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Originally made by a team tasked to raise money from the streets for the shelter, the Homeless Voice was born from the knowledge that freedom of press was a way to raise awareness. We started as a flyer, then a 4-page newsprint, then finally becoming the voice of the homeless with the Homeless Voice newspaper and website in 1999.

In this newspaper we hope to present the problems that the homeless population faces day-to-day, the problems these people personally face, and the ways that laws can help and hinder them.

We distribute in all major cities throughout Florida, including Tallahassee, Lake City — where our Veterans Inn and Motel 8 is located, Jacksonville, Tampa, Orlando, Daytona, Ft. Lauderdale, Miami, and now Gainesville.

The Homeless Voice is owned by the COSAC Foundation, a multi-faceted non-profit agency that feeds, shelters, and arrages access to social and medical services to every homeless person that enters its shelters. We aim to enable them to return to a self-reliant lifestyle, but for the small percentage of people incapable, we provide a caring and supportive environment for long-term residency.

Country-Wide Homelessness as of January 2018

Sheltered: 358,363 people Unsheltered: 194,467 people

Total: 552,820 people

In Florida: 31,030 people

Country-Wide Homelessness as of January 2019

Sheltered: 357,661 people Unsheltered: 210,055 people

Total: 567,715 people

In Florida: 28, 328 people

According to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development



ability to help these people. their work as "data-driven." for as long as we live."

unique needs. can change."

In an interview with Bloomberg, Chris Block, the director of the charity spearheading ONE System's data collection efforts, addressed privacy issues surrounding the database when the interviewer raised the worry of ONE System's potential to "become a digital policing" tool."



By Katie Aulenbacher The Homeless and Their Data

'Data-driven" has been a buzzword in the homelessness solutions space for decades and a driving force behind many successful initiatives, but data security remains an ongoing battle.

he past few decades have seen a growing trend of applying data collection and analysis tools to social problems, including the problem of homelessness.

While social services rely on data to assist their target populations, database vulnerabilities expose those populations to a host of privacy concerns. Homeless individuals could face threats to their employment opportunities, mental health, and physical safety should their private information be made public. But, this "data-driven" process could also improve the

Outreach efforts like San Francisco's ONE System collect data points about homeless individuals' identities and backgrounds, such as their medical history and where they spend their time, in order to provide individualized care. The goal of the system is to create a single streamlined database for tracking and supporting unhoused individuals.

As data collection efforts have grown though, so has the number and impact of data breaches. 2018 saw more than 43,000 security incidents, according to Verizon's Data Breach Investigations Report, with many of the organizations serving unhoused populations such as The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, National Alliance to End Homelessness, and ONE System – describing

By "data-driven" though, some organizations merely mean "informed by research", others rely on existing, anonymized data sets.

The data ONE System collects is answers to 17 questions about unhoused individuals, including their real name, how long they have been without a house, their healthcare history, what services they have previously received, whether they have visited jails or counseling centers, and where they spend their time.

Billy Albert, a Veterans Inn homeless shelter resident, noted that some people, "just to be accommodating, might give them the wrong information. I do think [the system] is pretty good, if it actually does what it says it's going to do, but homelessness is going to be a problem

Housing this information in a single database ONF System aims to minimize the extent to which unhoused individuals are shuffled around multiple organizations that do not meet their

Albert commented that centralized care can be a good thing. "There's got to be a central point where these people can go to where they'll feel safe, where they'll feel that people do care, where they're given a path where they

Block said that law enforcement officials have not yet accessed the system and that "no one is trying to purchase" the data at this point either, another potential concern brought up. He also mentions that individuals can have their information deleted from the system through a somewhat arduous process, acknowledging that

"there's a lot of privacy concerns" surrounding the initiative, and while "so far those issues haven't been significant...that doesn't mean they won't come up in the future."

If ONE System or similar initiatives were to suffer a data breach, affected participants might face hiring and workplace discrimination. They would need to manage the lasting impact on their name and their private information being exposed to the broader public.

Albert worries that if this happens homeless individuals could face long-term reputational damage. People might "look at them, going, 'Why were you homeless to begin with? What was wrong? Was it the drugs, was it the alcohol, what?' Sometimes people make mistakes...and they get discouraged."

He also expresses concern about the potential for homeless people to be taken advantage of, if data on their whereabouts is publicized, "There's a large amount of miscreants in the realm of homelessness," he says. Some of these miscreants beat people up for what little they have, and some "use these people for more or less slave labor, if they get stuck in a situation where they have no way to call out."

San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing representatives were unavailable for comment.

Some efforts claim to have met enormous successes. One movement, Built for Zero, claims to have ended veteran homelessness in ten communities.

Built for Zero is another initiative to which data collection is central. According to their website, they collect a "comprehensive list of every person in a community experiencing homelessness, updated in real-time. Each person on the list has a file that includes their name, history, health, and housing needs."

By their reports, they have leveraged this person-level data to end veteran homelessness in ten communities and chronic homelessness in three communities. They have helped 63 communities collect quality data, and 41 communities achieve "a measurable reduction in homelessness." The initiative has housed over 109,000 individuals since January 2015.

Albert hopes other organizations look to Built enables immediate, personalized interventions. for Zero as an example and study "why it was a success.

> Individuals on the list have signed a consent form stipulating with whom their information may be shared. Built for Zero did not respond to a request for comment on the circumstances under which consent is obtained by the time of publication. In most communities, the website says, "police are not among those parties" with whom the data is shared.

> Reflecting on data-driven solutions in general, Albert expressed concerns about homeless individuals being "utilized as a commodity, or just information," worrying that organizations are collecting data simply to find a cost-effective way to remove homeless people from public areas

> "I don't find anything wrong with it if it's more or less going to be a legitimate way they can be taken care of, not to where they're going to be put on a datasheet somewhere," he says. "There's got to be a light at the end of the tunnel, there's got to be a way to find out if there is a light at the end of the tunnel." 🖵

66 'No one is trying to purchase' the data at this point, 99



On a single night in January of 2019, there were 567,715 homeless people in the United States according to the most recent report by the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development.

HOMELESSNESS

AS OF 2019

By Andrew Fraieli NATIONAL

what degree. The information is gained what the National Alliance to End nelessness calls a "point-in-timecount," which they define as, "an unduplicated count on a single night of the people in a community who are experiencing homelessness that includes both sheltered and unsheltered populations."

The "point-in-time count" is possible thanks to a federal fund called the Mckinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grant program which requires communities that receive it - such as many

eleased annually, the report is a Continuums of Care nationwide – to participate breakdown of who is homeless and to in the survey. This does mean that the report's numbers are not exact and they are stated as estimates. Private shelters that are not federally funded, such as the COSAC Foundation, would not be included as well as unsheltered homeless who could not be found by volunteers and shelter workers.

To the below are some of the statistics found by the survey, but the report also includes "key findings" that help give context to the numbers.

For example, some places saw a rise in homelessness over the past year such as California - which saw a 16 percent increase or 21,306 people, with unsheltered homelessness increasing by 21 percent or about 18,000 people. The overall homelessness in the U.S., though, has decreased by 20 percent – or by about 24,000 people – between 2007 and 2019.

Other key findings in the report were that "the number of veterans experiencing homelessness declined by two percent between 2018 and 2019 and has dropped by almost 50 percent since 2009," but also that African Americans represented "40 percent of all people experiencing homelessness, despite being 13 percent of the U.S. population." 🖵



<u>Total Amount of Homeless People</u>



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All information according to U.S Department of Housing and Development

From foster care to homeless: how the system failed him

Story and photos by Miranda Schumes

ichael White stood on the center median at the busy intersection between Glades Road and St. Andrews Blvd in Boca Raton, Florida. It was 2002, and he was donning a lime green shirt with "The Homeless Voice" logo on the front, gripping a plastic bucket and selling newspapers in exchange for a donation. He had just taken a job with the COSAC Foundation, a charitable organization which helps house homeless people for a small fee. It also offers people an opportunity to sell newspapers on the street in exchange for a percentage of the sales, which can then go towards housing.

It was White's first day on the job, and he hoped to make enough money to stay at the shelter that night, which would also guarantee him a meal. A car stopped just feet away from him. A mother sat in the driver's seat, focused on the traffic ahead of her, waiting for the red light to turn green. A young boy sat in the back seat. He motioned for White to come over just before rolling down the window, holding out a ten dollar bill. As White went to take the donation, the window suddenly rolled up and trapped the young boy's arm.

The boy screamed.

His mother stared coldly at the traffic in front of her, while keeping her finger on the button, not releasing her son's arm.

The boy continued to shriek and tears streamed down his face. White grabbed the boy's arm and tried to push it back through the window. "I knew he was in pain, and I saw the fear on the kid's face that he didn't really know what was going on... it was an unexplainable sound," he said, his voice becoming gentler as he recalled the incident. The sound brought White back to his childhood, and he immediately burst into tears.

"I was not only angry, I was hurt, I was devastated. It just took me back to my childhood," he said between breaths. White was abused as a child, just like the young boy seemed to be. While many years have passed since he was last abused, there is no escaping the painful memories that come from it. There is also no denying that White — well spoken, intelligent, personable, and polite — might not be homeless had his life played out differently.

He is now 42 years old and lives in Dania Beach, but

was born in Harris County, Texas. Soon after he was born, his mother moved him and his seven siblings to Los Angeles, California where they slept in a van until Child Protective Services took each child into custody. White was placed in the foster care system at one and a half years old, and moved from home to home throughout the Los Angeles area, eventually ending up in Compton for high school. He and his siblings had been separated and sent to live in different homes, resulting in White losing contact with them, and losing his only support system as well.

Growing up in the foster care system came with a number of

It disheartens him to know that many people assume he does drugs or has an addiction. In reality, he has never done drugs, does not smoke, and does not drink.

difficulties for him. He was physically abused from the ages of two to 14, and, on top of that, White consistently got the impression that the California foster care system was more about making money than truly supporting a child's needs.

He recalls one of his foster mothers constantly saying, "You are just my foster child. I can give you up anytime. I can get another one of you in a matter of days, in a matter of hours. You leave today, I'll have another one of you tomorrow." His foster mother's family also expressed the same sentiments towards him.

"With all of that going on, you either do one of two things: you either kill yourself or you become an angry child, and the only thing angry children can do is misbehave," White said. "I was just angry at what was going on, and I didn't know how to express it."

White's lashing out resulted in him living in over 20 foster homes until he turned 18. "You end up going from one home to another because they don't think you're capable of behaving yourself," he explained. His misbehavior finally ended in high school when he developed a closer friendship with Stephanie Dupin, a relative of one of his foster mothers. "She would pick me up, take me over to her house, and when I was with her, I felt like a normal child," White said. "She made me feel like I was wanted, I was important, I was loved."

When he was in his sophomore year of high school, Dupin passed away from kidney cancer at age 47. "That was one of the worst things I've ever experienced in my life because my mind said, 'Now who's going to protect me?'" White recalls.

All of the emotions hit him at Dupin's memorial when he locked himself inside of a bathroom and "cried like a baby" on the floor.

"When I got up off the floor, I said to myself, 'I have to change. I have to do something better. I have to do better than this because if nobody else is going to protect me then I have to protect myself."

White turned to reading, writing, and focusing on his schoolwork to distract from the abuse as well as the heartache of losing Dupin. He also joined the ROTC program at his high school.

At 18 years old, he aged out of the foster care system and, by law, was no longer entitled to live with a foster family. "If you're not really prepared, or if they haven't prepared you, it's like they're taking you to the streets, so I had to deal with that, and I almost committed suicide," he said.

White ended up staying with a minister until he got accepted into Job Corps, a program within the U.S. Department of Labor, which helps people from the ages of 16 to 24 learn new skills and prepares them for the workforce. He applied for the training at the beginning of his twelfth grade year as he did not know where he would go after foster care.

"I knew I was going to have three meals a day. I knew I'd have a place to stay. I knew I'd have some sort of training. I'd be okay," he said explaining his decision to enter the Job Corps.





Michael White recieving a donation in Dania Beach for a newspaper

He stayed at Job Corps for two years where he was enrolled in their hotel management program. He excelled there – finishing classes quicker than most as he was a fast reader. He also was Vice President of Job Corps' Student Government and the president of the dorms.

Following his graduation from Job Corps. White worked at the front desk of a hotel in Long Beach for a short period of time, but decided to leave when he felt he would be unable to grow at the company due to his race. He and two of his friends from Job Corps decided to travel across the country in search of better opportunities. The three would start their morning at local day labor agencies to see what work they could pick up.

Most of the jobs that White found were in demolition and renovating. Still, neither White nor his friends were finding enough work or making enough money to survive. After traveling from state to state in search of job opportunities, the three finally ended up in South Florida.

White, who was starving because he did not have the funds to eat for three days, called 911 in search of help. The emergency line directed him to call 411 instead, with the operator telling him about the COSAC Foundation in Hollywood, Florida. When he arrived at the shelter, White – who is 5'7'' – weighed only 120 pounds due to frequently lacking the funds to eat while on the road. After struggling to find consistent work, White decided to stay at the COSAC shelter with his friends deciding to continue on.

There, he was able to get meals in exchange for vending newspapers. This was an entirely new experience for White who had never done that type of work. "I'm a California boy, so vending papers means going door to door to sell papers, dropping papers off at a newsstand. That's what my interpretation about vending papers was," he said.

When White actually saw what vending papers entailed he was stunned. He never anticipated standing in the middle of a busy intersection vending newspapers to cars stopped at a light. "It was a new, shocking experience because you don't do this in California," he said.

Now, White has been with the COSAC Foundation on and off since 2002. In the times that he left, he would go in search of friends or potential family members to stay with. The COSAC Foundation has undergone some changes in that time as well. They no longer have a shelter in Hollywood, but instead have a home in Dania Beach.

When White vends newspapers, he is sometimes out the door by 5:30 a.m. to get on the shelter's shuttle, which takes him to a location for the day to dispense copies of The Homeless Voice. He often does not return to the shelter until 7 p.m. White and the other vendors work six days a week, rain or shine. "We walk all day. Some of us don't take any breaks and it's just

"Just to come out here daily, have people curse you out, throw things at you, spit at you, put their dogs on you, lock windows — you start getting a mental picture that everybody hates you,"

physically exhausting... a lot of people can't do it," he said. "A lot of people can't come out here and take the abuse we take and smile about it."

He understands that people often have a stigma towards those who are homeless - and is no stranger to it.

"Just to come out here daily, have people curse you out, throw things at you, spit at you, put their dogs on you, lock windows – you start getting a mental picture that everybody hates you," he explained. "You feel like you're not a human being to the point where you say, 'I might as well kill myself'. People make you feel that you're not worth it, that you don't exist, that you're trash even though they don't even know you."

White admits that people treating him this way often times leads to him feeling depressed. It disheartens him to know that many people assume he does drugs or has an addiction. In reality, he has never done drugs, does not smoke, and does not drink. "I'm a strong willed, strong minded kind of person, and it took me coming out here and doing this to even know that," he said with conviction. When the job starts to take an emotional toll on him, he knows he has to just "keep going" and "keep striving."

"What keeps me going is wanting to know what's going to happen tomorrow and then wanting to see what's going to happen the next day," he said. Still, it can be difficult to do that when it feels like people have already made up their mind about you. "Most people see me and they go, 'You're homeless – either you're an addict or a thug," White said. "I think that's the stereotype as black men that we do get - that we're thugs and we're just trying to rob you. I don't need to rob you. I've never stolen anything a day in my life. I'll go without before I rob someone."

He wishes that people would ask questions before assuming anything about him. He also wishes people knew that he is intelligent. "I read constantly. I'm always reading something. I'm always trying to educate my mind - always trying to think beyond the basic boxes," he said, elaborating on some of his favorite authors -Iyanla Vanzant, Gary Zukav, and Toni Morrison.

While reading provides him with a temporary distraction, he still wakes up everyday ready to brave strangers, stigmas, and whatever comes his way. White understands that not everyone has money to give and that does not bother him. He just wants people to be "kind" and "caring".

"You don't have to give me a dime. If you just say 'Hi' to me or 'How's your day going?' - that makes me feel like a better person because that lets me know you're at least thinking, you at least have me in some part, some fraction of your mind." 🖵



"A lot of people can't come out here and take the abuse we take and smile about it," Michael White said

they aren't able to live without breaking one; cities have made the homeless criminals with little ability to defend.

banned sleeping in a car overnight, such as a recently reenacted ordinance in Los Angeles. Other laws make sitting on the sidewalk illegal, most notably in San Francisco in 2010 but recently, in 2018, deemed unconstitutional by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. There are many different laws that can have an end result of criminalizing some aspect or behavior of a homeless person's life, and, like these, they sleeping or using the restroom. enforcement can't be predicted.

cover whatsoever."

city was illegal. what it calls it's "Hall of Shame."



Cacramento, California filed a lawsuit to oan certain homeless individuals from Dublic spaces – having declared them public nuisances; Kansas City, Missouri's health department poured bleach on a food pantry's food to deter the eating of it, as they considered the food a safety hazard - the homeless still ate it; and Ocala, Florida has made it illegal to "rest while awake or asleep" on public property in the open.

According to a report titled "Housing not Handcuffs" released by the National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty, these are only a few but some of the most extreme – laws criminalizing homelessness across the country. By making laws that specifically target the homeless themselves,

They state that

police would

wake people

from sleep to

tell them that

sleepingoutside

in Durango city

was illegal. **

66.

Some laws have

are commonly built around a necessary action like

One of the highlights from the "Housing not Handcuffs" report was that 72% of the 187 cities the law center looked at had "at least one law restricting camping in public." Camping in public can also mean different things depending on the city, with some laws being more or less broad to the point that their

Eurgen, Oregon for example, prohibits sleeping in a campsite that it defines in part as "any place where any bedding, sleeping bag, or other material used for bedding purposes..." is maintained. It functionally bans using anything to protect oneself from the elements, even as simple as a blanket.

Some laws that are not written as bans on sleeping can still end up being enforced as one.

The law center and ACLU of Colorado released a report in 2018 called "A Year Without Sleep", analyzing police reports in Durango, Colorado where they found that "Durango police have stretched the City's ban on 'camping' to target a harmless behavior that homeless residents cannot avoid: sleep." It continues that in one year, only three citations were giving to people sleeping under tarps, but "45 citations (46% of total) were issued to people who were sleeping under a blanket or in a sleeping bag, and 32 citations (33% of total) were issued to people sleeping on the ground without any

They state that police would wake people from sleep to tell them that sleeping outside in Durango

Sleeping is a dominant issue in the report, pointing towards the dominance of outlawing sleeping or activities that may lead to sleeping in many cities. Ocala, Florida is mentioned directly in the report in

Homelessness Continues to be Criminalized

A law firm's report shows how city's ordinances criminalize basic human behavior

It states that "homeless peoplearestrictlypoliced in accordance with Ocala's draconian antihomeless ordinances" where it's "illegal to rest in the open on public property, which has been heavily enforced by the city." They go on to describe the mayor's self-promotion of his "broken-windows" policing sentiment which is a "discredited policing model which asserts that open signs of disorder such as broken windows invite further crimes when left unaddressed." The report's main issue with the policing

tendencies of Ocala besides it's laws limiting the ability of people without a home to rest, is it's

"city-sponsored police patrol that has made over 200 'quality-of-life' arrests between December 3, 2018 and April 1, 2019," of which three people alone have racked up \$9,000 in fines, fees and cost and spent a total 210 days in jail based solely on this ordinance.

Other laws that can be broadly used to remove the homeless from public areas are loitering and vagrancy laws. Comparing them to Jim Crow laws, the report deems them discriminatory as they give such broad power to the police, with 35% of cities having laws prohibiting it, and 60% with laws prohibiting in certain public spaces.

These laws are specific examples of criminalizing the homeless when they have no choice. They have nowhere else to go except this public space, and then are arrested for it.

People across the country have created their own wavs of helping the homeless and people in need on the streets, there are many food pantries

Rights." 🖵

- such as the Rose K. Boatwright Food Pantry in Lake City, Florida - many examples of ways to help the homeless shower such as the Shower to the People in St. Louis, Missouri, and even Triangle Works in Denver, Colorado -a five person crew that cleans garbage near parks where homeless people congregate so to help their areas stay clean. The report makes an effort to highlight all these issues and how laws can be changed to help, instead of hurt. But as they are now, the report states that these laws criminalizing homelessness "consitutes cruel and inhuman treatment, which violates our obligations under the Convention Against Torture and the International Covenant on Civil & Political

Comparing them to Jim Crow laws, the report deems them discriminatory as they give such broad power to the police, "

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Advocates for the homeless see the centralized databases and standardized assessments of the coordinated entry approach as superior to the scattershot approaches of the past.

random meal, a care package of toiletries, an occasional instance of a homeless person **A**receiving permanent housing – these are individual approaches that don't lend themselves to learning much about the rate of homelessness across the state and the nation. Without quantifying this data, and consistent monitoring of homeless populations, advocates say progress is virtually impossible to gauge, let alone achieve.

By Sam Mire

A new data-driven approach to securing housing for the homeless would represent a break from these fragmented approaches, and one now has the backing of the federal government and many of these local advocates for the homeless.

Named "coordinated entry", the new tactic is now mandated by The Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a condition of receiving funding for Continuum of Care (CoC) programs and Emergency Solutions Grants from the federal government. The primary requirement: for municipalities to set up a coordinated assessment system intended to keep track of local homeless populations and assess individuals for their vulnerability.

This tactic started in June 2010, when a new agenda for fighting homelessness from the federal level down was published by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. The report, titled Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, had an agenda aspect requiring "new and innovative types of system coordination".

Specifics for the requirements of coordinated entry have evolved since that report was published though.

In 2017, HUD described how regional and local governments would need to comply with federal CoC guidelines to receive certain forms of funding. These mandates were entered into the record of federal regulatory guidelines.

The specific guidelines detailing coordinated entry state they must, "establish and operate either a centralized or coordinated assessment system that provides an initial, comprehensive assessment of the needs of individuals and families for housing and services," and it must define "how its system will address the needs of individuals and families who are fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking..."

The assessment by which members of the homeless community are measured also takes into account their vulnerability of being chronically homeless and, ultimately, dying on the street, regardless of the circumstances that caused them to become homeless.

Questions asked of the homeless may vary between institutions who are directly implementing coordinated entry in their community. HUD provides a sample checklist for how a coordinated entry questionnaire might look, and it concentrates on their housing history and details mainly along with possible disabilities.

Director of Community Development Marcy Esbjerg in Pasco County – which has implemented this tactic – explained that the entry questionnaire system helps determine who the chronic homeless in a community are. The pecking order of the chronically homeless is determined according to trimorbidity, meaning by who is more likely to suffer from physical health conditions, mental health conditions, as well as substance abuse problems.

The chronically homeless are prioritized for housing in this tactic as they tend to tax community resources — such as emergency response, jails, and medical facilities – more than most. Programs that have targeted the most vulnerable, chronicallyhomeless individuals in a community have proven massively effective in saving taxpayers money and helping the most vulnerable off the street.

Conditions according to The Code of Federal **Regulations that Qualify** Somebody as Chronically Homeless

• A homeless individual with a disability

• Somebody living somewhere not meant for human habitation, or in an emergency shelter

• Somebody who has been homeless and living this way continuously for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years, as long as the combined occasions equal at least 12 months and each break in homelessness separating the occasions included at least 7 consecutive nights of living under conditions described as homelessness

• A family with an adult head of household who meets the above conditions

Another program that has shown promise is Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), it provides permanent housing for the chronically homeless and gives support services at a subsidized rate.

When implemented in Denver, 19 people were given permanent housing and the approach saved over \$15,000 per person housed per year in the form of reduced strain on public costs for shelter, criminal justice, health care, emergency room, and behavioral health costs. Even after accounting for the cost of subsidized housing, taxpayers saved more than \$2,300 per individual housed. Some cities running the program were able to house people in the hundreds.

By documenting the homeless in a community in a central database, and assessing their individual states of homelessness and vulnerability to dying on the streets, HUD and those who implement coordinated entry at the local level hope to achieve similar savings for taxpayers while reducing the number of homeless deaths directly related to those people being unsheltered.

Esbjerg, who is in full support of the tactic, describes the rationale behind it, "As a community, we want to be able to look at [the homeless landscape] by the numbers, and the [best] way of doing that is by doing coordinated entry, a standard assessment helping the people that are most in need." She continues that, "If three of us went to the emergency room, and one of us was bleeding out from a gunshot wound, one of us had the flu, and the third had a cough, who is going to be treated first? The one that is bleeding out."

The goal of coordinated entry is to identify who among the homeless is most at risk of "bleeding out" – either literally or metaphorically – secure housing for them, and provide the services they require to remain in housing; whatever it might be. "Care could look like budgeting help, it could look

like childcare, if there is substance abuse or mental health issues it could look like care in those arenas, certainly health-related care," Esbjerg says. "It really depends on the individual."

She notes that there will be challenges, one of them being trust in the system from both housing providers and the homeless. Still, she remains optimistic about the ability of coordinated entry.

"When you're working with people who have not been housed for a long time, there is a lot of lack of trust in the system and in people who represent the system. So, oftentimes...you're working on building a relationship and building trust." 🖵



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Neither No, I prefer to get my newspaper at street corners.

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THE

HOMELESS

Membership Benefits:

-Have piece of mind in knowing that you helped keep a homeless family off the streets.

-You or your business name will appear in the Homeless Voice Newspaper, which currently has over 100,000 copies in circulation.

Low Street Street