic-Utilizer Alternative Response Team (CHART)