

JOPLIN CITY COUNCIL
INFORMAL MEETING NOTES
APRIL 4, 2022

Mayor Stanley called the April 4, 2022, Joplin City Council informal meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

In attendance were Council Members: Charles Copple, Keenan Cortez, Doug Lawson, Anthony Monteleone, Diane Reid Adams, Gary Shaw, Mayor Ryan Stanley, Phil Stinnett and Christina Williams. Also, in attendance were City Manager Nick Edwards and City Attorney Peter Edwards.

1. Homeless Coalition Update

Tammy Walker, Director of Community Development, Economic Security Corporation of S W Area presented.

Mission: To improve the quality of life for individuals in the Jasper-Newton County region impacted by all aspects of homelessness through community education and coordination of community services.

Vision: A community that supports a system that prevents homelessness leading to ending chronic homelessness in Southwest Missouri.

A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for people who are experiencing homelessness.

How We Engage and Coordinate

Through our membership and partnerships
Monthly Coalition meetings
Housing Connect
Street Outreach
Point In Time Count and Housing Inventory (annually)
Project Homeless Connect Events
Find affordable housing/landlords

Is Homelessness Growing?

The Homeless Coalition utilizes a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to provide data, analyze and evaluate needs for the Joplin Community.

Seven System Performance Measures where we report annually
Annual Point In Time Count and Housing Inventory Chart

Data collection for all funded agencies. (HUD COC, ESG and MHDC grants)
Data collection for Housing Connect.

What does the data show?

The last 13 years utilizing the communities Winter Point In Time Count tells a different picture, 35% decrease in homelessness in Jasper and Newton Counties
In the last five years, a 22% decrease in homelessness.

Looking at the 2019/2020/2021 Housing Inventory of Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing beds versus Point In Time Count data locally we were not at 100% capacity.

First Responders are Overwhelmed

A representative from the Police Department participates on the Street Outreach Committee.

We consult with the police on our street outreach efforts.
Street Outreach team and the police department have gone out together on a few occasions. (Example: Sam's Club area)

Current crime stats report on the City of Joplin's website, does not separate homeless calls out from other calls.

I am told that arrests are tracked and if the information is disclosed they can track homeless.

Contacts are currently not tracked

Efforts to Provide Free Housing

The Homeless Coalition's philosophy is "Housing First model."

Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Re-housing programs require all people to pay 30% of their income toward rent.

Of those housed 98% retained their housing or exited to new permanent housing. (2021 System Performance Measure)

Of those housed 2% or less return to homelessness. (2021 System Performance Measure)

Seen as a Handout not a Handup

Case Management Services are free and voluntary and are provided by many of the partner agencies.

Families set their own goals and receive guidance on the steps necessary to reach their goals.

Several agencies and groups provide assistance with replacing important documents.

Connecting them to programs and services they need like detox, rehab, medical services, assistance completing disability forms, seeking employment, etc.

What's the Evidence?

When services are bundled, clients were 3 to 4 times more likely to achieve a "major economic outcome" than were non-bundlers.

Working together, is smarter.

Homeless is an Issue Due to Empty and Abandoned Buildings

Data: Comprehensive Housing Market Analysis City of Joplin
32 income-restricted rental communities offering 1,910 units.

Leaving a large demand for affordable rentals that exceed the current supply.
80 people have been approved for housing assistance and are out on the street, prospective tenants cannot find a home.

Double Edge Sword Joplin Cares

Our Continuum of Care has a cornucopia of services available while other neighboring communities have none.

What Does The Data Tell Us?

75% of the Homeless Management Information System's entry and exit are from our zip codes.

These are Jasper/Newton County citizens.

This data included over 550 individuals.

Visual: Corner Panhandling

Assumption that Panhandlers are all homeless

No collected data to support this claim.

During Street Outreach we can report that not all panhandlers are experiencing homelessness.

Who are the people standing on the corners?

People that are housed already but need additional money to pay bills.

It is a personal choice as to whether a person wants to give cash to someone on the street corner.

Meeting adjourned at 5:57 PM.

Holly Nagy, City Clerk