

MARCH 2019



A MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER TO
INFORM, EDUCATE, AND
PROVIDE UPDATES ON
HOMELESSNESS IN
FULLERTON

The Helping Hand

Homeless Services Update

HOMELESSNESS 101



HOMELESS RESOURCES CONSULTANT

The City of Fullerton has recently hired Briana Stickney for the newly created position of Homeless Resources Consultant. Her role will be to serve as a community liaison for City staff, elected officials, government agencies, non-profits and faith-based community organizations, residents businesses, and those who are experiencing homelessness.

Briana comes to the City with many years of experience working in the community addressing homelessness and looking for solutions to end homelessness. Her primary duties include:

- Providing education and awareness on the issues of and solutions to homelessness
- Participating in local and regional efforts to address homelessness
- Coordinating Resources and Local Homeless Services to avoid duplication of efforts.

Email Briana Stickney at bstickney@cityoffullerton.com or call (714) 738-6874.

FULLERTON COLLEGE HOSTS HOMELESSNESS 101 TRAINING



Homelessness has reached crisis levels both locally and nationally. Many factors including, misinformation and myths, contribute to this growing problem.

In order to demystify the issue, on March 19, 2019, Fullerton College hosted a Homelessness 101 Training in partnership with United to End Homelessness (a coalition led by Orange County United Way), the Fullerton Collaborative, and the City of Fullerton. More than 200 people were in attendance.

This training provided information and answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about homelessness, including:

- What is homelessness?
- What are the key factors that lead to homelessness?
- What is the current state of homelessness in Orange County?
- What is the cost of homelessness?

The training also identified best practices for solving homelessness in our community.

The results of a report titled "Homelessness in Orange County: The Costs to Our Community" (a ground-breaking study, conducted in partnership with UCI, Jamboree, Association of California Cities, Orange County found that \$299 million was spent county-wide on homelessness. This report also provides fiscal insights into how cities can address homelessness including the revelation that \$42 million could be saved annually by providing permanent supportive housing to the chronically homeless population.

If you, your business, organization, or school are interested in learning more about homelessness and proven solutions for ending homelessness so that you can help drive a housing positive narrative, go to UnitedtoHomelessness.org to see when the next local training is scheduled. Or if you would like a training scheduled for your staff, your community group or know of other interested parties, or please contact Briana Stickney at (714)738-6874 or email bstickney@cityoffullerton.com to coordinate a training for you.

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HOMELESS LIAISON OFFICERS' DUTIES

The Fullerton Police Department has two Homeless Liaison Officers (HLO) dedicated to responding to the needs of the community surrounding homelessness. The HLO's are the main street outreach workers for the City whose primary duties are to provide opportunities to individuals experiencing homelessness to help get them off the streets and into suitable housing.

They work on a daily basis with numerous County Agencies including OC Health Care Agency, OC Social Services, and OC Mental Health to connect supportive services that are critical to those who are experiencing homelessness, as well as to those suffering from mental health issues.

In addition, HLOs also respond to calls for service from businesses and residents dealing with homeless issues on their property.

When an HLO is called to private property, where an individual experiencing homelessness is onsite, with the property owner's permission, the HLO will make contact with the individual and request they leave the property and remove their personal belongings. If they refuse, the HLO is able to issue a Trespassing ticket.

If an individual experiencing homelessness is not on the private property when the HLO arrives, but personal property has been left, the property owner, has the right to remove the property.

If the property has value, it is recommended that the items be brought to the Police Department to be booked for safe keeping. If the property does not have value, the property owner has the right to dispose of the property.

PLEASE BE ADVISED: The City does NOT have the right to remove personal property left on private property.

HOMELESSNESS FULLERTON COLLABORATIVE SUBCOMMITTEE CHANGES FOCUS TO BECOME THE TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS

The Homelessness Fullerton Collaborative Subcommittee was designed to facilitate dialogue around developing goals and strategies for ending homelessness in Fullerton. Members included non profit service providers and homeless activists and residents.

On March 18, 2019, the group expanded to include members of FullertonAct and the Fullerton Interfaith Ministerial Association. The subcommittee agreed to change their focus to that of a Task Force. In order to understand the Task Force's new direction, the following information was discussed:

Why is a Task Force needed? A task force exists for a specific, time-limited purpose. This working group will gather when there is a specific project or call to action.

What is the purpose of the Task Force? The Task Force acknowledges that housing will end a homelessness for a person. However, the road to permanent housing may look different for each person depending on their needs and current barriers.

What is the role of the Task Force? The role of the Task Force is to build capacity around proven solutions to ending homelessness.

What are solutions to ending homelessness in a community?

- o Housing as the Solution
- o Coordinated Approach
- o Assisting the Most Vulnerable
- o Designing A Crisis Response
- o Increasing Income and Employment

What is a "Crisis Response"? It prevents homelessness whenever possible, identifies those experiencing homelessness and connects them with housing quickly and provide services when needed. An effective crisis response system achieves those goals through the following:

Outreach: Those at risk of becoming homeless and those experiencing homelessness are connected with emergency services, coordinated entry, and shelter. Outreach workers also work with other programs in the system to connect people to stable and permanent housing.

Coordinated entry: A process designed to quickly identify, assess, refer and connect people in crisis to housing, assistance and services.

Diversion and Prevention: Important components of a community's crisis response that can help reduce the size of its homeless population. Prevention assistance can aid households in preserving their current housing situation while diversion prevents homelessness for those seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, connecting them with services, when needed.

Emergency shelters and interim housing: People experiencing a housing crisis or fleeing from an unsafe situation need to find a place to stay, quickly. Emergency shelter and interim housing can fill this

role in a crisis response system. These interventions should be low-barrier and align their goals and program activities with the larger system's goals.

Permanent housing: A crisis response system must have the capacity to connect people experiencing homelessness with permanent housing programs, such as rapid re-housing and permanent supportive housing, and other stable housing options.

How Can A Crisis Response System End Homelessness? For a crisis response system to be effective, it must be able to identify and quickly connect people who are at risk of becoming homeless or those experiencing homelessness, to housing assistance and other services. It works because it aligns a community, its programs and services around one common goal, to make homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

For more information on the Taskforce, to become a Taskforce member, to be kept up to date on specific projects needing support, or to be included in the call to action, contact Briana Stickney by email: bstickney@cityoffullerton.com or call. (714) 738-6874.

