Homelessness

As ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren…

HB 436, HB 328, SB 169
Note: I’ll embed one of the two videos

• http://fox13now.com/2014/10/19/advocates-working-to-help-utahs-homeless-youth-say-winter-is-coming/

Homelessness: must acknowledge the problem

- 11,280 homeless students in Utah
  - (UT State Office of Ed)
- Washington County School Dist:
  833 homeless students
  - Living with another family or friend, shelter (DOVE or Switchpoint), “camping”
- 14,516 Utahns will experience homelessness in 2015
Homelessness: must define the problem

- People experiencing homelessness cost $30-50,000/yr at hospitals, jails, & crisis centers*
- Problem #1: No focus on prevention & distribution
- Problem #2: Crisis & arrival at emergency shelter
- Problem #3: “One-size-fits-all” emergency services model
  - What about families and children?
  - What about working single adults?
  - What about domestic violence victims?
  - What about people with disabilities?

*US Interagency Council on Homelessness
Our homeless neighbors

- 40% Families with children
- 30% Families with persons with disabilities
- 30% Domestic violence victims
- 46,036 Necessary extreme low income units statewide

88% are from Utah
Homeless children in Utah

- 2x more likely to have a learning disability
- 3x more likely to have an emotional disturbance
- 4.5x more likely to drop out of school
- Every time a child changes schools, he/she loses 4-6 months academically
We are all in this together
HB 436: Housing & Homeless Reform Initiative

- $27 mill over 3 years; legislature appropriated $9.25 mill this year
- State Homelessness Coordinating Committee, chaired by Lt. Gov. Spencer Cox
  - Distribute funds, subject to approval by Executive Appropriations
  - Set criteria/guidelines
  - Determine timing, process, & guidelines by which communities can access funding
- Facility construction in Salt Lake County
- Homeless prevention & diversion efforts statewide
HB 328: Housing & Homeless Amendments: data roadmap for Coordinating Committee

HB 328 goals

Minimize incarceration & recidivism
Reduce intergenerational poverty
Improve child well being
Client privacy, data capacity
SB 169: Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund

- Align purposes/uses of Olene Walker Housing Trust Fund with the statewide goal to minimize homelessness
- Prohibition on city from adopting an ordinance that prohibits a homeless shelter from operating year-round
HOMES Initiative: Minimize homelessness

Solution #1: (HB 436, SB 169)
Utah-driven, housing-based prevention & diversion program that prioritizes families, children, & workers

Solution #2: (HB 436)
Develop & support TWO emergency resource facilities (1 for families, 1 for single men/women)

Solution #3: (HB 328, HB 436)
Data-driven, coordinated-entry system, common assessment tool
Solution #1: Diversion programs

Salt Lake Community Action Program (with The Road Home & United Way 211)

- Diversion specialist meets family at the shelter door & helps people identify alternatives
  - Housing
  - Financial assistance
  - Other services
- Goal: safely divert 25% of the approximately 680 families entering the shelter

From Nov 1, 2015 to Feb 16, 2016, 51/110 assessed families diverted from shelter
Solution #1: Strengths of current diversion

% of People with these traits

- Work history
- History of housing
- Potential income
- Family network
Solution #1: Barriers to current diversion

% OF PEOPLE WITH THESE TRAITS

- Criminal record
- Lack of family
- Unemployment
- History of eviction
Solution #2: Develop 2 new emergency facilities

Status quo: one-size-fits-all shelter

Future: 2 new shelters in SL County (separate sites) with appropriate services

- 1 smaller facility for families & children
- 1 smaller facility for single men/women

Photo courtesy of The Salt Lake Tribune
Solution #3: Data-driven; coordinated entry system with other state systems
Why is 2016 different?

- Year long study by all stakeholders on Collective Impact on Homelessness Steering Committee & Homeless Services Site Evaluation Commission
  - The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
  - Crossroads Urban Center
  - Goldman Sachs
  - Salt Lake City

- Comprehensive effort to align programs & funding and use common metrics

- State Homelessness Coordinating Committee