WE AREN’T REALLY ENDING HOMELESSNESS BECAUSE WE’RE FOCUSED ON ALL THE WRONG THINGS

A Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance “Hard Conversation”
Barbara DiPietro, Senior Director of Policy

October 19, 2017
We Can’t End Homelessness by Ending Homelessness
HOMELESSNESS ISN’T THE PROBLEM

Number in Poverty and Poverty Rate: 1959 to 2016

- Number in poverty: 40.6 million
- Poverty rate: 12.7 percent

Note: The data for 2013 and beyond reflect the implementation of the redesigned income questions. The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years. For information on recessions, see Appendix A. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see <www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/techdocs/cpsmar17.pdf>.

WHAT CONSUMES US AS HOMELESS SERVICE PROVIDERS

- Implementing coordinated access
- Defining and documenting homelessness
- Writing grants and getting “pilot” programs
- Addressing encampments & community complaints
- Perfecting screening tools
- Fighting for housing vouchers
- Delivering services
- Collecting data
- Worrying about budget cuts

Goal:
To build an effective homelessness response system that prevents & ends homelessness
Building a Unified Homeless and Housing System in 2014

The Homelessness Task Force (HTF) is a regional coalition of community partners with an interest or concern about those who are served by or who serve in the homelessness system.

In 2014, the Kansas City region will work towards building a more unified system.

The expected outcomes include: community agreement and commitment to common principles, strategies, protocols, metrics and training; coordinated system entry and assessment tools; and a shared data information system.

Management Information System: Web-based “cloud” technology will be necessary to effectively implement and monitor the metrics of a unified system at individual, agency, county and regional levels.

Rapid Re-Housing moves homeless persons into scattered site housing within the community before providing any services. It assists people with mid-range needs and is temporary.

Transitional housing provides programs and services to all levels of need, along with temporary housing in scattered site housing or congregate living. Upon completing programming, participants are assisted into permanent housing.

Permanent Supportive Housing houses high-level severe need persons in scattered site or congregate living before providing services. It is partnered with intensive case management or assertive community treatment.

Housing Options

- **Rapid Re-Housing**
  - Low to mid-level needs

- **Transitional Housing**
  - All levels of need

- **Permanent/Supportive Housing**
  - High complexity of needs

Domestic Violence Victims
Youth Veterans Families CHRONIC HOMELESS

Street Outreach
Schools At-Risk Families Foster Care Faith-Based Organizations Prisons/Jail

Services as determined by the common assessment tool are still available for these at-risk individuals and families, even if they were diverted from the housing system.

A common assessment tool standardizes service prioritization, which allows for the most efficient use of resources and improves consumer access to support. Coordinated access makes the system easier to navigate by leveraging the strengths of individual service providers.

Housing Triage helps the community “yield” to more vulnerable individuals by focusing limited resources on the most appropriate people or families using a standardized assessment tool and set protocols. This tool assesses level of acuity (or vulnerability) and prioritizes the most effective housing option.
WE CAN’T END HOMELESSNESS UNLESS WE ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES
OUR CONVERSATION: IN THREES

Three root causes

Three barriers to addressing root causes

Three things we can do as a community
ROOT CAUSES
HEALTH

➢ Poor health can cause homelessness.

➢ Homelessness makes you sick(er).

➢ Lack of housing makes treatment harder.

➢ Institute of Medicine, Homelessness, Health, and Human Needs, 1988

Source: https://www.nap.edu/catalog/1092/homelessness-health-and-human-needs
HEALTH

• Chronic & acute conditions, behavioral health, infectious disease & wounds are common

• 28 million remain uninsured in the U.S. (9%)
  → 6.5 million <100% FPL
  → Texas is #1 on uninsured: 4.5 million (17%)
  → HCH Patients: 27% v. 69% (expansion v. non-exp states) (TX: 78%)

• Access to quality, comprehensive & affordable care remains a challenge, even with insurance

• High use of public systems (hospitals, jail/prison, EMS, police, courts
MEDICAID MATTERS

- Linking health & homelessness is vital
- Expanding Medicaid would make significant improvements in access to care & health status
- Texas turns down $100 billion over a decade
  - Parkland Hospital: Nearly $800 million/year in uncomp care
  - 50% of Dallas County property taxes pay Parkland for uninsured

50 Reasons Medicaid Expansion is Good for Your State
By: Jane Perkins and Ian McDonald

Filling the need for trusted information on national health issues...

The Effects of Medicaid Expansion under the ACA: Updated Findings from a Literature Review
Larisa Antonisse, Rachel Garfield, Robin Rudowitz, and Samantha Artiga
The Business Case for Ending Homelessness: Having a Home Improves Health, Reduces Healthcare Utilization and Costs

Daniel G. Garrett, RPh, MS, FASHP

Medicaid-Financed Services in Supportive Housing for High-Need Homeless Beneficiaries: The Business Case

By Michael Nardone, Richard Cho and Kathy Moses
HEALTH > INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

Bigger Issues:

• Many factors outside individual control
• Health care is human right
• U.S. system has critical flaws
• Behavioral health still has significant stigma
• 30 units of affordable housing available for every 100 very low income people
• 1 in 4 people who qualify for housing assistance actually receive it
• 8.3 million very low-income people paid >50% income for rent
• In Dallas-Ft. Worth-Arlington area: there are 365,000 very low-income households—1/2 pay >50% on rent
Rental Assistance Expansion Has Slowed Dramatically Since the Mid-1990s

Average annual increase in assisted rental units

Source: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: Cuts in Federal Assistance Have Exacerbated Families’ Struggles to Afford Housing
In Texas, the Fair Market Rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom apartment is $956. In order to afford this level of rent and utilities — without paying more than 30% of income on housing — a household must earn $3,186 monthly or $38,234 annually. Assuming a 40-hour work week, 52 weeks per year, this level of income translates into an hourly Housing Wage of:

- Two bedroom FMR: $956
- One bedroom FMR: $770
- Rent affordable at area median income (AMI): $1,658
- Rent affordable with full-time job paying mean renter wage: $930
- Rent affordable at 30% of AMI: $497
- Rent affordable with full-time job paying minimum wage: $377
- Rent affordable to SSI recipient: $221

Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition, Out of Reach Report, 2017
In no state can a minimum wage worker afford a **ONE-BEDROOM** rental home at the average Fair Market Rent, working a standard 40-hour work week, without paying more than 30% of their income.

**Hours at minimum wage to afford a one-bedroom rental home**
- 60 hours per week or less
- 61 to 78 hours per week
- 79 hours per week or more

*This state’s minimum wage exceeds the federal minimum wage*
INCOME

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INCOME DISPARITY
BARRIERS TO ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES
Democrats and Republicans More Ideologically Divided than in the Past

Distribution of Democrats and Republicans on a 10-item scale of political values

1994
MEDIAN Democrat | MEDIAN Republican
Consistently liberal

2004
MEDIAN Democrat | MEDIAN Republican
Consistently liberal

2014
MEDIAN Democrat | MEDIAN Republican
Consistently liberal

Beyond Dislike: Viewing the Other Party as a ‘Threat to the Nation’s Well-Being’

Democratic attitudes about the Republican Party

- 38% Very unfavorable
- 29
- 16

27% of Democrats see the Republican Party as a threat to the nation’s well-being

Republican attitudes about the Democratic Party

- 43% Very unfavorable
- 21
- 17

36% of Republicans see the Democratic Party as a threat to the nation’s well-being

POLARIZED: POLITICIANS PICK VOTERS

- In 1976, 25% of people lived in “landslide counties” (where one party consistently wins by 20%+)
- In 2012, 50% did
- Now, 60% do
Party lines in the sand
According to a recent Reuters/ipsos poll, the election had deep reverberations through the population, with 13 percent of respondents admitting to ending a relationship because of the election.

Because of this election, I’ve had at least one argument with a family member or close friend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38.7%</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credibility interval: ± 1.4 pct pts

I’ve stopped talking to a family member or close friend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16.4%</td>
<td>56.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I’ve blocked a family member or close friend from social media

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I’ve ended a relationship with a family member or close friend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13.4%</td>
<td>58.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I’ve become friends with someone I previously didn’t know

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NOTE: 6,426 U.S. adults interviewed online Dec. 27, 2016 to Jan. 18, 2017
Source: Reuters/ipsos
S. Culp, 30/01/2016
UNHAPPY

- 60% of Americans have no emergency savings or have <$1,000 in the bank.
- Anti-depressant use has increased 400% in last 10 years.
- 50% of Americans report being stressed out because of work (up from 18% in 1997).
- Americans only take half their paid leave.
  → And many don’t get paid leave at all.
Public trust in government remains near historic lows

Trust the federal government to do what is right just about always/most of the time...


PEW RESEARCH CENTER
Suicide Rates by Ethnicity from 2000 to 2015

UNHAPPY

NATIONAL HEALTH CARE FOR THE HOMELESS COUNCIL
UNHAPPY

Drug overdose deaths, 1980 to 2016

*Estimate based on preliminary data

59,000 to 65,000 people died from drug overdoses in the U.S. in 2016*

Peak car crash deaths (1972)
Peak H.I.V. deaths (1995)
Peak gun deaths (1993)

10,000 deaths per year
UNHAPPY

About how often do you hear or read something in the news that makes you angry?

- 31% A few times a day.
- 37% Once a day.
- 20% Once a week.
- 5% Once a month.
- 6% Rarely
Republicans say people are rich — and poor — because of their own efforts; Democrats more likely to point to a person’s circumstances and advantages

In your opinion, which generally has more to do with...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why a person is rich</th>
<th>Why a person is poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Worked harder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep/Lean Rep</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem/Lean Dem</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Don't know responses not shown.
Source: Surveys conducted Nov. 30-Dec. 5, 2016 and April 5-11, 2017.

Pew Research Center
The “Deserving” v. “Undeserving” Poor

- Failure to expand Medicaid
- Work requirements, drug testing, etc. to qualify for benefits
- Restrictions for “felons”
- Stubborn stereotypes that don’t match reality
- “Those people…”
- Violence, threats, and fear
**BLAME**

Poor people have hard lives because government benefits don’t go far enough to help them live decently

OR

Poor people today have it easy because they can get government benefits without doing anything in return

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Level</th>
<th>Hard Lives (%)</th>
<th>Have it Easy (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ALL</strong></td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less than $20,000</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20,000-$49,999</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,000-$74,999</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000-$149,999</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$150,000+</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


PEW RESEARCH CENTER

**The biggest federal tax breaks**

*Estimates for fiscal 2016, in billions of dollars*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employer-paid health care, health insurance and long-term care insurance</td>
<td>$143.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower tax rates on dividends and long-term capital gains</td>
<td>134.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferral of active income of controlled foreign corporations</td>
<td>108.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to and earnings of defined-contribution retirement plans</td>
<td>82.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mortgage interest deduction for owner-occupied residences</td>
<td>77.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earned-income tax credit</td>
<td>73.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deductibility of (nonbusiness) state and local income, sales, and personal property taxes</td>
<td>65.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions to and earnings of defined-benefit pension plans</td>
<td>57.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Credit for children under age 17</td>
<td>56.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsidies for insurance purchased through health benefit exchanges</td>
<td>53.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Many higher income Americans are subsidized:

#1: Health care
#2: Investments
#3: Investments
#4: Retirement
#5: Housing
Most Federal Housing Expenditures Benefit Homeowners

Federal housing expenditures in billions, 2015

Federal Housing Expenditures Poorly Matched to Need

Expenditures (billions of dollars)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income range</th>
<th>Renters</th>
<th>Homeowners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income less than $10,000</td>
<td>$15.2</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$10-$20,000</td>
<td>$14.9</td>
<td>5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$20-$30,000</td>
<td>$4.5</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$30-$40,000</td>
<td>$2.0</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$40-$50,000</td>
<td>$1.6</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50-$75,000</td>
<td>$6.6</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75-$100,000</td>
<td>$9.7</td>
<td>0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$100-$200,000</td>
<td>$41.4</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than $200,000</td>
<td>$43.9</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Households with severe cost burdens (millions)

Renters

Homeowners

THINGS WE CAN DO
THINGS WE CAN DO

Let’s start at home:

• Get to know your neighbors
• Increase community
• Talk to each other
• Especially those outside our “usual” set of friends

Number of neighbors known by name

Source: Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Project, November 30-December 27, 2009 Tracking Survey. N=2,258 adults 18 and older, including 1,676 internet users. Please see the Methodology section for margin of error calculations.
THINGS WE CAN DO

• Remain active & engaged
• Link issues of homelessness to the larger context
• Build coalition by joining with other movements
• Understand that everyone has a role:
  → Service providers, policy makers, researchers, administrators, public citizens, advocates, consumers
• Many skills needed:
  → Government relations, research & analysis, storytelling, testifying, writing op-eds, social media, public demonstrations, photographs, window signs
THINGS WE CAN DO

Call Your Members in Congress

• Sen. Cornyn: 202-224-2934
  → Local: 972-239-1310
• Sen. Cruz: 202-224-5922
  → Local: 214-599-8749
  → Local: 214-922-8885
  → Local: 972-392-0505

Pro tip: Put these numbers in your phone contacts
THINGS WE CAN DO

• Find Joy in each other and in our work
• Take care of ourselves and each other

IHI Framework for Improving Joy in Work

We Can’t End Homelessness by Ending Homelessness