

Homelessness in Our Communities

What Happened?

What Next?

Presentation by Joe Colletti, PhD
Urban Initiatives

1980s: A Decade of Compassion

- The Response of Emergency Assistance;
- The Limited Results of Emergency Assistance.

1990s: A Decade of Backlash

- Role of Law Enforcement
- HUD Introduces the Continuum of Care

2000 to 2010: A Decade of Challenge

- Homeless Counts
- Managing versus Ending Homelessness
 - Ridicule
 - Resistance
 - Reconciliation

2000 to 2010: A Decade of Challenge

- Cost Studies on Homelessness;
- Adopting and Implementing Best Practices

2000 to 2010: A Decade of Challenge

- Opening Doors: (First) Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness
- The Challenge to End Homelessness Among Subpopulations

2010 to 2020: A Decade of Change and Choice

- The Continuum of Care Reconfigured
 - Continuum of Care Interim Rule
 - Continuum of Care Funding & Congressional Demand for Results

2010 to 2020: A Decade of Change and Choice

- Shift Away from Shelter and Transitional Housing
- Best Practices Institutionalized:
 - Permanent Supportive Housing
 - Housing First and Low Barrier Fidelity

What Next?

Community Choices and
Commitment, Cooperation, & Collaboration

Community Choices and
Coalitions, Committees, Commissions, City
Councils & the Continuum of Care

What Next?

Learning Our ABCs

- Group A
- Group B
- Group C

What Next?

- Group A
- consists of individuals and families who are at risk of becoming homeless

What Next?

- Group A and the City of Visalia
- According to recent U.S. Census data, 21.3% of Visalia's population or 27,918 persons or 9,214 households live in poverty and at risk of becoming homeless.

What Next?

- Group A - 900 or 10% of the 9,000+ households will likely lose their housing
 - Of the 900 households, about 800 will double-up with family or friends and obtain housing once again after they saved enough money and receive non-cash emergency assistance such as food, clothing, low cost health care, etc when necessary.
 - Of the 900 households, 100 will lose their housing unless they receive temporary cash assistance for rent and/or utilities to maintain their housing

What Next?

- Group B
- consists of persons who cannot navigate the current system of homeless services to obtain and maintain permanent housing and are languishing on the streets

What Next?

- Of the 193 persons counted last January as unsheltered in Visalia, 62 or 32% were chronically homeless.
- They will continue to languish on the streets if the best practices are not implemented which include:
 - a. Permanent supportive housing;
 - b. Street outreach and engagement;
 - c. Housing navigation;
 - d. Housing First and low barrier approach;
 - e. Home-based case management.

What Next?

- Group C
- consists of persons who became homeless and are trying to navigate the current system of homeless services to obtain and maintain permanent housing

What Next?

- Group C and the City of Visalia
 - Of the 193 persons who were counted last January as unsheltered, **131** or 68% were not chronically homeless.
 - Those who are unable to navigate the current system of homeless services to obtain permanent housing will become chronically homeless.

What Next?

- Provide targeted cash assistance only to those at risk households who are likely to become homeless;
- Provide non-cash assistance to those households to keep at risk households in their housing and to those households who doubled-up with families and friends;

What Next?

- Implement best and promising practices proven to work to house **chronically homeless persons**:
 - Permanent supportive housing;
 - Street outreach and engagement;
 - Housing navigation;
 - Coordinated Entry System/HMIS;
 - Housing First and low barrier approach;
 - Home-based case management.

What Next?

Community choice:

- Provide a balance of the following programs for non-chronically homeless persons
 - Shelter
 - Rapid Rehousing

What Next?

My own coming to terms with Housing First & people living on the streets

- Required for an increasing number of funding sources
- As a Case Manager
- As a Researcher, Evaluator, and Implementer of Housing First Based Programs
- As a person of faith