

Progress Toward Ending Homelessness: A Report from the Commission on Homelessness

OVERARCHING GOAL: End homelessness in Volusia and Flagler County

Progress toward goal:

- 2016 count of homeless persons in Volusia/Flagler was 1,005. This number has declined from 2,384 in 2012 – a 58% reduction. Veteran homelessness is 0.¹

Sub-Goals

Goal: Address the needs of those individuals experiencing homelessness who were encamped at the Volusia County Service Center in Daytona Beach.

Progress toward goal:

- Encampment humanely resolved by the City of Daytona Beach.
- 86 bed temporary crisis response shelter established.
- Since late January, when the temporary shelter was established, 261 homeless individuals have been sheltered and 207 placed in housing, including:
 - 109 homeless individuals have been provided traveler's aide;
 - 88 homeless individuals have been rapidly rehoused;
 - 9 individuals with disabling conditions have been placed in permanent supported housing.²
- Homelessness related arrests (trespass, panhandling, shoplifting and related misdemeanor offenses) in Daytona's downtown area are trending downward.³
 - In the 90 days prior to the emergency shelter opening there were 129 arrests compared to 58 arrests in 90 days since the shelter opening.

Goal: Re-organize the Continuum of Care committee as the Volusia/Flagler Commission on Homelessness (COH).

Progress toward goal:

- COH created in late February.
- COH expanded membership to private sector community leaders including Sam Willett, Dave Beck, Jim Rose, Janet Hamer, Deborah Hallisky. Willett elected chair.
- COH is developing a comprehensive strategic plan to end homelessness in Volusia/Flagler; plan will be substantially completed by July.

Goal: Develop co-located crisis response shelters/day programs for East and West Volusia.

Progress toward goal:

- COH is leading and coordinating efforts to develop and implement permanent crisis response shelters in East and West Volusia by year end.
- West Volusia communities are meeting and collaborating to develop a crisis response shelter/day program operated by the Neighborhood Center in Deland. The City of DeLand is working with community stakeholders to develop some options that would increase the number of crisis shelter beds as well as an option for a day center, travelers' aide and potential sources of grant funding. The Deland City

Commission will have a workshop on May 23rd to discuss these options as well as get an update from the COH.

- A COH workgroup is developing a matrix of the decision making factors in determining site location and size of a crisis response shelter/day program in East Volusia. Workgroup will complete its work by May 18. Subsequently;
- COH will convene a meeting of governmental, judicial, private, and homeless services leaders, as well as persons experiencing chronic homelessness, to develop a consensus statement regarding East Volusia crisis response shelter/day program site and size prior to July 1.

Goal: County and City governments remain committed to providing capital outlay and operational funding for crisis response shelters/day programs in East and West Volusia.

Progress toward goal:

- Volusia County remains committed to capital outlay funding.
- Daytona Beach, Holly Hill, Orange City, Ormond Beach remain committed to providing operational funding, Deland is studying the issue.
- COH will advocate for operational funding from all cities as well as private sector, state and federal sources.

Next Steps:

- Complete East Volusia site determination matrix.
- Support West Volusia shelter and services development.
- Convene leadership meeting.
- Move forward on East Volusia shelter development based on the results of the leadership meeting.
- Secure commitments for operational funding of East and West Volusia shelters from municipalities, county and private sector sources.
- Continue development and implementation of Hope Place to serve families experiencing homelessness.
- Complete and implement COH strategic plan for ending all forms of homelessness in Volusia/Flagler.
- Branding and marketing of the COH as the vehicle to end homelessness in Volusia/Flagler.

Data Sources

¹Volusia/Flagler Coalition for the Homeless Point in Time Counts 2012-2016; Salvation Army SSVF program.

²Volusia/Flagler Coalition for the Homeless – Homeless Management Information System, additional data obtained from Salvation Army and Halifax Urban Ministries.

³Daytona Beach Police Department.

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