

Homelessness Update Report

February 2021

City of West Palm Beach

Department of Housing and Community Development

Outreach & Engagement

Partnerships are only the beginning of the story. On a daily basis, the City of West Palm Beach continues to build and strive towards connecting those in need with the necessary resources to resolve concerns related to homelessness. Access to resources include housing, employment, physical and mental health care. As services continue to expand, we seek to provide innovative care plans for those in need.

Beyond daily on-street engagement and interventions to those experiencing homelessness, staff from The Vickers House, Mental Health America St. Ann Place and Gulfstream Goodwill, we look to our partners and community allies to address concerns that face those who are most in need. At times we face challenges of those who are in need choosing to not to engage in services, as well as those in need who deny services. As part of our strategy, we conduct weekly case conferencing to address those who are hesitant to receive services and create innovative ways to engage them for the best outcome. These partnership collaborations include: Vickers House, Mental Health America, Gulfstream Goodwill, St. Ann Place, PSC Security, CJE Security, WPB Park & Recreation Dept., WPB Dept. of Sanitation and WPB Police Dept. Together, we strive to combine talents, compassion and job duties to improve services for all citizens in West Palm Beach.

Collaborative Efforts

- 22 individuals received referrals and access to Mental Health and Substance Use services.
- 15 chronically homeless from WPB were successfully housed through partnerships with the County’s Coordinated Entry system, Gulfstream Goodwill and Vickers House.
- 2 chronically homeless utilized our Homeward Bound Program.
- 125 engagements throughout the city parks, neighborhoods, targeted and reported locations to offer homeless services.
- 11 engagements with local businesses and community groups providing education and resources.



The City of West Palm Beach has a diverse population, that includes individuals from all walks of life. Often, when assisting those in need, we can overlook how things that seem simple can drastically affect an individual’s life and forward progress. In the case of those experiencing homelessness, transportation is a consistent barrier to obtaining services, employment, healthcare and stability within the community.

In efforts to decrease barriers to stability and offer a greater opportunity to those in need, we will begin a new initiative through a micro grant provided by **880 Cities and The Knight Foundation**. The **Community Connections Program** will be aimed to provide transportation for life sustaining activities such as employment and increasing community access for those in need.

February 2021	Healthcare & Other Referrals	Mental Health/ Substance Use	Housing/ Emergency Shelter	Total Homeless Visits
Mental Health America	5	22	0	39
Vickers House	23	0	16	86

The City of West Palm Beach continues to work towards positive resolutions for stable permanent housing for those experiencing homelessness. The City and its partners work in tandem to assess and provide the necessary resources to improve the quality of life for all its citizens.

On a daily basis, The City and its partner agencies find innovative ways to collaborate and provide care to those most in need. Below is an example of these partnerships in action.

Engagement Spotlight

Meet “Cedric”

“Cedric” is a long time resident of West Palm Beach and has spent his time living in a tent at a vacant lot and outside of St. Ann Place. “Cedric” has a history of homelessness and has experienced multiple episodes of homelessness throughout his life. We first began to work with “Cedric” over a year ago and during this time, he remained adamant that he would not go to any shelter. “Cedric” who is 69 years old and lives on a limited income from Social Security Income repeatedly denied access to shelter if it was not done his way and chose to remain on the street.

Several opportunities passed, but “Cedric” remained consistent in opposing help. Throughout the year of engagement, “Cedric” was able to engage with staff from the Vickers House and Mental Health America who offered consistent support and opportunity for change. After several chances to improve his situation, “Cedric” finally made the decision to take advantage of emergency shelter and community services. “Cedric” was able to be admitted to The Lewis Center Annex and is now beginning his journey to stable housing.

