

Homeless Summit – Talking Points re State Framework on Homelessness

January 8, 2018

- The State has adopted a three-point strategic framework to address homelessness in Hawaii.
- The three aspects of the State framework are: (1) Housing; (2) Health & Human Services; (3) Public Safety.
- It is not enough just to focus on one of the areas above and for the State to take on these issues alone – we must focus simultaneously on all three and coordinate with other Counties and the private sector.
- How have we put this framework into action over the past three years?
 - **Affordable Housing**
 - Worked together with the Legislature to increase funding for the Rental Housing Revolving Fund and Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund.
 - Utilized the Governor’s emergency proclamation to accelerate housing development specifically for homeless individuals and families (Ex: Kahauiki Village, etc.)
 - Over the past three years, 5300 new housing units have been produced with another 1400 in construction and over 4500 in various stages of planning.
 - **Health and Human Services**
 - Executed new contracts with specific performance benchmarks tied to funding.
 - Expanded evidence-based programs, such as Housing First.
 - Implemented new programs, such as Rapid Rehousing and Civil Legal Services.
 - Expanded homeless outreach programs to better reach unsheltered households.
 - Submitted 1115 medicaid waiver amendment to CMS to expand case management services for chronically homeless individuals.
 - Launched pilots for Intensive Case Management and LEAD to reach homeless individuals with serious mental illness and substance use.
 - **Public Safety**
 - Closed loopholes in the law to enable better enforcement of trespass on state lands.
 - Initiated outreach and enforcement efforts on DOT properties along H-1 and Nimitz corridors.
 - Established new programs (e.g. LEAD) that create linkages between law enforcement and homeless service providers.
- Has this framework and approach been working? How do we know this?
 - We are seeing positive progress statewide.
 - In 2017, our PIT count went down by 9% - the first decrease in eight years.
 - This trend is going in an opposite – and more positive – direction compared to other West Coast communities with similar high cost markets (e.g. L.A., San Fran, Seattle).
 - We are seeing positive numbers for housing placement and reduced length of stay (e.g. FAC numbers).
 - We are seeing positive numbers in terms of housing retention for Housing First (Ex: 96% retention rate locally vs. 85% for other mainland programs).
- How does the FY19 Supplemental Budget reflect the State’s framework?
 - Includes over \$75M in capital funds for affordable rental housing and infrastructure.
 - Includes over \$10M for health & human services (e.g. Housing First, RRH, outreach, etc.)
 - Includes over \$5M for law enforcement and maintenance of State lands.

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Efforts of State partner agencies:

- Hawaii Public Housing Authority
 - Shorten turnaround time for repair and maintenance of public housing units.
 - Highlight homeless preference, and talk about status of public housing and Section 8 wait lists.
 - There is also a need to sustain funding for the State Rent Supplement.

- DOH – AMHD
 - Community Mental Health Centers
 - AMHD funded homeless outreach – Emphasize how this ties in to State efforts to address encampments on public lands.
 - ICM Pilot Program – Emphasize connection with law enforcement, and effort to reduce healthcare costs by targeting SMI individuals with highest utilization of emergency services.
 - LEAD – Emphasize connection with law enforcement, including providing additional referral tools for State law enforcement (e.g. Sheriffs).
 - Opportunity for expansion:
 - Expansion of ICM pilot and homeless outreach to other counties.
 - Ongoing discussion with DHS to better align and target services based on a household's acuity/need.

- Public Safety – Sheriff Division
 - Continue to support ongoing efforts to address trespass and illegal camping on State lands.
 - Working closely with DOH to integrate law enforcement with health/human services component through the LEAD pilot program that is expected to start Jan. 2018.
 - Specific request in FY19 budget for 8.00 new FTE Deputy Sheriff positions to specifically address trespass and illegal camping issues.