

## Outline for 2015 OEH annual report

**Letter from the Director – Mikkel to write:** (highlight major accomplishments– prioritizing, focusing on systems, continuing to bring community together...)

As the ten year plan winds down, what we can be proud of, what we still need to do, how we need to refocus our commitment (idea's from Portland reset below)

1. Homelessness can be solved. We didn't always have homelessness like we do today
2. Housing is the foundation for people's health, success, quality of life
3. There is a significant shortage of affordable housing in our community
4. Ending homelessness will help reduce disparities for people of color
5. Homelessness is expensive for residents and businesses, for our community as a whole

What we will do when we recommit to ending homelessness:

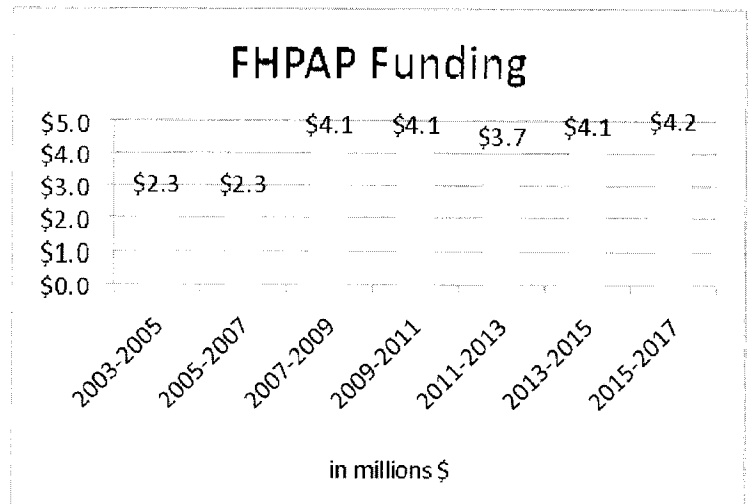
1. Build on the accomplishments of the last decade
2. Continually improve the communities' response by taking what we learned and applying it to emerging issues
3. Our plan weathered a recession and we are now poised to take advantage of renewed economy
4. Continue to pay attention to subgroups that may need more or different supports such as families who have reached their 5 year limit on MFIP, young moms, elderly and people of color.

Include HHH exec cmtee members somewhere (see end of report)

## What we accomplished:

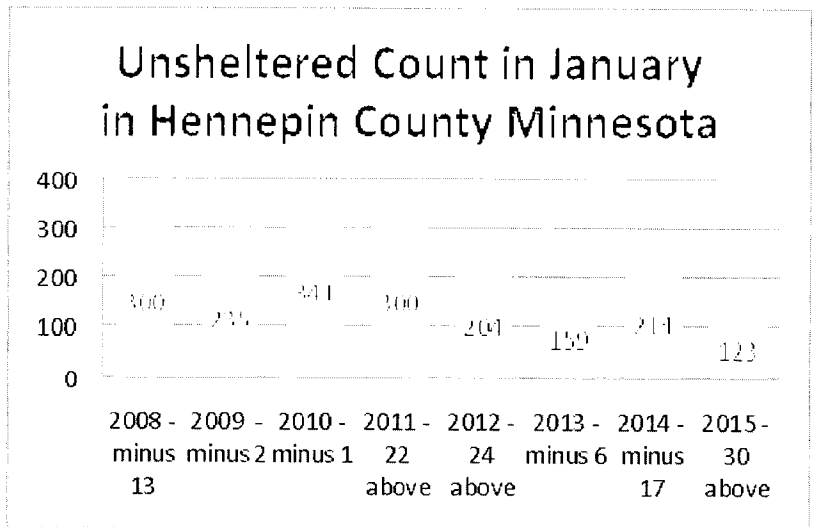
**Goal 1 – Prevention:** The plan called for expanding prevention funding and services and reaching out to people in vulnerable positions, like leaving foster care, treatment, hospitals and prison. Much of this has been accomplished:

- Family Housing Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) was expanded during the Great Recession, with federal stimulus funds with HPRP (Homeless Prevention and Rehousing Program)
- Medical respite programs were developed to provide housing for people being discharged from hospitals.
- Supports for youth aging out of foster care were extended to age 22.
- Parent Support Outreach Program was expanded through state funding and is available to families in shelter for additional supports.
- The Stable Families Initiative offered prevention services to families who were repeat shelter users. The pilot begun in 2014 is being expanded and funded through FHPAP.
- The St. Stephens Court expanded to the HOMES court, allowing people whose housing has destabilized to gain access to case workers who can help them find new housing.
- The Integrated Access Team of Hennepin County was launched in October 2014 to assist people leaving the County Adult Detention Center (jail) and Adult Correctional Facility (workhouse) with housing and supports
- The Transition from Jail to Community (TJC) re-entry initiative was launched in 2012 to focus on reducing recidivism and improving public safety by focusing on high risk/need residents at the County's Adult Correctional Facility. The program provides stable housing to participants and has leveraged mainstream funding for future housing.
- A refugee homelessness program was piloted to assist families with unstable housing to attain new stable housing with supports.



**Goal 2 – Coordinated Outreach:** The plan called for a robust street outreach program to find people who were unsheltered and get them housed, along with medical outreach and youth-specific outreach.

- St. Stephens Street Outreach program was developed to serve individuals and families staying in places not meant for human habitation. The program housed over 100 in 2014 and had more than 4000 contacts with people living on the streets.



- Healthcare coverage greatly expanded under the Affordable Care Act. According to Wilder, 71% of unsheltered homeless

adults were covered by health insurance in 2012, an increase of twelve percentage points compared to 2006.

- StreetWorks Collaborative began over 20 years ago as a cutting-edge response to assure reliable, consistent support to meet youth needs. High quality youth-driven outreach provides a key venue for relationship development with caring adults – the fundamental first step to accessing help. StreetWorks has undergone next-stage visioning and is entering a new era of accountability driven by Youth Outreach Workers. StreetWorks is increasingly a presence in suburban outreach as youth needs continue to be recognized in new geographies.

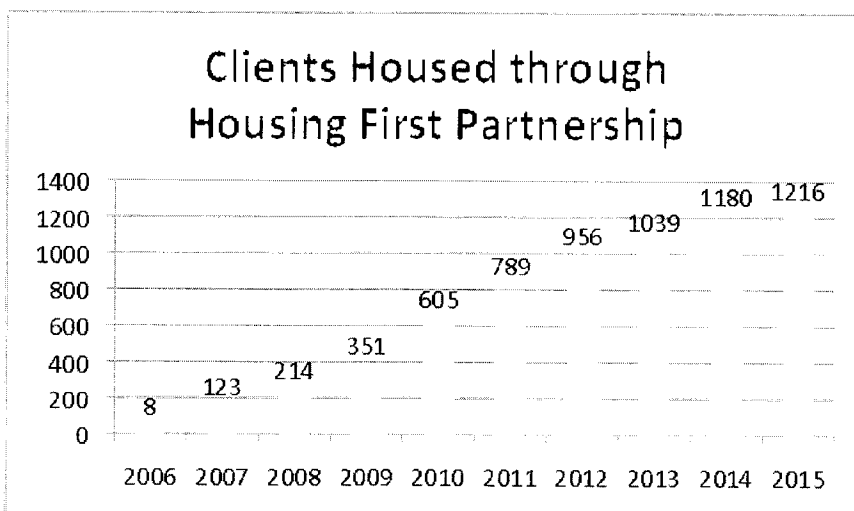
- The Committee on Ending Street Homelessness develops strategies to reach the Minneapolis Downtown Council’s 2025 Plan goal of being the first major U.S. city to end street homelessness. The Committee addresses housing needs while affirming democratic space in the urban core through such work as: implementing a communications plan; creating transit, storage, and meaningful employment and recreation opportunities; and raising funds necessary for more housing and street outreach.

- St. Stephen’s Human Services Veterans Outreach Program consists of two Veterans Outreach Workers funded by the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) federal grant. The program began at St. Stephen’s in December 2014. Since the program’s inception, the outreach workers have worked to enhance housing outcomes by taking part in different partnerships and collaborative. Outreach workers are working in shelters, under bridges, and wherever people who are homeless may be to identify and house veterans.

**Goal 3 – Housing Opportunities** – The plan called for preserving current stock, promoting new development, providing more portable housing vouchers, expanding rapid re-housing and removing regulatory barriers.

- Expanded housing opportunities, especially for single adults – through the Hennepin County Housing First Partnership. This was originally funded through the Currie Avenue Partnership, which raised \$652,000 for start-up funds. There are 1,216 households currently housed through Hennepin County’s Housing First Partnership.
- Suburban HUD HOME dollars are being used for two year rent subsidies in suburban Hennepin for the Stable Families Initiative and the Hennepin Health program. There was additional rent assistance received from Minnesota Housing for the Stable Families Initiative
- HUD-VASH (Housing and Urban Development Veterans Administration Supportive Housing) and SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families) has funded services for 53 veterans and their families and 17 families have been housed through the end of 2014.
- Sixty youth have participated in Avenues’ GLBT Host Home program. Approximately 20 youth and young adults have participated in Avenues’ Minneapolis and Suburban Host Homes programs.
- Avenues for Homeless Youth opened a 12 room shelter/short term housing program in Brooklyn Park in 2015.

**Graph here of housing opportunities developed over the past ten years**



**Goal 4 – Service Delivery** – The plan called for connecting people to services they need to attain housing stability. (Matthew – this needs help!!)

- The Office to End Homelessness held 15 Project Homeless Connects and 7 Youth Connects in Minneapolis that brought together service providers and housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness. The community continues to host “mini-connects” for targeted populations for both adults and youth.  
Catholic Charities opened the Adult Opportunity Center at its Branch III in 2010 and serves over 5,000 individuals each year. The Youth Opportunity Center at YouthLink opened in 2011 and serves 2,000 youth each year. The Veterans Community Resource and Referral Center (CRRC) opened in 2012. (email to Jonelle Glubke)
- The Single Adult Shelters added housing navigators to help people move out of shelter and into housing
- Single Adult Shelter Network (SASN) formed to collaborate on housing for single adults in shelters. The group meets twice monthly to jointly case plan on clients they have in common.
- Several programs have focused on chronically homeless single adults, connecting them with services to end their homelessness and reduce their use of other emergency services and the criminal justice system. These programs include Frequent User Service Enhancement (FUSE), Top 51, Downtown 100, and HOMES court; all focused on housing for people not well served by mainstream programs. All programs have demonstrated a reduction in police encounters and emergency services related to their homelessness.
- Exodus Hotel has 95 units of health-supported housing for single men and women. Priority is given to people experiencing homelessness who are referred from Hennepin Health or North Memorial, in need of health care coordination with their housing.

Need graphic here? Or picture?

**Goal 5 – Capacity for Self-Support** – The plan called for connecting people experiencing homelessness to living wage jobs, enhanced financial literacy, access to federal and state earned income tax credits/working family credits and transportation supports.

- The Heading Home SNAP E&T Project at the Opportunity Center in Minneapolis is multi-agency collaboration co-locating housing and employment services, leveraging philanthropic resources from the United Way and other funders for providers to deliver services that would be difficult to offer or sustain with existing public funding streams. Since its inception in 2011, this effort has served over 890 SNAP-eligible participants and achieved employment for 35 percent of participants completing the program, with average wages of \$10.50/hr and 34 average work hours per week. Nearly half (42%) of program participants have criminal histories and all were homeless one- year or more at entry.
- Employment Navigation program at the Youth Opportunity Center was launched in summer 2015 with funding from the Pohlad Foundation. This pilot connects homeless and disconnected youth to a variety of employment and career resources.
- Award of \$45,000 from Ideas for Action to support employment and education for Stable Families Initiative  
United Way's Claim IT program focuses on educating taxpayers on their rights to Earned Income Tax Credits. In tax year 2013 (filed in 2014), almost 74,000 Hennepin County residents received EITC, a two percent increase over the previous year. At an average value of \$2,167, the total value of EITC claimed by Hennepin County residents was over \$160 million.  
Homeless Against Homeless and Human Rights Program at SSHS supported and helped pass legislation for half price bus tokens for people experiencing homelessness in 2009. Agencies can pay about 88 cents per token for fare that has up to \$2.25 in cash value. In 2014, organizations serving people experiencing homelessness purchased more than 500,000 tokens from Metro Transit.
- Participated in the Opening Doors summit in Washington DC on employment opportunities for people experiencing homelessness. Received grant from the National Initiatives on Poverty and Economic Opportunity and the National Center on Employment and Economic Opportunity for a three year planning grant to support job opportunities for people experiencing homelessness.

**Goal 6 – Systems Improvements** - The plan called for improvements in the effectiveness of the emergency response system for homelessness and collaboration with state and federal plans to end homelessness.

- Standing committee of Shelter Efficiency (single adults) formed. This group has developed biennial strategic plans to improve shelter efficiency, including single lottery system for entry into the three private shelters, extended hours at two shelters to allow social workers to meet clients at the shelter during the day and new sign-in policies at Harbor Light to better track shelter guests.
- Standing Committee of Family Services Network formed to bring together partners in ending family homelessness.
- YSN (youth) formed and continue to meet to improve collaboration and improve the effectiveness of the shelter system. Metro-wide youth committee works to align policies across the Twin Cities metro area.
- Cultural competency group formed and assessment developed. Racial equity work group formed to continue the dialogue.
- Plan aligns with federal and state plans – implementing Coordinated Entry in collaboration with other CoCs in state in accordance with HUD requirements
- Data systems put into place to monitor efforts and evaluate pieces of the plan
- Annual capstone classes at Humphrey School provided valuable in-depth look at specific issues for our community such as the crossover of youth into adult shelter.
- Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness formed – fundraising for issues and moving legislative agenda forward

## Collaboration in our Community

The Heading Home Hennepin Plan and the Minneapolis/Hennepin County Office to End Homelessness relies on partnerships across systems, agencies, and the contributions of people who have experienced homelessness. The community receives \$30 million in government funding specifically for programming for people experiencing homelessness. The partnership has leveraged more than \$2 million in additional funding for homeless service over the course of the ten year plan.

### Funding for Homeless Programs within Hennepin County - estimated annual budget 2015 *rounded to the nearest thousand \$*

source	amount	percent
Federal	\$12,771,000	42%
State	\$9,519,000	32%
County	\$7,828,000	26%
HC HRA	\$49,000	0%
Total	\$30,167,000	100%

Source: Hennepin County Housing and Homeless Initiatives and Community Works

### Major Funding for Heading Home Hennepin, 2007-2015

Project	Funds raised
Currie Avenue Partnership	\$652,000
Stable Families Initiative	\$455,000
Project Homeless Connect	\$481,000
Tornado Relief	\$269,000
Young moms pilot	\$118,000
Damage deposit fund	\$75,000
Street Outreach	\$80,000
Host Homes	\$61,000
Youth work	\$46,000
Leadership Development	\$35,000
Give real change	\$6,600
Refugee study	\$3,600
other - miscellaneous	\$8,900
total	\$2,291,100

**List of partnerships that the Office to End Homelessness has been involved with during the ten year plan** (could this be an "word art" graphic?)



Currie Avenue Partnership, Pipeline Group, Shelter Efficiency, Workgroup, Family Services Network, Downtown Congregations to End Homelessness, Downtown 2025 Plan to End Street Homelessness, Hennepin University Partnership, Opening Doors Summit, Connections Project, Top 51, FUSE, Transition from Jail to Community, NAEH Leadership Council,

**Changing environment of the work and new opportunities that have emerged:** Since the ten year plan was developed, major changes occurred in the environment in which we work and major opportunities presented themselves:

- We weathered the worst recession since the Great Depression.
  - Unemployment reached almost eight percent in 2009. It has now declined to 3.5 percent (April 2015).
  - Foreclosures grew exponentially during the recession, with 2008 foreclosures in Hennepin County more than four times the number in 2005. Foreclosures have now reverted to their pre-recession level.
  - Rental vacancy rates held between four and seven percent between 2006 and early 2010. As our community began to pull out of the recession, vacancy rates declined to historic lows and have held at between two and three percent since 2010.
  - A tornado in 2011 tore through North Minneapolis, eliminating affordable housing for many. We served 88 households in our family shelter who were homeless as a direct result of the tornado.

Several opportunities presented themselves during these past ten years:

- Coordinated Entry – Coordinated Entry accomplished for the family shelter system in 2015. Single adult and youth systems will be coordinated in 2016.
- Hennepin Health
- VASH/SSVF/federal effort to end veterans homelessness
- HPRP
- United States Interagency Council on Homelessness and the federal HEARTH Act
- Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness and the state’s plan to Prevent and End Homelessness
- First increase in MFIP since 1986, with a housing allowance of \$110/month.

### **Where do we go from here?**

A lot has been accomplished in the nearly ten years since the plan began. There is still unfinished business, however. The work of our community is aligning with the state’s plan to prevent and end homelessness and with federal plans focused on ending veterans homelessness by 2015, chronic homelessness by 2017, and family and youth homeless by 2020. The work of the Office to End Homelessness will focus on:

- Leverage “Faircloth” opportunities to develop affordable housing for families
- Set up ongoing coordination within Hennepin County government to bring mainstream services and resources to people experiencing homelessness

- Complete the implementation of Coordinated Entry and streamline shelter systems to respond to the emergency of homelessness with housing solutions
- Continue to use data to identify trends and opportunities to improve service delivery to people experiencing homelessness.
- Leverage federal dollars to support employment opportunities through the Connections Project and other efforts to match employment and training dollars with federal funds.
- Coordinate outreach efforts from agencies to improve coverage, reduce redundancies, and streamline outcomes.

**Heading Home Hennepin Executive Committee Members (co-chairs starred)**

Andrea Brennan, City of Mpls  
 \*Betsy Hodges, Mayor of Mpls  
 Bob Boyd, Mpls Public Housing  
 Cathy ten Broeke, Minnesota Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness  
 Chester Cooper, Hennepin County  
 Cora McCorvey, Mpls Public Housing  
 David Hough, Hennepin County  
 David Rubedor, City of Mpls  
 \*Janis Callison, Hennepin County Commissioner  
 Jennifer DeCubellis, State of Mn  
 John Knowland, citizen  
 John Quincy, Mpls City Council Member  
 Kathy Doty, Hennepin University Partnership  
 Kevin Dockry, Hennepin County  
 Naaima Khan, United Way  
 Kristine Arneson, Minneapolis Police Dept  
 Laura Kadwell, Heading Home Minnesota  
 Lisa Bender, Mpls City Council Member  
 Luke Weisberg, citizen  
 Maria Hanratty, University of MN  
 Marion Greene, Hennepin County Commissioner  
 Patrick Troska, Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation  
 Ross Owen, Hennepin County  
 Shane Zahn, Downtown Improvement District  
 \*Steve Cramer, Minneapolis Downtown Council and Downtown Improvement District  
 Tom Fisher, University of MN  
 Tom Fulton, Family Housing Fund

Add partner profiles of 3 co-chairs and perhaps a couple other key people? Mikkel to pick.