

To: Corvallis City Council

September 8, 2015

From: Jan Napack

Corvallis, OR 97333

Subject: Evidence Based Policy Decision Making to Reduce Homelessness

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

The critical decisions being made on whether or not to expand emergency homeless services do not appear to be evidence based, or if they are, the evidence has not been disseminated. As a result of the lack of public data and detailed information, provided either by the city or the service provider (CHF), I thought it wise to independently look into the issue.

Multi-faceted homeless data for 2009-2011 can be found at Oregon's Housing and Community Services Department web site. Summaries of the 2012-2015 Benton, Linn and Lincoln County Point-in-Time (PIT) data sheets were provided to me from Community Service Consortium (CSC) staff member Dina Eldridge.

In my review of these data I fail to see a need to specifically expand emergency shelter capacity. Indeed, the County homeless counts follow the declining trend in homelessness as seen in HUD's National data base. The total number of individuals being sheltered in Benton County seems fairly consistent since 2009, with fewer in number for the 2015 PIT count. The data also shows that single adults are the predominant client for emergency shelters and members of households are the predominant client for transitional housing. Other relationships are evident, the most serious, yet perhaps most predictable, is the high percentage of chronically homeless individuals in emergency shelters. Unsheltered counts have not been consistently executed.

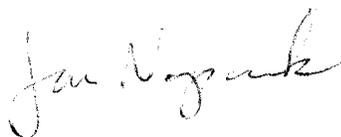
The depth and breadth of the data sets I analyzed are extraordinary and should be fully utilized to help in developing strategies for specific objectives. For example, if we wish to alleviate chronic homelessness we will certainly need more transitional housing, not emergency shelters.

Before putting policy into place and spending scarce dollars, the County and City need to clearly understand our present state of homelessness. Only then can a solution with defined metrics be launched. Follow up studies to determine the efficacies of these solutions at reducing homelessness need to be chartered.

I strongly suggest that the data I am presenting here be validated and its ramifications expanded as part of the County's homeless project plans.

Respectfully,

Jan Napack



Data Summary for Benton County - One Night Homeless Count Reports

Year ^a	All Sheltered			Emergency		Transitional		Chronically Homeless Subpopulations				Other Information		
	sheltered total (T) ^b	HH individuals (A, AC) ^c	single adults (S) ^d	(A, AC) / ES ^e	(S) / ES	(A, AC) / TH ^f	(S) / TH	(T) / CH ^g	(A, AC) / CH	(S) / CH ^m	% (S) CH ES ⁿ	Comment	UN ^h	Oregon ⁱ
Heading	Total Sheltered	Household (A, AC)	Single Adults (S)	Percentage CH (S) in ES										
2009	138	70	68	10	35	60	33	27	3	24	69%	note ⁱ	16	29,083
2010	131	63	68	19	36	44	32	28	1	27	75%	note ⁱ	24	32,447
2011	107	30	77	7	48	23	29	29	4	25	52%	note ⁱ	n/c	28,675
2012	111	27	84	13	60	14	24	25	2	23	38%	note ^j	n/c	27,221
2013	137	51	86	6	43	45	43	26	1	25	58%	note ^j	8	13,822
2014	138	52	86	8	50	44	37	56	5	25	50%	note ^j	n/c	12,164
2015	74	9	65	5	40	4	26	40	1	26	65%	note ^{j, k}	53	N/A

^a Year of point-in-time (PIT) count, last Wednesday in January; small number of miscellaneous dates included in tally

^b T=total count of all individuals, including children, in all categories sheltered in emergency, transitional or safe-haven; does not include unsheltered

^c HH (A, AC) = household identified individuals of adult couples and adults with or without children, and children alone

^d (S) Adults 18 years of age or older

^e ES = Emergency Shelters (e.g. CSC-CARDV)

^f TH = Transitional Housing (e.g. Partner's Place)

^g CH = chronically homeless

^h UN = unsheltered; not included in tallies; no counts (n/c) for 2011, 2012, 2014

ⁱ <http://www.oregon.gov/ohcs/Pages/research-point-in-time-homeless-count-in-oregon.aspx>; retrieved 9/8/2015

^j Data files obtained from CSC Services, D. Eldridge, 8/21/2015; Oregon Housing and Community Services One Night Homeless Count Benton County Reports

^k HUD Reportable' methodology changed for 2015

^l All combined homeless, including unsheltered, in Oregon; COC Homeless Populations and Subpopulations Reports

<https://www.hudexchange.info/manage-a-program/coc-homeless-populations-and-subpopulations-reports/>; retrieved 9/8/2015

^m Chronically Homeless subpopulation of single adults (S)

ⁿ Percentage of Chronically Homeless single adults in emergency shelters

Compiled 9/8/2015 J. Napack

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NOTICE: This summary has not been validated by other agencies or individuals; it should be used for broad informational purposes only.

