
Home Again

*A 10-year plan to end homelessness in
Portland and Multnomah County*

Vancouver, B.C., November 14, 2007

Basic Demographics (2005)

- ◆ 513,627 in Portland
- ◆ 2,063,277 in Metro Area
- ◆ Median household income - \$42,287
- ◆ Percent below poverty level – 17.8 (compared to 13.3 nationally).
- ◆ Fair Market Rent for 1 BR - \$638/month
- ◆ Vacancy Rate – 7%



Homeless Demographics

Annual

Approximately 19,200 served in FY 05-06:

- ♦ **10,936** adults without children (3.6% reduction from prior year)
- ♦ **7,865** persons in families (5.4% increase from prior year)
- ♦ **384** homeless youth (12% reduction from prior year)

Point in time

- ♦ **1,438** unduplicated “street count”
- ♦ **2,840** unduplicated in “shelter count” – 48.5% individuals in families with children



Background

- ◆ Renewed interest in addressing homelessness on a national level
- ◆ Effort to develop plans to end homelessness began in 2000
- ◆ Efforts to end chronic homelessness spurred by new research (Culhane, et al) released in 2002
- ◆ Locally supported by Corporation for Supportive Housing systems change grant



Portland's Process

- ◆ Citizens Commission established by Mayor with County Chair endorsement
- ◆ Community Based Planning in Coordinating Committee
- ◆ Involved over **250** people from more than **90** agencies & organizations via **8** workgroups and other community forums



Three Principles

- ◆ Focus on the most chronically homeless populations;
- ◆ Streamline access to existing services to prevent and reduce other homelessness;
- ◆ Concentrate resources on programs that offer measurable results.



Nine Action Steps

- ◆ Move people into housing first
- ◆ Stop discharging people into homelessness
- ◆ Improve outreach to homeless people
- ◆ Emphasize permanent solutions
- ◆ Increase supply of permanent supportive housing



Nine Action Steps, cont.

- ◆ Create innovative new partnerships to end homelessness
- ◆ Make rent assistance system more effective
- ◆ Increase economic opportunity for homeless people
- ◆ Implement new data collection technology



After 2 ½ Years of Implementation...

Highlights of Outcomes



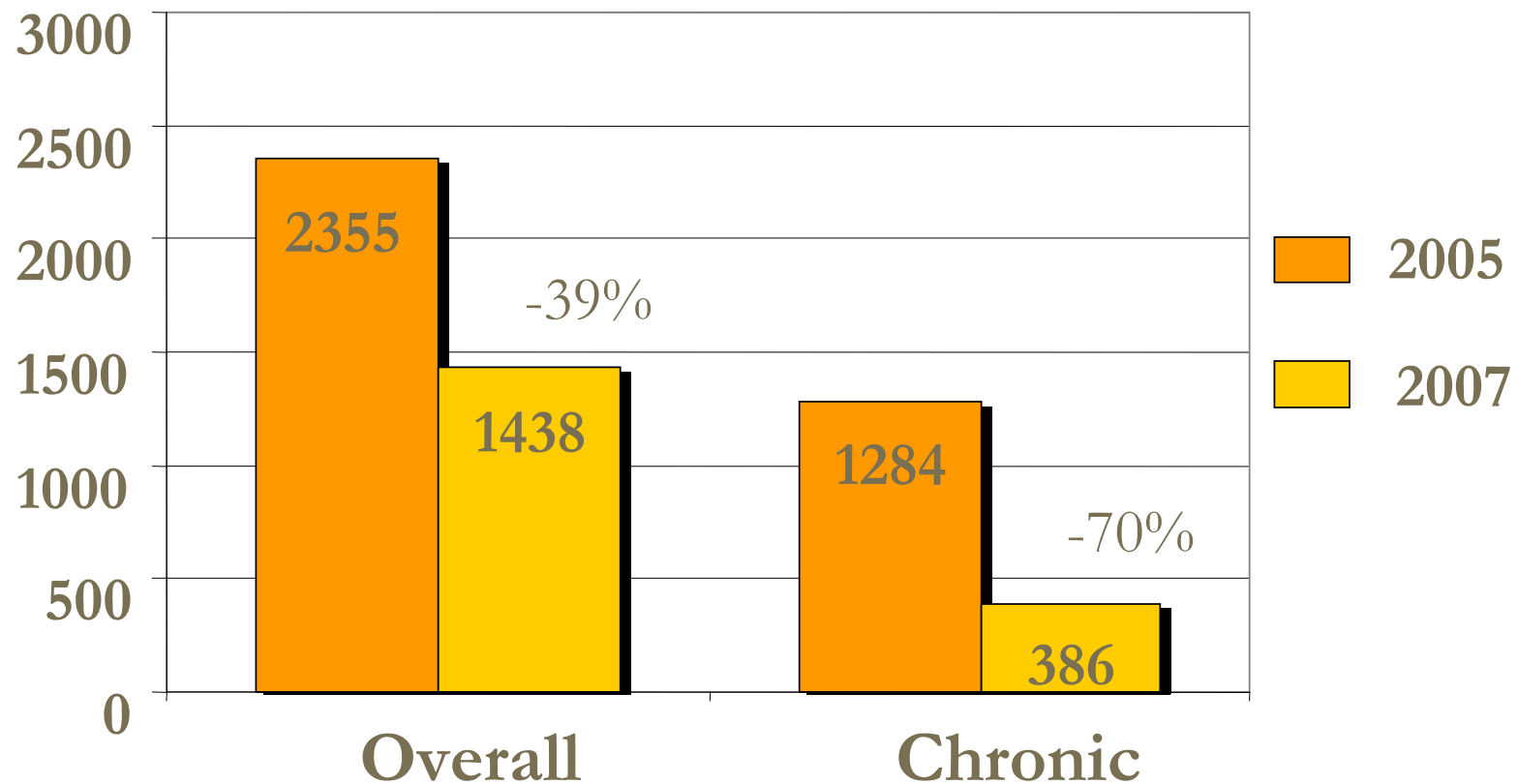
Goals and Outcomes

Outcome	2 ½ Year Goal	Cum.	% achieved
Chronically homeless who have homes	760	1,260	166%
Families housed	625	1,028	165%
Permanent supportive housing opened	260	480	185%
(Added to pipeline)	480	439	92%

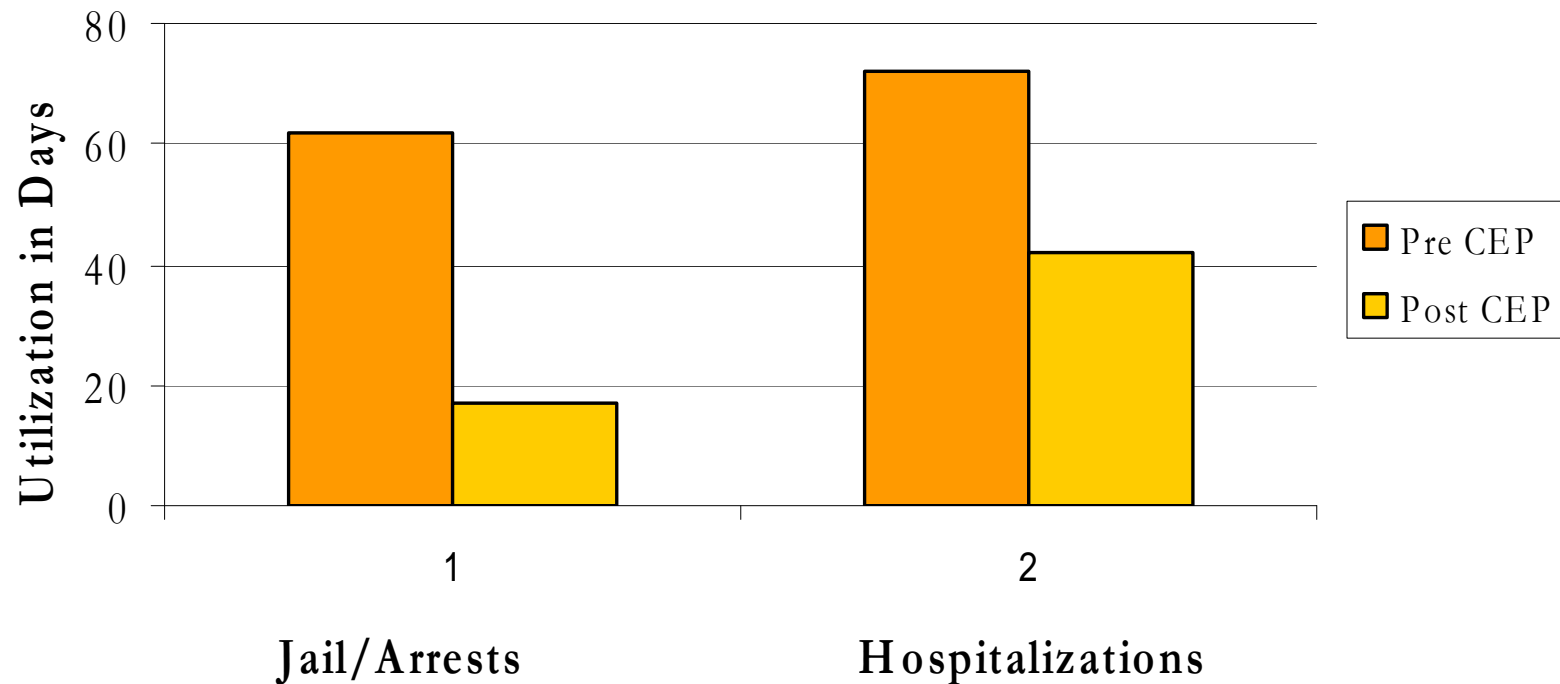


Street Count Outcomes

January 23, 2007



Reduced Use of Emergency Systems (Community Engagement Program)



Strategies that work – How to end homelessness

- ◆ Short and Longer Term Rent Assistance
- ◆ Permanent Supportive Housing
- ◆ Targeted Programs
- ◆ Systems Change



Short Term Rent Assistance – Transitions to Housing

A flexible and outcome focused rent assistance used as a “tool” to:

- ◆ Prevent families and individuals from experiencing homelessness

AND

- ◆ End the experience homelessness by placing people quickly into permanent housing.



Transitions to Housing Project Features

- ◆ Diverse partnering agencies
- ◆ Flexibility and timeliness of assistance & service package
- ◆ Limited regulations
- ◆ Adapts to fit agency mission & capacity



Transitions to Housing - Findings

- ◆ 1,749 households housed;
- ◆ 73% adult households; 27% families with children
- ◆ 25% had past felony conviction or were on parole or probation at enrollment

- ◆ \$1,250 average expenditure per household

Outcomes

- ◆ 73% housed at 12 months
- ◆ 65% housed at 18 months



Adapting the Model- Longer Term Rent Assistance

“Key Not a Card” rent assistance to help end
chronic/street homelessness



Key Not A Card

- ◆ Focus on moving chronically homeless people from the street and into housing
- ◆ Up to 18 months of rent assistance with average aid of \$8,000 per household
- ◆ Flexibility for providers – within a “Housing First” framework
- ◆ Outcome Focused – 12 month follow-up after end of subsidy



Key Not a Card Outcomes (July – June 2006)

- ◆ 144 people in 119 households (1 project starts with transitional housing)
 - ◆ of these 99 people in 74 households have moved into permanent housing
- ◆ 98.5% remained in permanent housing (as of June, 2006)
- ◆ City Council made some pilot project ongoing in last year's funding cycle



Permanent Supportive Housing

- ◆ Housing designed for people with disabling conditions who are on the streets
- ◆ May also be for families with adults with disabilities
- ◆ Deeply affordable
- ◆ Intensive services attached
- ◆ Can be in one facility or scattered site



Successful Models in U.S.

- ◆ Central City Concern - Portland
- ◆ Direct Access to Housing – San Francisco
- ◆ Common Ground – New York City
- ◆ Safe Havens – Chicago

Corporation for Supportive Housing

www.csh.org



Targeted Programs

- ◆ City of Portland invested \$2 million in targeted rent assistance for chronically homeless people on the streets (KNAC)
- ◆ Police wanted direct access to Jail beds and treatment – program evolved
- ◆ Jails were interested in saving \$'s
- Hospitals took greater interest in the systems issues of homelessness



Systems Change

- ◆ Homeless system cannot end homelessness alone
- ◆ Sustained efforts need systems change
- ◆ Takes years, not months, but...

Pay off can be enormous!



Elements of Systems Change

- ◆ Changes in the following:
 - ◆ Power
 - ◆ Money
 - ◆ Habits
 - ◆ Technology & Skills
 - ◆ Ideas & Values



Conclusion - What makes a 10 Year Plan Successful

- ◆ Seek commitment and creativity at the political, bureaucratic, and provider level
- ◆ Hire dedicated staff to lead the planning and implementation effort
- ◆ Follow a clearly defined goal of ending and preventing various types of homelessness
- ◆ Replicate best practices from other Cities and Jurisdictions



Conclusion - What makes a 10 Year Plan Successful

- ◆ Partner with new allies
- ◆ Engage the most vocal critics
- ◆ Create an environment of shared accountability and mutual support for goals
- ◆ Simplicity and Flexibility allow for change down the road
- ◆ Celebrate successes!



Thank you

Copies of the plan and outcome reports
are available online at:

www.portlandonline.com/bhcd

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