

City of Cincinnati

An Ordinance No. 347 -2008

DWAT
JTR/ROH

DIRECTING the Cincinnati/Hamilton County Continuum of Care for the Homeless to immediately address the inadequacies of the current provision of services for single homeless individuals in the City of Cincinnati, and to put into place a comprehensive plan to implement such services. The plan must ensure that as a critical segment of the homeless community, single homeless men and women will have access to safe, appropriate shelter facilities and that such facilities will provide comprehensive services necessary for homeless individuals to obtain and maintain housing.

Furthermore, Council directs that the comprehensive plan guarantee the highest standards of care for the homeless so they can successfully move from "Homeless to Homes." In addition, all plan recommendations must insure that any facilities are "Good Neighbors" and do not result in any behavior or actions that are disruptive to businesses and residents. Recommendations for shelter facilities and service models must be based on nationally recognized best-practice methods within the context of the Continuum of Care for the Homeless and shall include case management services, medical services, mental health services, and recovery services.

Furthermore, it is the intent of the Mayor and the Cincinnati City Council that the recommended best practices model will guide City of Cincinnati resource allocations for services to single homeless men and women in the future. Any and all providers of these services will be selected through an objective, competitive process consistent with HUD guidelines that homeless services planning and implementation are coordinated, inclusive and outcome-oriented. The Continuum of Care is urged to submit its recommendations to the Mayor and Cincinnati City Council no later than March 31, 2009.

Furthermore, it is the intention of the Mayor and City Council to empower the Continuum of Care to respond to this mandate by creating a process that is inclusive of all of the key stakeholders in the community including, but not limited to, homeless providers, the business community, government representatives, funding entities and regional/national experts. Failure to present a comprehensive completed plan to Council by the deadline will lead to direct intervention by Council to address the homeless system in a different manner.

WHEREAS, since 1996, the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County have partnered around the Continuum of Care for the Homeless ("CoC") efforts to plan and implement a comprehensive, effective service and housing delivery system for the homeless, including street outreach, individual and family emergency shelters, transitional and permanent housing, and services-only programs, as more fully detailed in the memorandum attached hereto and incorporated herein; and

WHEREAS, the Cincinnati/Hamilton County Continuum of Care for the Homeless is one of the nation's top-scoring CoC programs and maximizes federal resources attracted to Greater Cincinnati, with a reputation for effective planning, implementation, and innovation, with overall outcomes that exceed national expectations; and

WHEREAS, the homeless sections of the Consolidated Plans of both the City and the County match and identify the housing needs and current inventory of facilities as is critical to the success of the CoC and of both jurisdictions' ability to continue to generate and utilize federal Housing and Urban Development resources; and

WHEREAS, in 2007, there were a total of 7,298 unduplicated persons served through street outreach, emergency shelters and/or transitional housing within the City of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, of which 3,604 were single males and 1,139 were single females without children in their homeless household composition; and

WHEREAS, a total of 413 emergency shelter beds are available nightly for single individuals. Of this total number, 312 emergency shelter beds are reserved for single homeless men at the City Gospel Mission, the Drop Inn Center, the Mt. Airy Shelter, and at the St. Francis/St. Joseph Catholic Worker House; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council recognize the experience of the local shelter providers and commend the existing individual men and women's shelter facilities for the resources and energy currently expended to provide emergency shelter and services for this population, while recognizing that innovations and service enhancements to meet the needs of the hardest-to-serve may exceed existing capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services believes that the direct provision of shelter at Mt. Airy Center is not within their core competencies and have requested a process be developed to privatize Mt. Airy Center and in consideration of the considerable community debate about the Drop Inn Center; now, therefore,

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That the Cincinnati/Hamilton County CoC immediately address the inadequacy of the current provision of services for single homeless individuals in the City of Cincinnati, and to put in place a comprehensive plan to implement such services.

The plan must ensure that as a critical segment of the homeless community, single homeless men and women will have access to safe, appropriate shelter facilities and that such facilities will provide comprehensive services necessary for homeless individuals to

obtain and maintain housing. Furthermore, the comprehensive plan must guarantee the highest standards of care for the homeless so they can successfully move from “Homeless to Homes.” In addition, all plan recommendations must insure that any facilities are “Good Neighbors” and do not result in any behavior or actions that are disruptive to businesses and residents. Recommendations for shelter facilities and service models must be based on nationally recognized best-practice methods within the context of the CoC and shall include case management services, medical services, mental health services, and recovery services.

Section 2. That the recommended best practices model serve as a guide for City of Cincinnati resource allocations for services to single homeless men and women in the future and that the provider of these services will be selected through an objective, competitive process, consistent with HUD scoring guidelines that homeless services planning and implementation are coordinated, inclusive and outcomes-oriented, that may include national service providers.

Section 3. That CoC submit its recommendations to the Mayor and Council no later than March 31, 2009.

Section 4. That the City Manager is hereby directed to provide all necessary staff and financial support necessary to assist CoC in this process.


Section 5. That CoC shall include and/or consult with the following key stakeholders in the process:

- Current providers of service for homeless single, individuals;
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Service system represented through the HCMHRS Board;

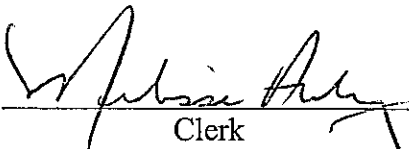
- The medical and dental community, including but not limited to doctors involved in Health Care for the Homeless;
- Community Foundations and Funders, including but not limited to the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati, Greater Cincinnati Foundation and SC Ministries;
- The religious community through various judicatories;
- The business community through 3CDC and the CBC.

Section 6. That this ordinance shall be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and general welfare and shall, subject to the terms of Article II, Section 6 of the Charter, be effective immediately. The reason for the emergency is to ensure that those people in need of comprehensive services will have access to such services as soon as possible.

Passed: October 8, 2008




 Mayor

Attest: 

 Clerk

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ORDINANCE NO 347-2008
 WAS PUBLISHED IN THE CITY BULLETIN
 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER ON 10-21-2008


 CLERK OF COUNCIL