

# 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.

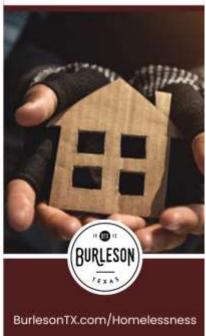


#### **CITY ORDINANCE**

Burleson city ordinance prohibits sleeping in public places.

### HOMELESS SERVICES RESOURCE GUIDE

...........



4/17/2024 5



### 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 817-453-3663 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 furnccleburne.com

#### TRUE WORTH PLACE

Comprehensive resource center and day shelter 817-289-7474 1513 E Presidio St, Fort Worth, Tx trueworthplace.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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

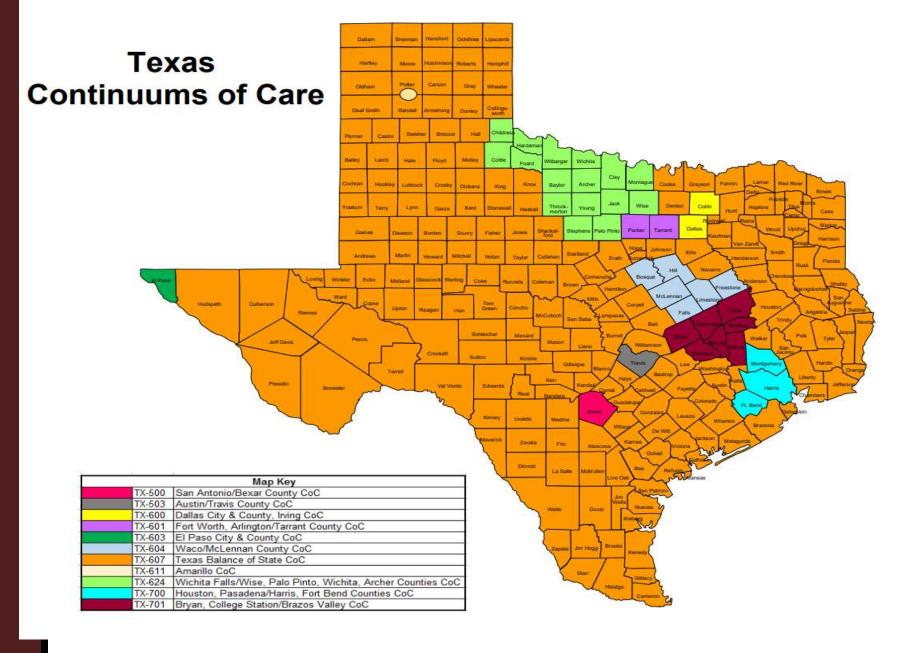
Staff has provided information from the THN's 2024 PIT coordinator manual as a resource document.

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

### C o C Map

City staff has contacted the Texas Homeless Network (THN) to discuss the City of Burleson's participation in a point-in-time homeless count for that portion of the City on Johnson County.

Ava Paredes is the THN Data Coordinator; she coordinates the PIT Count for the Texas Balance of State Continuum of Care (TX BoS CoC) – for all the counties in orange.





## 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 onpatrol police officers.

TCHC is willing to provide training to count participants.

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

4/17/2024 14