

FENTANYL, HOMELESSNESS & HOUSING CRISIS

ROB JUSTUS

Affordable Housing: Behind the Scenes

- 1) Behavioral issues with tenants leading to rise in insurance claims
- 2) Rising insurance rates
- 3) Insurance, banks & property management companies threatening to walk away
- 4) Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is flawed with a generic service approach
- 5) Affordable housing providers asking government for more money to subsidize operations

Affordable housing challenges:

- Simplistic Housing First policies.
- The focus has been on “housing placement” and often ignores the comprehensive behavioral health and health supports people need to deal with their trauma.
Ex. Multnomah County’s “Coordinated Access” process where they prioritize housing people based on them being chronically homeless by using a “vulnerability score”. However, doesn’t require people be connected to treatment”.
- Housing RETENTION as critical data point and goal is not seen as systemic priority.

WE NEED A SYSTEMIC
PARADIGM SHIFT IN HOW
WE ADDRESS THE CRISIS

90-day Fentanyl Crisis Lessons Learned

- ❑ Lack of capacity of treatment programs, facilities and clinicians to meet demand
- ❑ Outreach programs that partner with law enforcement are more effective
- ❑ Pod villages are a good first step for people who struggle with Substance Use Disorder (SUD) to transition off the streets
- ❑ Shift from a “housing” focus to a person-centered “health” focus results in better outcomes
- ❑ Signing people up for Oregon Health Plan (OHP) opens door to Medicaid funding
- ❑ Connecting people on OHP to Coordinated Care Organizations (CCOs) starts recovery process



Continuum of Care Model



Power of the Private Sector

County, City, Metro and State cannot tackle this crisis alone

Community First! Village | Austin

Today, Community First! Village occupies **51 acres** on Hog Eye Road in northeast Travis County. It is currently home to **more than 350 formerly homeless neighbors**. With completion of all homes projected by the end of 2023, it will soon provide housing and community for as many as 500 of our friends who once struggled to survive on the streets of Austin.

Some of the features include:

- Capital Metro Bus Stop
- Community Cinema & Amphitheater
- Community Inn
- Community Market
- Community Table
- Community Works Entrepreneur HUB
- Dog Park
- Genesis Gardens Organic Farm
- King Park
- Hope Chapel
- Living Room
- Memorial Garden and Prayer Labyrinth
- Topfer Family Health Resource Center
- Unity Hall

Legend:

- Program Buildings
- Laundry, Restrooms, & Showers
- Outdoor Kitchens
- Market
- Community Inn
- Microhomes
- RVs, Park Model RVs, & 3D Printed Homes





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MEADOWBROOK
and COLWOOD VILLAGES

VERITAS
design·group

Baysinger.

Big Idea!

Today, the hotel sector in our area is struggling. We can purchase and/or lease hotels now.

This presents an opportunity for the public and private sector to come TOGETHER to house more homeless people.

2,400+ hotel rooms for lease or sale

1,500 Park model home parks

1,600 Pod units

5,500+ places for unsheltered people to be in the next two years

Moving Forward

- City leaders need to change the governance structure of the new Homeless Service Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) to include law enforcement and Private Sector Leaders.
- Politicians should *not* be the primary decision maker in how our community responds to this crisis.
- Every unsheltered person must be signed up for OHP and connected to a CCO. CCO's are key to success.
- Aggressively expand treatment facilities, transition housing, and shelter, utilizing **hotels**.
- Workforce recruitment – National campaign to recruit clinicians to Oregon as we expand services.
- Governments are great at creating PLANS but not implementation. Let the Private Sector go to work.

Together, we can do better and go big!

We need to compel the county, city and state to transform the homeless response plan to a health action plan.

THANK YOU