



Task Force for Sustaining Housing First Solutions Public Forum and Listening Session #2

Public input was provided on June 13, 2018 at the Worcester Public Library. The event was well-publicized and well-attended, with voices ranging from representatives of service agencies; the business community; former and current members of the homeless community, and concerned residents. Approximately 60 individuals attended the public meeting; 19 signed up to speak, and 17 actually commented. Each speaker was allotted up to 4 minutes to make comments to the Task Force.

In the following summary, comments have been coded and categorized by subject-area, and prioritized by the number of times a particular issue was mentioned. The numbers referenced are associated with participants' statements.

Outreach & Case Management

- Homeless prevention and stabilization in housing courts (1)
- Wraparound supports are not comprehensive or robust enough at this time, and the level of support provided by insurance reimbursement or Accountable Care Organizations is not sufficient in terms of skill or case load (2, 4, 7, 15, 16)
- Employment opportunities (6)
- Access to lockers and storage space (9)

Housing

- High Demand for affordable housing supply, lack of extremely low income housing. Examine inventory of Fair Market Rent apartments (2, 5, 7, 11)
- Lodging or Rooming Houses, accountability within (16, 21)
- Opportunities for creative building and design especially for unsheltered population not accessing shelter (12)
- Insurance policies to incentivize landlords (7)

Regulatory Requirements

- Code enforcement, unsafe, unsanitary, absentee landlords (17)
- Amend lodging house requirements regarding the number of unrelated individuals allowed in a single dwelling (20)

Funding / Resources

- If Home Again worked, why not reinstitute it? (3)
- Need sustainable funding mechanisms to leverage existing money locally (10)

Shelter

- 25 Queen St, people are exploited or taken advantage of, feel unsafe, and staff lack training (9)
- Dry shelter would be better for people without SUD, in recovery, discharged from detox or jail, etc. (5)
- Shelter in every district to provide help in short-term emergency situation. Should be low-barrier 'no questions asked' admission (9,11,)
- "Temporary" Shelters in church basements: inadequate (2)
- Need for day shelter or day services (2, 5)

CORI

- SMOC doesn't house people with criminal records (14, 17)
- Re-entry services needed. CORI barriers → employment barriers → poverty (17)