



Community Human Services Advisory Board

Regular Business Meeting
Thursday, April 1, 2021, 6:00 PM
Zoom Online Meeting Platform

Chair
James Harrigan
Voting Members
Tony, Balk (Chair Pro-Tem);
Amber Mehta;
Bryan Lipsky; Jim Bloss;
Sarah Lundstrum, Jose Luis Nino
de Guzman;
Lynsey Gagnon; Bridget Tuttle,
Aisha Sial; James Harrigan; &
Roger Evans
Members
Amy Plumb & Todd Strickler

Page

1. CALL TO ORDER

Virtual Participation Information:

The Community Human Services Advisory Board meeting will be held virtually via the Zoom Meeting Platform. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and [Proclamation 20-28.14](#) issued by Governor Jay Inslee, in-person attendance is not permitted at this time.

Join Zoom Meeting:

- Click link: [Click Here](#)
- Dial in: (253) 215-8782
- Meeting ID: 811 5110 2695
- Passcode: 068189

2. ROLL CALL

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

(This time is set aside for members of the public to speak to the Community Human Services Advisory Board on any issue related to Human Services. Three minutes will be allowed per speaker.)

4. CONSENT AGENDA

- 4.1. Minutes from March 18, 2021 3 - 7
[CHSAB 03.18.2021 Meeting Minutes](#)

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

- 5.1. Presentation and discussion with Sargent Paul Ryan from the Monroe Police Department Community Outreach Team. Paul Ryan 8 - 10
[Agenda Bill - Presentation and discussion with Sargent Paul Ryan from the](#)

[Monroe Police Department Community Outreach Team. - Pdf](#)

- 5.2. Presentation and Discussion with Judge Jessica Ness of the Monroe Municipal Court. Rachel Adams 11 - 12
[Agenda Bill - Presentation and Discussion with Judge Jessica Ness of the Monroe Municipal Court. - Pdf](#)
- 5.3. CHSAB Review of the HPAC Recommendations in the Public Safety Category. Rachel Adams 13 - 16
[Agenda Bill - CHSAB Review of the HPAC Recommendations in the Public Safety Category. - Pdf](#)

6. STAFF/DEPARTMENT REPORTS

7. BOARDMEMBER REPORTS

8. ADJOURNMENT

Majority vote to extend past 8:00 p.m.

Next Meeting April 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BORAD

March 18, 2021



CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The March 18, 2021 Community Human Services Advisory Board (CHSAB) meeting was called to order at 6:00PM by Chair Harrigan. Ms. Rachel Adams facilitated roll call.

Attendees:

Board Members

Tony Balk

Jim Bloss

Roger Evans

Lynsey Gagnon

James Harrigan

Members

Amy Plumb

Bryan Lipsy

Sarah Lunstrum(*arrived at 6:10pm*)

Amber Mehta

Bridgette Tuttle

Aisha Sial(*arrived at 6:15pm*)

Todd Strickler

City of Monroe

Rachel Adams

Deborah Knight

Council Member Heather Rousey

Absent:

Jose Luis Nino De Guzman

Community Members:

Jim Dean

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board Member Bloss made the motion to approve the 03.04.2021 CHSAB Meeting Minutes. Chair Protem Balk seconded. Motion carried: 8-0

DISCUSSION

Presentation and Discussion with Mr. Jim Dean of Interfaith Family Shelter on their Cars to Housing program. (Rachel Adams)

Mr. Jim Dean shared some of the background of Interfaith Family Shelter and the Cars to Housing program. Interfaith focuses their programs on taking care of families.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BORAD

March 18, 2021



The Cars to Housing program involves City requirements and partnership between the Interfaith agency and a Church. There are health safety requirements to operating a safe parking program and code regulations on the parking lot following setbacks. Additionally, the City of Everett required fencing and visual screening.

Clients of the Cars to Housing program have access to sanitary accommodations such as a porta potty and hand washing station on site. Clients also have access to services and follow a case management plan. The objective is to put people into a stable spot and give them access services. There is also a screening process and the Cars to Housing model follows the housing first approach. The program does screen out sex offenders. All clients are also entered into the County HMIS data base.

The program length of stay for emergency shelter is for 90 days. But the length of stay can be extended if someone is not "knocking on the door". The Cars to Housing program has about a 60% success rate.

There is not onsite management but there is a clear emergency response process. Clients know who to call with problems and a sign with emergency contact information is posted on site.

The onsite porta potty cost is about \$200 a month. The second Cars to Housing site is funded by City of Everett.

Currently Cars to Housing is 1.5 years into the program. What they have found is that having safe parking has reduced crime and camping on property.

Mr. Dean concluded his presentation by saying that "Homelessness is a temporary setback not a lifestyle". From their program 80% of the clients from shelter go into housing and 94% remain successfully housed.

Board Member Bloss asked about the people who do not qualify for housing? Mr. Dean replied that the 40% who do not make it they do not give up on. Just because they did not make it when they left the program does not mean they will not make it if they come back. Mr. Dean also said that of that 40%, 20% just disappear, and the other 20% have untreated substance use disorder or mental health situation that can inhibit their ability to follow the program.

Board Member Lunstrum asked about "nimbyism" and how Interfaith went about doing the communications work for this program. Mr. Dean shared that the main strategy was to get out and walk from door to door when they were still in the early planning stages. Interfaith also invited the community to a small meeting to share about the plans. Some people who attended left skeptical, but Mr. Dean shared that they circled back 6 months later, and those same people expressed that none of their concerns were realized. Mr. Dean stressed the importance of having a deliberative communication

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BORAD

March 18, 2021



process. So far there have been no complaints from the neighborhood at all. The people sleeping in their cars are already there and this program just gives them a safe place to go and get connected with services.

Board Member Balk expressed that he was very impressed with the deliberation and the respect for the community. Mr. Dean added that it's very important that "you gotta do what you said you were gonna do". Board Member Balk asked if they formed a committee to facilitate ongoing communications? Mr. Dean responded that they did not but that it's not a bad idea. Mr. Dean said that they do meet with the church group regularly. Board Member Balk also remarked at how interfaith was intentional about keeping the size of the community groups small. Mr. Dean replied that they made the commitment to have as many meetings as needed but the maximum people per meeting was 12.

Board Member Gagnon said she loves how intentional they were with the process. She asked if some of the "ok let's try it" response from the community was because it was for families with kids. Mr. Dean replied that that was definitely the case. Mr. Dean said that they also kept the piolet program small. Board Member Gagnon asked about the relationship with the local McKinney Vento program. Mr. Dean replied that they were partnered at the hip. They even made sure that the bus picks up kids in a special location to keep the safe parking program discrete.

Chair Harrigan asked if the program was year-round. Mr. Dean responded that it was except for a couple of nights one year when it got so cold, they used motel vouchers. His advice to clients in this beginning phase of the program was to get a 25° or bellow sleeping bag. Chair Harrigan asked about the temporary encampment code. Mr. Dean replied that it is not an encampment. That the key is also to be a part of church mission. Chair Harrigan asked Mr. Dean if he thought it is it reasonable to expect more people in cars due to pandemic hardships. Mr. Dean shared that currently the extension of Eviction Moratorium was now till June but that could certainly be the case.

Board Member Tuttle remarked that it was important for us to remember that "we" are part of the City and that we are the people chosen to help craft and advise. Ms. Tuttle asked again about people just sleeping in cars. Mr. Dean replied that it is very much a partnership of working together with the City who supports what Interfaith is doing.

Presentation by Mr. Roger Evans on his local sheltering efforts. (Rachel Adams)

Board Member Evans shared that New Hope Fellowship is interested in doing a safe parking site. Mr. Evans also shared his vision of a facilitating a 90-day low barrier shelter that transitions to a group home model. Mr. Evans proposes that clients in the group home model could pay 30% of income towards rent and shared expenses. He is also reaching out to gain support of the local churches and community of

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

March 18, 2021



faith. Mr. Evans has also committed to move into the group home as onsite management and program support.

Mr. Evans hopes to keep the program small. Mr. Evans is forming a nonprofit and is also looking for support for the board. His vision includes six churches that would be willing to host as part of a shelter rotation. This part of the program would also include case management and wrap around services.

For the group home model part of the program Mr. Evans has been networking with a landlord who is willing to partner with him in his vision.

Board Member Bloss asked if Mr. Evans was planning to do anything with formerly incarcerated. Mr. Evans responded that he knows there is a member of Cascade Community Church who works with this ministry. Mr. Evans also responded that his idea is to help anyone. That the person would just need to fill out an application. Board Member Bloss shared evidence that it makes a big difference for people coming out of prison in the first 30/60 days to have safe and secure housing. Mr. Evans said that he would be willing to work with them and have them fill out an application for the program.

Board Member Mehta asked about the requirements for board members. Mr. Evans replied that he was considering once a month meeting and being part of the application approval process.

Member Plumb shared that in regard to formerly incarcerated folks there are agencies that can assist if Mr. Evans would like to be connected with them. Mr. Evans responded that he was interested in partnerships and networking.

Chair Harrigan remarked that he thought it was great that Mr. Evans recognized his strengths. Mr. Evans replied that he felt strongly about reaching the ones who don't want to be homeless.

Board Member Tuttle asked if besides Cascade Community Church and New Hope Fellowship Mr. Evans had any other Churches supporting this effort. Mr. Evans responded that Peace Lutheran was interested in supporting and that Pastor Hanford had reached out to him and was reaching out to the other church leaders.

DISCUSSION BY BOARDMEMBERS AND STAFF

Board Member Gagnon gave a report on the Cold Weather Shelter coming to a close and gave the season's stats and thank yous. Ms. Gagnon also shared about a Public Hearing she gave testimony for in the Legislative sessions in Olympia on HB1237 defining family support centers. This bill would start to establish legislative funding. Efforts are also underway to begin forming a network to certify agencies for operational funding.

Mr. Evans also shared that this season at the Cold Weather Shelter they were able to coordinate a

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY BORAD

March 18, 2021



person getting into a treatment center, two people getting jobs, and a lady being referred to shelter at the Women's Gospel Mission.

Board Member Tuttle brought up a concern about board member absences and people that ask about the how to serve on the board. Ms. Adams responded that Board Member Nino de Guzman has been in contact with City Staff and that he has some reasons why he has missed meetings that Ms. Adams would not feel comfortable sharing on his behalf. She asked for grace on behalf of Board Member Nino de Guzman. Board Member Balk asked about rules governing this topic. Ms. Knight replied that there were not any rules and that as Ms. Adams had shared Board Member Nino de Guzman has been in touch and has had extenuating circumstances. Board Member Balk suggested that the City adopt a guideline for cases like this. Board Member Mehta echoed what Board Member Balk had said. Chair Harrigan responded with advice that "if we make a rule, we have to live by it."

Ms. Adams shared about sitting in on the Everett City Council meeting on Pallet Shelters and the No Sit Lie Ordinance. Ms. Adams also mentioned that RFP had been released and would be closing on the 29th.

Board Member Tuttle asked about Monroe's No Sit No Lie Ordinance and expressed that she would like to know more about it. Ms. Tuttle requested it be added to an upcoming agenda.

Ms. Knight asked about the upcoming Planning Commission meeting. Board Member Tuttle shared that she had recently nominated a new Chair for that group. Ms. Knight shared that this would be a good opportunity to get information out to this group about the temporary encampment code and the housing assessment. Board Member Tuttle replied that it was always great to have public input at Planning Commission meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:30pm Board Member Bloss made the motion to adjourn. Chair Pro-tem Balk seconded. Motion carried: 10-0.



AGENDA BILL

Meeting Date: April 01, 2021

Staff Contact: Paul Ryan, Police Sergeant

Department: Executive

SUBJECT: Presentation and discussion with Sargent Paul Ryan from the Monroe Police Department Community Outreach Team.

REQUESTED ACTION:

None. Discussion.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

The CHSAB is beginning the review of the HPAC public safety recommendations. This is an opportunity for the board to be updated on current efforts within the Monroe Police Department, and to learn about the work of the Community Outreach Team.

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

The Monroe Community Outreach Team, established in 2012 in partnership with Snohomish County, makes a consistent contact with people who experience chronic homelessness. The team includes a police officer and an embedded social worker who provides connections to resources, medical assistance, substance abuse treatment, housing and transportation services.

Social Worker Delgado works two days a week, 10-hr shifts each, on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Wednesdays are a Municipal Court Day in Monroe. This allows Social Worker Delgado time to connect with the City Prosecutor, Defense Counsel, and the Defense Counsel Social Worker.

Social Worker Delgado also connects the Monroe Community Outreach Team with the Diversion Center. This is helpful in many contexts. First, it serves as a primary jumping off point for treatment. When a Client agrees to treatment, or otherwise has some sort of sustainable plan for life improvement in place, it is the primary bed space. It is considered transitional, temporary shelter. The Diversion Center is operated by Pioneer Human Services, who provides transportation to medical appointments, shopping, etc. It has rarely reached capacity in the few years it has been open so it is almost always an available resource to the Community Outreach Team. It has also been used as a temporary shelter for individuals who successfully graduate treatment, but clean and sober housing was not available. Additionally due to it's proximity to the Jail, it has been used for Jail releases, to provide structured integration into the community.

Also at previous meetings, CHSAB members requested to hear more about the Stay Out of Drug Area (SODA) and the No Sit No Lie ordinances. This meeting is the opportunity to hear about and discuss these ordinances.

Sargent Paul Ryan will be provide an update on the Stay Out of Drug Area (SODA) ordinance and be available to answer questions. Ordinance No. 005/2018, was adopted by the City of Monroe in 2018. It also established a new Chapter 9.25 of the Monroe Municipal Code (MMC). Chapter 9.25 MMC contains standards and procedures for designating certain areas within the City as SODA areas. Monroe's SODA begins at the intersection of Main Street and North Madison Street and extends north through Highway 2, excluding residential neighborhoods. It accounts for less than .05 percent of the City. This ordinance gives the Monroe Municipal Court judge an option to ban offenders from going back to the SODA as a condition of the defendant's release or sentence. A person who knowingly and willfully disobeys a SODA order issued under this chapter is guilty of a gross misdemeanor. SODA orders may be issued to anyone charged with or convicted of possession of drug paraphernalia, manufacture/delivery of drug paraphernalia, delivery of drug paraphernalia to a minor, selling/giving drug paraphernalia to another person, possession of controlled substances, or any violation of the Controlled Substances Act, Chapter [69.70](#) RCW. RCW 35A.11.020 gives authority to the City Council to adopt and enforce ordinances regulating municipal affairs and to impose fines and penalties for violation of City ordinances.

Sargent Paul Ryan will also share with the CHSAB about the City's "No Sit No Lie" Ordinance No. 004/2018. This ordinance amends Title 12 of the MMC by the addition of Chapter 12.35. Sitting or lying down on public sidewalks; promoting pedestrian safety by prohibiting persons from sitting or lying down upon public sidewalks within the City's Downtown Commercial zoning district; establishing exceptions, enforcement procedures, and penalties therefore; providing for severability; and fixing a time. The proposed ordinance addresses the goal of making the City of Monroe a safer place. The City has an interest in encouraging and preserving a vital, pedestrian-friendly downtown district. The ordinance would allow enforcement of individuals that are sitting or lying down on public sidewalks between the hours of 6 am and 2am in the Commercial District. Any person violating the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor.

The prohibitions set forth in MMC [12.35.010](#) do not apply to any person:

- A. Sitting or lying down due to a medical emergency or due to a sensory, mental, or physical disability;
- B. Who, as the result of a sensory, mental, or physical disability, utilizes a wheelchair, walker, or similar device to move about the public sidewalk;
- C. Operating or patronizing a business with permission to occupy the sidewalk;
- D. Participating in or attending a parade, festival, performance, rally, demonstration, meeting, or similar event conducted on the public sidewalk pursuant to a special event or other applicable permit, license or approval;
- E. Sitting on a chair or bench supplied by a public agency or by the abutting private property owner pursuant to the appropriate permit, license or approval;

- F. Sitting within a bus stop zone while waiting for public or private transportation;
- G. Sitting on a privately owned sidewalk fixture with the permission of the owner; or
- H. Engaging in constitutionally protected expressive activities which would otherwise be restricted by the limitations in MMC [12.35.010](#). (Ord. 004/2018 § 2)

Prior to citing a person under this chapter, the city enforcement officer shall first inquire as to the homeless status of the person. If the person responds that he/she is homeless, the officer shall not cite the person under this chapter unless:

- (1) the officer has verified the availability of shelter space no further than fifteen miles from the Monroe city limits;
- (2) the officer has notified the person of such availability and has offered to transport the person to the shelter; and
- (3) the person continues to engage in conduct prohibited by this chapter notwithstanding such notification and offer. (Ord. 004/2018 § 2)

FISCAL IMPACTS:

None

TIME CONSTRAINTS:

None

ALTERNATIVES TO REQUESTED ACTION:

NA



AGENDA BILL

Meeting Date: April 01, 2021

Staff Contact: Rachel Adams, Project Management Consultant

Department: Executive

SUBJECT: Presentation and Discussion with Judge Jessica Ness of the Monroe Municipal Court.

REQUESTED ACTION:

Discussion Only.

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

The CHSAB is beginning the review of the HPAC public safety recommendations. This is an opportunity for the board to be updated on current efforts within the Monroe Municipal Court.

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

Judge Jessica Ness is speaking with the CHSAB about the Monroe Municipal Court System, its application to public safety, and assisting with community court type functions of routing people into assessments and treatment options.

On October 2, 2019, Judge Mara Rozzano provided noticed to the City she was ending her contract effective December 1, 2019. In the same month, the City put out a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) for Municipal Court Judge with a deadline for responses by November 15, 2019. The City received three qualified submittals for the RFQ. Ms. Jessica Ness was selected by the Mayor to fulfill the remaining unexpired term, ending December 31, 2021. On January 21, 2020 the Monroe City Council confirmed the Mayor's appointment of Jessica Ness as Monroe Municipal Court Judge.

Judge Ness is a highly experienced Judge Pro Tem whose primary occupation has been serving in the District and Municipal Courts. Since 2012, she has handled all judicial responsibilities in these courts and has developed a strong reputation for effective, fair, and efficient handling of trial courts. Her services as a judicial officer are in high demand due to the calm, considerate, professional manner in which she interacts with the elected judges, court staff, administration, attorneys, and public court users.

Judge Ness was appointed by the Mountlake Terrace City Manager and confirmed by the city council as a Hearing Examiner in 2015. In that capacity, she rendered quasi-judicial decisions in civil matters.

She also served as a Police Chief's Designated Appointee for the City of Mukilteo presiding over forfeiture matters.

As a former Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office, Jessica managed all aspects of case preparation and trial. She recruited, trained, and supervised new attorneys and interns in her role as the Infractions Supervisor. Part of her responsibilities also entailed the management of a legal team of expert witnesses, lay witnesses, and paralegals in the Involuntary Commitment program. This position provided her with valuable insight into the relationship between mental health treatment, the justice system, and community safety.

Judge Ness gained valuable experience on the other side of the courtroom by serving as a criminal defense attorney for nearly five years, counseling clients on their legal rights and representing them in all phases of their criminal cases.

Dedicated to investing in youth, Judge Ness has volunteered as a coach for Archbishop Murphy's Mock Trial team, advocated as a Volunteer Guardian Ad Litem (VGAL) for abused and neglected children, and engaged 5th graders at the ABA Law Day celebration.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

None.

TIME CONSTRAINTS:

None.

ALTERNATIVES TO REQUESTED ACTION:

None.



AGENDA BILL

Meeting Date: April 01, 2021

Staff Contact: Rachel Adams, Project Management Consultant

Department: Executive

SUBJECT: CHSAB Review of the HPAC Recommendations in the Public Safety Category.

REQUESTED ACTION:

Discussion Only

POLICY CONSIDERATIONS:

The next category of the HPAC recommendations for the CHSAB to review according to the 2021 work plan and schedule is public safety. The CHSAB will review the recommendations, implementation strategies, and hear from subject matter experts. Members of the CHSAB will have the opportunity to discuss and make recommendations to City Council and the Technical Advisory Committee following the completion of the Community Asset Mapping and Facilitated Program Development report and findings.

DESCRIPTION/BACKGROUND:

The Homelessness Policy Advisory Committee (HPAC) had its first meeting in April of 2019 and continued to meet two times per month. The committee attended presentations, webinars, field trips to service organizations, and assigned take-home reading. From these informative and educational experiences, the committee began to hone in its focus in these areas: Housing, Partners, Prevention, Support Services, Public Safety, Policy, and Budget.

In each of these categories, the committee drafted recommendations to best express a balance of compassion, accountability, and a desire to help people experiencing homelessness. The committee has also always kept in mind that homelessness is a very complex issue that exists on a very broad spectrum. There is no one size fits all solution.

The Mayor and Council adopted the HPAC recommendations by the signing of Resolution 002/2020 on February 25, 2020. The recommendations were organized into six categories.

The Public Safety Category included recommendations:

- **Implement law enforcement strategies** and regulations that increase personal accountability and adhere to civil and personal rights
- **Gather and analyze accurate data** about crime in Monroe
- **Initiate a residential and business** crime prevention program

- **Continue to budget** for the Embedded Social Worker/Community Outreach
- **Use technology to increase public safety and protect infrastructure**
- **Implement Community Court** so treatment for addiction and mental health can be offered as an alternative to jail

The following progress has been made towards implementing. City Staff has researched the availability of affordable housing and options for providing shelter.

- **Implement law enforcement strategies** and regulations that increase personal accountability and adhere to civil and personal rights
 - SODA Ordinance 2018
 - Sit Lie Ordinance 2018
 - Misdemeanor Possession – Going to Council Committee on April 6th
 - Embedded social workers & Treatment Options
- **Gather and analyze accurate data** about crime in Monroe
 - Daily, Monthly, and Annual Police reports
 - Working with partners to develop shared ROI
- **Initiate a residential and business** crime prevention program
 - Ex: Flyer (Attachment 1)
 - Funding for program 2020/2021 – on hold due to pandemic
- **Continue to budget** for the Embedded Social Worker/Community Outreach
 - Support Parole Officer for Municipal Court – Hand off between social workers
- **Use technology to increase public safety and protect infrastructure.**
 - Grant for cameras in the parks – graffiti & vandalism
 - City’s drone program
 - Low tech solutions – increase lighting
- **Implement Community Court** so treatment for addiction and mental health can be offered as an alternative to jail

FISCAL IMPACTS:

None

TIME CONSTRAINTS:

None

ALTERNATIVES TO REQUESTED ACTION:

None

ATTACHMENTS:

[2021_0203_CityOfMonroe_HumanServicesBusinessFlyer_FINAL](#)



Monroe Community Support Services

Businesses are an essential part of our community.

Thank you for choosing Monroe! Times are over-the-top tough right now and we appreciate everything you do, whether that's providing jobs, donating to people in need, or keeping the lights on to serve your neighbors. You're there for us; we need to be there for you.

At the City, we strive to help people who are struggling, including those who are unhoused or living with addiction or mental health challenges. We know running a business is hard – particularly in a pandemic – and it can be upsetting when people shelter or ask for money near your business and you don't know what to do.

We believe every person in Monroe deserves to feel safe and supported, so here are some steps you can take.



Sky Valley Food Bank volunteers keep our community nourished.



What Do I Do If...

Q: *I am struggling to pay my rent, mortgage, or utility bills and/or need help finding food, shelter, or other services?*

A: Call 211 or visit: monroewa.gov/997 for available resources.

Q: *I want to help someone who is unhoused or learn more about ending homelessness?*

A: Share the resources listed above and/or visit: monroewa.gov/998 for ways to help and learn more.

Q: *I see people camped on public or private land?*

A: Call the non-emergency dispatch line: **425-407-3999**. They will alert our Community Outreach Team who will connect campers to resources, shelter, and services.

Q: *I feel unsafe because someone is behaving erratically or aggressively panhandling?*

A: Call 911 if someone is blocking your path or indicating they may hurt themselves or someone else. We will do everything we can to address the situation and help the person you called about.

Do remember, however, that experiencing homelessness is not a crime and people cannot be arrested for panhandling. It is considered free speech and is protected as a constitutional right.

Q: *Someone is trespassing at my business or home?*

A: Call 911 if someone is on your property uninvited and refuses to leave. We also encourage you to provide bright lighting outside and to lock dumpsters, sheds, and vehicles.

Homelessness Response

Monroe is a community where people help each other, and together we can ensure we are all housed and have the resources we need to thrive. At the City, we are working with service providers, community members, and within the justice system to help people in need.

Complex Roots

An important step in ending homelessness is understanding that the causes are varied and complex. Some people lose their home because housing and living costs are rising faster than wages. Some fled domestic violence. Some got sick or hurt and could not work. Some struggle with addiction or their mental health. Some lost their job at time when they were living paycheck to paycheck. Many are affected by systemic economic or racial disparities. Many are still working. Some are visibly experiencing homelessness. Many are not.

All are part of Monroe.



Sky Valley Food Bank and Take the Next Step volunteers hard at work.



Current Efforts

The City's efforts aim to address the root causes of homelessness and meet the immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness.

- **Community Outreach Team:** Meets consistently with those experiencing chronic homelessness and connects them to resources, medical assistance, substance abuse treatment, and housing.
- **Community Relief Grants:** Provided to nonprofits serving Monroe's most vulnerable residents.
- **Central Coordination:** A dedicated consultant helps to ensure all local service providers – from food banks, to schools, to shelters, to rental assistance programs – are aligned in their efforts.
- **Community Human Services Advisory Board:** Represents a broad spectrum of lived experiences and advises the Mayor and City Council on solutions that support marginalized communities, unsheltered people, and those experiencing poverty or being adversely affected by crisis.
- **Social Worker within the Judicial Process:** Provides guidance for people who were arrested and offers alternatives to incarceration, such as addiction treatment or services that support long-term recovery.

You can learn more about the City's efforts and how to help here:
www.monroewa.gov/655/Human-Services