Building a Long-term Vision: Opportunities from a Crisis

Wednesday, June 3, 2020
1:00 PM EST
Today’s Agenda

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Current U.S. Situation
U.S. Reopening

The New York Times

Click a state to see more detail.
Web Series Overview

1. How Homeless Services have been Impacted in the Emergent COVID-19 Period
2. How to Proceed after the Emergent Period to Maintain Safety and Advance Services
**Stages of Response**

**Emergent**
- **Period**
  - Feb./March to now?
- **Actions**
  - Change of practices (outreach, sheltering)
  - Emergency sheltering (congregate, hotels)
  - Staffing impact
  - Client Needs

**Intermediate**
- **Period**
  - Decline or Flat Incidence
  - Surge of needs during 2nd, 3rd wave
  - Prolonged period of uncertainty
- **Actions**
  - Prolong expanded shelter capacity
  - Testing
  - Prevention
  - Engaging and Case Planning with Clients

**Longer**
- **Period**
  - Vaccine—at least 18m
  - Treatment, partially effective for severe illness, <18m
- **Actions**
  - Using the COVID-19 crisis as an opportunity for permanency
  - Setting priorities
  - Long term changes in service delivery
  - Measure Impact
A National Government Perspective:

*Changing Lives for Good: Long-Term, Safe Accommodation for UK Rough Sleepers*

**Dame Louise Casey DBE CB**
Prime Minister’s Advisor on Rough Sleeping
Co-founder and Chair of the Institute for Global Homelessness
The UK’s Approach to Homelessness and COVID-19

• Provided emergency accommodation for just under 15,000 people in England since 26 March
  ○ This includes people coming directly from the streets (some for the first time in years), people in communal night shelters, and people found to be at risk of rough sleeping during the pandemic

• Quickly intervened to prevent outbreak within a vulnerable cohort - in London, a special project for those with COVID-19 symptoms never had more than 30 people referred to date
The ‘Everyone In’ Strategy

• After the UK government announced its COVID-19 lockdown on 23 March, a request was sent to local councils that rough sleepers and those living in communal night shelters must be accommodated by the weekend.

• Immediate engagement of creative accommodation stock were sourced and procured – including existing units, hotels, university housing and hostels.

• Local authorities pulled data of rough sleepers known to local authorities across the UK; London CHAIN data was updated in real time with regular counts from street outreach workers. All numbers fed into a centralized team.

• In London:
  o Assertive street outreach with offer of accommodation. Congregate spaces, including day center and communal shelters, were closed and staff were re-deployed.
  o Data on immediate accommodation was updated to count the number of rooms available and occupied each day.
  o The UK government provided £3.2 million in targeted funding to help councils get as many people off the streets as possible, with a further £3.2 billion additional funding for councils to help them continue to respond to the pandemic and support their communities.
Assess and care for those brought in

- Establishing safety and COVID-19 testing protocols in immediate accommodation
- Setting up health services—hepatitis vaccines, register with a GP, foot care, etc.—for those brought in after a long time on the street, in addition to support from local charity support teams managing hotels. The ambition is to ensure that everybody has a thorough health check whilst in the hotel and other emergency accommodation.
- Collecting survey data on the demographics and needs of those who were brought from the streets to hotels - including physical and mental health needs and what led people to homelessness
- Putting plans in place to develop onwards positive impact for those who have come in and their communities
The ‘move-on’ phase: Long-term solutions

• On 2 May, a specialist Taskforce on the Covid-19 rough sleeping response was created at the national level with an overarching ambition to ensure people do not have to return to life on the streets once the immediate crisis is over

• Working with the needs assessment data to determine what types of solutions and services are needed

• In addition to an offer of somewhere safe to stay, the response aims to include comprehensive health checks and work/training elements

• New partnerships between government, charities, local authorities, philanthropy and business communities

• The government commitment will be backed by £433 million fast tracked funding to create 6,000 units of accommodation, 3,300 of which will be made available in the next 12 months
What does it take to get it done?

- Ensuring that rough sleepers could self-isolate was a response to the public health crisis of Covid-19 and the response has been led as a public health emergency.
- The unwavering belief that vulnerable rough sleepers have the same right as everybody to self-isolate in accordance with health guidance.
- A centralized team setting a clear strategy.
- New levels of collaboration from government, local authorities, charities, providers and business communities.
- An unusual effort in unusual times to continue to ensure that the people who have been brought in off the streets in this pandemic do not return to the streets.
Brief Q&A
A City Perspective:

A *Bridge to Permanency: Homelessness and COVID-19 Response and Recovery*

Christina Miller
Deputy Mayor City Homelessness Initiatives
Office of Los Angeles City Mayor Eric Garcetti
LA’s Response to Date

- Incident Command Structure with integrated system partners
- Temporary sheltering through m/hotels and rec centers
- Project Roomkey
- Recreation and Park (RAP) Facilities
- Medical street surge to encampments
- Proactive wellness checks
- Mobile “pop-up” testing
- Enhanced hygiene resources
- 15K Target
Transforming an Emergency Response into a Permanent Re-Housing Response

- If not now, when?
- Homelessness is a public health crisis
- What elements of the emergency response should remain in place?
- Elevate existing advocacy and coalition-building efforts
- Formalize planning
- Utilization of emergency dollars
- Acquisition of distressed properties
System Transformation is Required

- Importance of addressing institutional racism
- Issue of racism, COVID and homelessness are not mutually exclusive
- Preparing for increased inflow
Q&A Discussion
Closing & Feedback
Thank you for attending.

Please take a moment and complete a brief feedback poll.