Fredericton Homeless Count: Community Debrief

City Hall, Council Chambers
10:00-11:00am, March 15th, 2016
Outline

- Introduction & Background
  - Point-in-Time Count
  - 20,000 Homes Campaign
- Process & Methods
  - Planning, Conducting, Implementing
- Key Findings
  - Demographics
  - Health and Service Needs
- Next Steps
- Fredericton Homeless Count Video
- Call-in from Tim Richter, Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness
## The 2016 Fredericton Homeless Count

- 24-hour period: 2:00pm Feb. 21\textsuperscript{st} - 2:00pm Feb. 22\textsuperscript{nd}
- 43 volunteers connected with 190 people and conducted 87 surveys
- 2 different voluntary surveys:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Point-in-Time Survey</th>
<th>20,000 Homes Campaign Survey</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Federal Government’s Homelessness Partnering Strategy</td>
<td>Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locations</td>
<td>In NB: Bathurst, Fredericton, Moncton, Saint John (30 communities total)</td>
<td>In NB: Fredericton and Saint John (30 communities total)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target Population</td>
<td>Absolutely homeless (emergency sheltered and unsheltered)</td>
<td>Homeless, at risk of homelessness, hidden homelessness, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goals</td>
<td>To capture baseline demographic and housing situation data</td>
<td>Capture actionable data: identify needs of the population, initiate coordinated intake and assessment</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Process & Methods: Planning

January - February

- Connected with partner organizations
- Raised awareness through news and social media
- Recruited and trained volunteers
- Planned logistics (supplies, scheduling)
Process & Methods: Conducting

24 hours: Feb. 21-22

- Coordinated volunteer teams
  - Headquarters: Victoria Health Centre
- Conducted the surveys
  - Locations: Outdoors, shelters, service providers, etc.

Limitations of study

- Winter weather
- Sample size
- 24-hour time period
- Self-reported data
Process & Methods: Implementing

Current Stage (March - April)

- Analyzing data
  - Point-in-Time Surveys: through Federal Government’s HIFIS system
  - 20,000 Homes Surveys: through Google platform with Community Solutions

- Sharing results
  - Community debriefing event
  - Fredericton Homeless Count video
  - Final report
Key Findings: Point-in-Time Count

- 50 identified as absolutely homeless on night of February 21st (emergency sheltered or unsheltered)
- 34 individuals chose to complete survey
  - Not all who qualified participated in the survey (Ex: only 73% of men staying in the Men’s Shelter responded)

Gender Distribution by Age Group
Key Findings: Point-in-Time Count

Age Distribution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Groups</th>
<th>% of Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16-25</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26-35</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36-45</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46-55</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>56-65</td>
<td>8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Findings: Point-in-Time Count

- Aboriginal peoples were greatly over-represented in the surveyed population
  - 2% of Fredericton's population vs. 17.6% of the surveyed population

**Distribution of Aboriginal Status**

- Inuit: 14.3%
- First Nations: 14.3%
- Non-Status / Have Aboriginal Ancestry: 14.3%
- Don't Know: 14.3%
- Métis: 42.9%
Key Findings: Point-in-Time Count

Reasons for Housing Loss

- Illness or Addiction: 15.4%
- Conflict or Abuse: 28.2%
- Financial Reasons: 30.7%
- Incarcerated: 7.7%
- Other: 12.8%
- Don't know: 5.1%
Key Findings: Point-in-Time Count

Length of Homelessness

in the past year (chronic)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Number of Positive Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-3 months</td>
<td>29.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-6 months</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-9 months</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-12 months</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Episodes of Homelessness

in the past year (episodic)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Episodes</th>
<th>Number of Positive Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 time</td>
<td>64.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 times</td>
<td>17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 times</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 times</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 times</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

65% of people surveyed have been homeless 6 months or more in the last year

23.5% of people surveyed experienced 3 or more episodes of homelessness in the past year
### Key Findings: Point-in-Time Count

#### Type of Income Received

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Income Received</th>
<th>Number of Positive Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Engagement Services</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Assistance</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors Benefits</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Income</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Insurance</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Benefit</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Tax Benefits</td>
<td>2.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
National movement of communities working together to permanently house 20,000 of Canada’s most vulnerable homeless people by July 1, 2018

**6 Core Elements**

- Knowing every homeless person by name
- Implementing Housing First
- Using data to track progress
- Building a Coordinated Homelessness System of Care
- Learning from other communities across Canada
- Providing a united voice at a national and provincial level
Surveys with Homeless Individuals (shelters, streets, couch surfing and provisionally housed)

Vulnerability Index (VI) survey is an outreach tool rooted in leading medical research. The VI helps determine chronicity and medical vulnerability of homeless individuals.

**Key Findings**

- **40.8%** CHRONICALLY HOMELESS
  - 6 + months homeless in past year

- **16.9%** EPISODIC HOMELESS
  - 3+ episodes of homelessness in past year
Key Findings

Wellness

- Physical Health Issues: 73%
- Substance Abuse Issues: 24%
- Mental Health Issues: 23%
- Difficulty Managing/Accessing Medications: 25%
Key Findings

Risk of Harm, Legal Issues and Risk of Exploitation

- Forced or tricked into activities: 13%
- Struggling with legal issues: 24%
- Treated to harm self or someone else since homeless: 22%
- Attacked/Beaten Up since becoming homeless: 21%
Key Findings

Physical Health Issues

- 17% have lost housing due to physical health
- 35% have a chronic health issue
- 15% have a physical disability
- 48% do not/cannot access help when sick

Has chronic health issue

Fredericton
Key Findings

CHRONIC HEALTH ISSUES

- Emergency and transitional shelters: 24.2%
- Couch surfing: 37.5%
- Provisional housing: Rooming houses and motels: 48.3%
Key Findings

HOMELESSNESS CAUSED BY ABUSE

- Emergency and transitional shelters: 57.6%
- Couch surfing: 62.5%
- Provisional housing: Rooming houses and motels: 31%
## Key Findings

### Average Amount of Time Since Becoming Homeless

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Situation</th>
<th>Average Time (months)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergency and transitional shelters</td>
<td>34.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Couch surfing</td>
<td>23.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outdoors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td>49.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Findings

SERVICES AND SUPPORTS TO REFLECT LEVEL OF NEED

- **Low Acuity** (20%)
- **Medium Acuity** (55%)
- **High Acuity** (25%)

- **Mainstream Housing**
- **Permanent Supportive Housing**
- **Rapid Rehousing**
WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

- USE THIS INFORMATION TO SHAPE OUR HOMELESS SERVING SYSTEM
- MAKE ENDING HOMELESSNESS A PRIORITY
- USE COUNT AS A FIRST STEP
COORDINATED INTAKE & ASSESSMENT

- 5 frontline homeless serving agencies have adopted Vulnerability Index survey
- Collaborating to create coordinated intake and assessment system
- Fredericton Homeless Count data will be used to kick-start this system

Fredericton’s 5-year plan to end homelessness:

- House and support 267 people by March 31, 2019

Local goal fits within national 20,000 Homes Campaign goal:

- House and support 20,000 people by July 1, 2018

Fredericton will report monthly to the national campaign

- Goal: house and support a minimum of 5 people per month

Next Steps…

Our Goal... end chronic and persistent homelessness In Fredericton by 2018 - 2019
What is needed...

- LEARN ABOUT HOUSING FIRST
- SHIFT OUR THINKING FROM MANAGING HOMELESSNESS TO ENDING HOMELESSNESS
- HELP BUILD SOCIAL AND POLITICAL WILL FOR THE SUPPORTS NEEDED TO END HOMELESSNESS
- CALL FOR RENEWED INVESTMENTS IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND THE CLINICAL & COMMUNITY SUPPORTS NEEDED TO HELP BREAK THE CYCLE OF HOMELESSNESS
Call from:
Tim Richter
President & CEO
Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness
Thank you!

Questions? Please contact emily.leaman@crmhaa.ca