



MEMORANDUM

To: Ron L. Olson, City Manager

From: Susan K. Thorpe, Assistant City Manager

Date: June 10, 2015

Subject: Homeless Solutions Vision and Strategies

A presentation regarding a proposed Homeless Solutions Vision and Strategies was made to the City Council in May 2014. It represented about eight months of work by a team of City staff members. Since that time, we engaged community partners and stakeholders to review the draft, provide input and develop a more inclusive set of strategies for the community.

I would like to recognize a number of individuals who provided their suggestions and vital input into this initiative:

- Floyd Simpson, Mark Schauer, Pat Eldridge and Denise Pace of the Police Department
- Eddie Ortega and Rudy Bentancourt of the Housing & Community Development Department
- The Homeless Issues Partnership board and general membership
- Diane Lowrance and board member Abel Alonzo of the Behavioral Health Center
- Patty Clark and Karlene Lewis of Metro Ministries
- Terry Ray and Jesse Elizondo of Salvation Army
- Linda McKamie and Betty Berry of Catholic Charities
- Judy Telge and Jeff Pollack of the Bay Area Smart Growth Initiative

The vision, strategies and expected outcomes shown below are the result of their hard work.

Homeless Solutions Vision and Strategies

Vision:

Corpus Christi is a community that addresses and prevents homelessness while enhancing the overall community's quality of life. We will achieve this vision working together through public/private partnerships.

Homeless Solutions Strategies:

1. Advocate for the City to:
 - enforce existing ordinances more vigorously and enact additional Quality of Life ordinances as needed to limit or prohibit loitering, panhandling, vagrant behaviors or illegal activity.
 - develop appropriate zoning and other regulations regarding the location of facilities serving the homeless population.

- make changes to City Hall property to enhance business image and public access to City services, while reducing opportunities for loitering, vagrant behaviors or illegal activity.
 - create pathways and incentives to increase the availability of affordable, accessible, integrated permanent housing.
 - concentrate City and federal funding toward achievement of the partnership's vision and strategies.
2. Support acquisition of a location for coordinated provision of support services through homeless service providers. The location of this service hub will be located away from Downtown/Uptown to facilitate integration of social services and promote revitalization of these areas.
 3. Solicit new revenue streams to achieve the partnership's vision and strategies.
 4. Educate the public regarding these strategies to reduce homelessness, showcasing stories of those who have successfully transitioned from homelessness into productive society.
 5. Establish a Sobriety Center/Crisis Stabilization Center (operated by a healthcare organization) as a jail diversion program for individuals typically arrested for public intoxication or mental illness-related minor offenses. Secure support for this jail diversion program from City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Behavioral Health Center, Nueces County Hospital District, the Courts and other parties with a role, responsibility and/or interest in these functions and services.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Social service agencies are cooperating, without competing or duplicating efforts, to provide a full spectrum of services to address the root causes of homelessness, in addition to addressing current needs.
2. Corpus Christi is seen as an attractive community to local residents, businesses and visitors.
3. Corpus Christi is seen as a community that is working to reduce homelessness and address other social challenges in a progressive and equitable manner.
4. Corpus Christi streets are safe, functional and free of loitering and panhandling.
5. Feeding of people occurs in appropriate areas, with safe and sanitary conditions, appropriate receptacles for trash, and access to toilet facilities.
6. Those homeless individuals that want housing or shelter have access to it.
7. Permanent supportive housing is increased to meet the demand of those who identify and work toward that goal.