

Homeless Counts

4/17/24: COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Purpose

The purpose of this discussion item is two-fold:

It provides the Committee with a snapshot of city staff's interaction with individuals believed to be homeless; and

It provides information regarding participation in a point-in-time homeless counts to better gauge the population of homeless individuals within the community.

What is Homelessness?

The Department of Housing and Urban Development defines Literally Homeless as an individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- (i) Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation;
- (ii) Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state and local government programs); or
- (iii) Is exiting an institution where (s)he has resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution.

Causes and Effects of Homelessness

Causes

- Loss of love ones
- Loss of employment
- Domestic violence
- Divorce and family disputes
- Untreated mental health / depression
- Substance abuse
- Post Traumatic Stress

Effects

- Health problems
- Divorce
- Substance abuse
- Alcohol
- Crime
- Suicide
- Sanitary issues

Homeless Services Resource Guide

CRISIS ASSISTANCE

METHODIST JUSTICE MINISTRY

Free legal aid for victims of neglect and domestic violence

817-339-2407

750 West 5th St, Fort Worth, Tx
methodistjusticeministry.org

TEXAS YOUTH HELPLINE

800-98-YOUTH

Text: 512-872-5777

dfps.state.tx.us/youth-helpline

ACTION COMMUNITY SERVICES

Comprehensive services for individuals, families and the elderly

817-392-5790

fortworthtexas.gov/cap

PECAN VALLEY MENTAL HEALTH HOTLINE

800-772-5987

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE

800-273-TALK (8255)

VA HOTLINE

800-273-8255, option 1

Text 838255

SHELTERS

TARRANT COUNTY HOMELESS COALITION

817-509-3635

300 S Beach St, Fort Worth, Tx
ahomewithhope.org

SHELTERS, CONT.

ACH YOUTH EMERGENCY SHELTER

817-335-4673

3712 Wichita St, Fort Worth, Tx
achservices.org/programs

ARLINGTON LIFE SHELTER

817-548-9885

325 W Division St, Arlington, Tx
arlingtonlifeshelter.org

UNION GOSPEL MISSION

817-339-2553

1331 E Lancaster Ave, Fort Worth, Tx
ugm-tc.org/

THE VISION

We envision a community in which everyone has a stable home and the resources needed to maintain it.



CITY ORDINANCE

Burleson city ordinance prohibits sleeping in public places.

HOMELESS SERVICES RESOURCE GUIDE



BurlesonTX.com/Homelessness

Homeless Services Resource Guide



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

211

Dial 211 from any phone
Free, anonymous social services hotline
211texas.org

HARVESTING INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

Emergency assistance, food distribution, long-term solutions to poverty
817-453-3863
150 S 6th Ave, Mansfield, Tx
himcenter.org

OPERATION BLESSING

Food, clothing, furniture
817-645-8511
105 George St, Cleburne, Tx
ob-jc.com/

PROMISES COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Food, clothing vouchers, bills, prescriptions assistance
817-295-9384
140 NW Renfro St, Burleson, Tx
firstburleson.org/promises

CROWLEY HOUSE OF HOPE

Food, clothing
817-297-6400
216 N Magnolia, Crowley, Tx
crowleyhouseofhope.org

ALVARADO HELPING HANDS FOR JESUS

Nutrition education, food assistance, access to available resources, community service
817-783-2701
404 N Pkwy Dr, Alvarado, Tx
alvaradohelpinghands.com

BURLESON POLICE DEPARTMENT-VICTIM ASSISTANCE COORDINATOR

Direct: 817-426-9901
Non-emergency line: 817-426-9903

THE BRIDGE BENEVOLENCE CENTER/WESTHILL CHURCH OF CHRIST

Food, clothing, bills, prescriptions, gas vouchers
817-645-6819
401 E Henderson St, Cleburne, Tx
westhillchurch.net

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BURLESON

Food pantry: Thurs. 10 am - 12:30 pm
Rent and utilities: Thurs. 10 am - 1pm
817-295-1166
590 NE McAlister Rd, Burleson, Tx
fumcburleson.org

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF CLEBURNE

Rent, utilities
817-645-6392
1300 Westhill Dr, Cleburne, Tx
fumccleburne.com

TRUE WORTH PLACE

Comprehensive resource center and day shelter
817-289-7474
1513 E Presidio St, Fort Worth, Tx
truworthplace.org

HARVEST HOUSE

Groceries, clothing vouchers, financial assistance
817-295-6252
349 NW Renfro St, Burleson, Tx
yourharvesthouse.org

UNITED WAY OF JOHNSON COUNTY

Education, income and health resources
817-645-9153
210 Featherston St, Cleburne, Tx
uwjctx.com



Burleson PD Data

The Police Department has cataloged over 430 calls that included the term “homeless” in the call notes.

The calls were documented during a full two-year timeframe from January 2022 to December 2023.

Investigations into the calls revealed varying degrees of short-and-long term homeless situations with individuals living on the streets, sleeping in vehicles, domestic-related (i.e. being temporarily “kicked out” of the family home) or living out of hotel rooms, but having no permanent address.

Burleson PD Data

The top 5 Crime Analyst Data (CAD) Nature Codes that resulted in police coming into contact with homeless were:

- Suspicious Person (76), Welfare Check (47), Suspicious Vehicle (38), PR Contact (33), and Phone Call Investigation (15)

More specific determinations regarding police responses are provided below:

- Sleeping in public/vehicle was the most common with 63 calls, with one individual accounting for 13 of the calls; loitering type calls were the next prominent (40), followed by MHMR/Concerning Behavior/Welfare Checks (31); acting suspiciously (24) and walking in-or-close to the roadway (18).
- The Police Department also notes 18 calls of homeless individuals reaching out directly for help. The requested help varied from requests for a ride, blankets, information on resources, etc.

Burleson PD Data

- 49 incidents where officers directly references Victims Assistance and the BPD Homeless Resources card and the individual accepted them.
- 31 incidents where the resource card, a ride, or other assistance was offered and the individual declined the help.
- Officers gave a ride to individuals 22 times. This does not include those who were transported to the hospital for MHMR or medical issues.
- Criminal Trespass violations were issued approximately 15 times and there were at least three arrests for breaking a prior 'no trespass' warning.
- 7 incidents where the individual was taken to the hospital for mental health or medical issues.
- 32 calls of citizens just making general complaints about homeless being in town or seeing homeless camps around town.
- 6 calls of citizens calling PD to ask how they could help homeless in a general sense.

Library Encounters

- Library employees report that they have many regular patrons who are experiencing homelessness.
- Most individuals access the library for heat and air conditioning, internet and computer access, cellular phone charging opportunities and public restrooms.
- There has been evidence of individuals utilizing the property to camp overnight (on the patio) as well as one individual who appears to be living in a vehicle on site.

Accounting for Homeless Individuals

City staff has contacted the Tarrant County Homeless Coalition (TCHC) to discuss the City of Burleson's participation in a point-in-time homeless count.

The Point-in-Time (PIT) count is an annual census of people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January. The Count takes place once a year and was last conducted on January 25th and started at 5:30pm.

Volunteers were assigned a route to canvass, identify, and interview people staying outside.

TCHC did not conduct any county within Johnson County. This area is handled by the Texas Homeless Network (THN).

Accounting for Homeless Individuals

The Texas Homeless Network is responsible for the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC) – for all the counties in orange, which includes Johnson County.

Staff has provided information from the THN's 2024 PIT coordinator manual as a resource document.

This documents provide helpful information regarding community engagement, community partners and training.

Next Steps

Is the Committee interested in recommending participation in the next PIT count?

It will require some effort on the part of volunteers, and coordination with on-patrol police officers.

TCHC is willing to provide training to count participants.

City staff's participation would be on a volunteer basis.