LAW ENFORCEMENT STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS

August 15, 2018
Kanas City, MO
Presented By

Kevin Stiff
Coordinator, Homelessness Response
City of Sarasota
(Retired Sarasota Police Department
Patrol Division Captain)

Joe Polzak
Assistant General Counsel
Sarasota Sheriff’s Office
(former Sarasota Police Department
Police Legal Advisor)
Who are we
Who are we

✓ Captain Kevin Stiff (retired from Sarasota Police Department) – 38 year law enforcement career, currently the Coordinator, Homelessness Response for the City of Sarasota, Florida.

✓ Florida attorney Joe Polzak – 7 years as an Assistant State Attorney (state prosecutor), State of Florida, past Police Legal Advisor for the Sarasota Police Department and current Assistant General Counsel for Sarasota Sheriff’s Office.
The Goal – NOT!

Attributed to MGM Studios
In January 2016, 549,928 people were homeless on a given night in the United States. 21.8% are “chronically homeless.”

Half of the country's homeless population is spread across five states: California, New York, Florida, Texas and Washington.

(2016 HUD Point in Time Survey)
National Homeless Crisis

- A 2016 study by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) found:
  - 6% of Americans have a severe mental illness (SMI).
  - **20% to 25% of the homeless population suffer from SMI.**
  - 45% of the homeless population show a history of mental illness diagnoses.
National Homeless Crisis

- **Homeless**: A person who lacks a fixed regular, and adequate nighttime residence.

- **Chronically Homeless**: A person with a disability, lives in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter; has been homeless (as described above) continuously for at least 12 months or on at least 4 separate occasions in the last 3 years where the combined occasions must total at least 12 months.
Sarasota Homeless Crisis

Chronically Homeless: 311

2016 HUD Point in Time Survey
Sarasota Homeless Crisis

- City of Sarasota case managers estimate that 70% of the homeless individuals they contact on a daily basis are dealing with a mental illness:
  - 60% of those have co-occurring issues.
  - 25% are dealing with serious mental health issues.
  - 10% of those are not able to make choices about:
    - Health
    - Activities of Daily Living (ADL’s)
    - Safety
Comprehensive Treatment Court:

A voluntary diversion specialty court in Sarasota, set up for individuals that are severely persistently mentally ill and have misdemeanor criminal charges.

- 611 were referred to the program but 494 declined to volunteer or did not engage further.
- Since March 2017, 117 went through the program, 110 (94%) were homeless, of those 75% were dealing with schizophrenia or Bi-polar disorders. 70% of the group having a secondary co-occurring substance abuse disorder.
The Bad News!

- Sarasota Florida is not much of different than the rest of the nation, so your community is already dealing with many of the same issues as we are.
  - Chronic homelessness is increasing, and has since 2014.
  - 70% of those are unsheltered.

(2017 AHAR1)
Sarasota, dubbed the ‘Meanest City in America’ by advocates a decade ago for its ordinances, has been the scene of one of the fiercest and most anguished battles over homelessness.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/homeless-say-booming-cities-have-outlawed-their-right-to-sleep-beg-and-even-sit/2016/06/02/7dde62ea-21e3-11e6-aa84-42391ba52c91_story.html?utm_term=.4fa8f79ab6d2
SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) — Sarasota, which recently imposed a no-camping ban, is the **meanest city in the nation toward the homeless**, according to a national advocacy organization. Sarasota bans sleeping outside overnight without permission on public or private property.

“All day, all night, fights, drugs nonstop,” complains a city resident, who purchased and restored a property in the city.

“This year, seemingly overnight, people were living across the street,” another city resident complains. “It’s ridiculous; they have furniture. I’ve seen people having sex under blankets.”

“Sarasota County has more than twice the national average of homeless for a population of our size. The percentage of homeless people in the City of Sarasota is estimated to be as high as six times the national average.”

https://www.sarasotamagazine.com/articles/2014/12/31/41465
The Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness coordinates and compiles data on the homeless in Manatee and Sarasota Counties through an annual Point-In-Time Census, most recently conducted on January 28, 2013. The data showed:

2,054 people were counted as homeless, an increase of 40% over the 2011 count.

Homelessness Jumps in Sarasota, Manatee Counties.
http://wusfnews.wusf.usf.edu/post/homelessness-jumps-sarasota-manatee-counties#stream/0
# 2015 HUD PIT

## County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent (%)</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manatee</td>
<td>724</td>
<td>34.66%</td>
<td>1069</td>
<td>47.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarasota</td>
<td>1365</td>
<td>65.34%</td>
<td>1163</td>
<td>52.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2089</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>2232</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## City

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Maria</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradenton</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>32.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmetto</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>2.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Englewood</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nokomis</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Port</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>5.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osprey</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarasota</td>
<td>1106</td>
<td>52.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venice</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>4.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: Non-Incorporated</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2089</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: 2015 HUD Point in Time Survey, Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness*
Challenges

We have been where you are:

✓ Not a city/county problem.
✓ Not a law enforcement problem.
✓ Politics.
✓ *SOMETHING* has to be done.
But the shelter issue—the consultant’s main strategy for addressing the highly visible street homeless—quickly went from contentious to toxic.

Four final sites were proposed, all near downtown Sarasota.

But the shelter issue—the consultant’s main strategy for addressing the highly visible street homeless—quickly went from contentious to toxic.

Four final sites were proposed, all near downtown Sarasota.

Consultant recommends a 250 bed shelter at an annual cost of $1.2 million; and would be operated by law enforcement.

Consultant hired by Sarasota County and City of Sarasota recommends building a 24/7 homeless shelter in the City, that would be the main intake location for homeless individuals in the county.

“I refer to it as ‘that thing we were talking about’ because the shelter pisses everybody off.”
Challenges
Challenges
What options do officers have?

- Do officers have the skills, training to provide services, other than involuntary commitment?
- Does the Continuum of Care in your community actually work to house chronically homeless?
- Does your local CIT course have a section on homeless interaction?
Challenges

What do we want to accomplish:

✓ Address the issue.
✓ Develop and execute a response.
✓ Protect & serve.
✓ Don’t get sued.
✓ Fiscally responsible.
However....
MICHAEL POTTINGER,

PETER CARTER, BERRY YOUNG, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

CITY OF MIAMI,

Defendant.

CASE NO. 88-2406-CIV-ATKINS

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

810 F. Supp. 1551 (1992)

November 16, 1992, Filed
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
CASE NO. 88-2406-CIV-MORENO  

MICHAEL POTTINGER, PETER CARTER AND BERRY YOUNG,  
Plaintiffs,  

vs.  

CITY OF MIAMI,  
Defendant.  

ADDENDUM TO SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT  

The Plaintiffs, MICHAEL POTTINGER, et al., and the class of Plaintiffs they represent (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Plaintiffs"), and the Defendant, THE CITY OF MIAMI (hereinafter "CITY"), by and through their respective undersigned counsel, agree to the following addendum to the settlement agreement effective October 1, 1998. Subject to the approval of this Court, except as herein modified, the terms and conditions of the Settlement Agreement effective October 1, 1998 shall remain in full force and effect. The language underlined constitutes additions to the settlement agreement and the language stricken constitutes deletions to the settlement agreement.
IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION

DAVID CROSS, SHAWN DAVIS,
DONALD GOULD, PAUL LONARDO,
JOSEPH VASTA, GEORGE ZELLNER,
MICHAEL BASILE, and DOROTHY MEEHAN,
individually and on behalf of all others
similarly situated,

v.

CITY OF SARASOTA; and BERNADETTI
DIPINO, in her official capacity as Chief of Police,

Defendants

CASE NO.: 15-cv-02364-EAK-JSS

SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT
FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

Plaintiffs, DAVID CROSS, SHAWN DAVIS, DONALD GOULD, PAUL LONARDO,
JOSEPH VASTA, GEORGE ZELLNER, MICHAEL BASILE, and DOROTHY MEEHAN
(hereinafter “Plaintiffs”), sue the City of Sarasota, and Bernadette DiPino, (hereinafter
“Defendants”), and allege as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. This case seeks declaratory and injunctive as a result of the City’s persistent
efforts to criminalize the status of those who are homeless despite the lack of an available shelter
and a deepening housing crisis. The Plaintiffs contend that the City’s use of ordinances that
criminalize sleeping violates the Eighth Amendment prohibition on cruel and unusual
punishment. Separately, the City’s ordinance criminalizing panhandling is facially
unconstitutional because it contains geographical restrictions that are content-based in violation
Pottinger Protocols:

Pursuant to settlement, City of Miami agreed to adopt certain law enforcement protocols:

1. Applied to government interaction with homeless and their personal property.

- After a decade of litigation involving two trials, two appeals, and nearly two years of mediation, the “Pottinger Agreement” put in place rules to protect certain rights of homeless people in the City of Miami.
- Settlement was amended to current version in 2013.
2. Defined a homeless person.

An individual who “lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night time residence and has a primary residence that is:

- A public or private shelter;
- A place of institutionalization; or
- A public or private place not designed as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

3. Required documentation of government contacts with homeless persons.

- Document outreach, transports to shelter, refusals of shelter and Baker Acts in a “field information (FI) card” or equivalent.
- Document arrest in an arrest affidavit.
- File all records at MPD.
4. Defined “life sustaining conduct misdemeanors.”

Misdemeanors “which a homeless individual commits by the mere fact that he or she is without shelter, and must conduct life sustaining activities, such as eating, sleeping, sitting, congregating or walking in public.”

5. Defined “available shelter.”

- At least 24 hours, with “dignity and respect.”
- A bed or mat at least 3 inches thick.
- At no cost to the homeless person.
- Within the city. (Or county, if person agrees).
- No religious or therapeutic programming.
6. Required “available shelter” to enforce “life sustaining conduct misdemeanors” against a homeless person.

- No “available shelter” = no enforcement.
- “Available shelter” + acceptance = no enforcement.
- “Available shelter” + refusal = enforcement.

7. Established protections for personal property.

- Settlement established protections for homeless people’s personal property. If a homeless person is arrested, police must secure their property.

8. Required training of law enforcement.

- The settlement requires the City to implement training to ensure that police officers and other city officials who deal with homeless individuals are sensitive to the “unique struggle and circumstances of homeless persons.”
Pottinger exceptions:

- Nothing in Pottinger precludes an arrest for any **felony** or any **misdemeanor** that is not **life-sustaining conduct**, regardless of whether there is available shelter.

- Nothing in Pottinger says **how many** available shelter beds must be acquired in your jurisdiction or **who must own and operate them**.
Bottom line:

- It has acquired status as *legal and policy precedent*.
- U.S. Federal Courts have held that local ordinances prohibiting “camping” or “sleeping” on public property are subject to scrutiny under the U.S. Constitution *where no alternative shelter is available*. *Joel v. City of Orlando*, 232 F.3d 1353 (11th Cir. 2000) citing *Pottinger v City of Miami*, 76 F.3d 1154 (11th Cir 1996).
SPD HOT Program – Origins


• “It should be uncontroversial that punishing conduct that is a universal and unavoidable consequence of being human violates the Eight Amendment – if a person literally has nowhere else to go, then enforcement of an anti-camping ordinance against that person criminalizes them for being homeless.” (STATUS)
Take-away best practices are as follows:

1. **Combined housing and service strategies**, to include:
   a) “Ensure **24 hour access to shelters** and/or services that offer alternatives to living in public spaces and access to services that meet the basic needs of individuals experiencing homelessness in order to reduce visible street homelessness and contribute to reductions in homelessness.”
   b) “Create **street outreach teams** and provide safe havens to help chronically homeless individuals exit the streets.”
   c) “Employ **communitywide collaboration** through education, volunteerism and donations to provide solutions to homelessness.”
2. **Collaboration** between law enforcement and social service providers to **connect people with services**:

   a) “Outreach and engagement involving police and service provider collaboration to link people with supportive housing and avoid their arrest.”

   b) Cross-training of police officers and service providers to facilitate information sharing and promote ongoing coordination.”
3. Implementation of alternative justice system strategies to reduce homeless involvement with criminal justice system, decrease recidivism, and facilitate connection with other systems of care:

a) “Citation dismissal programs that allow individuals who are homeless with low-level infractions to participate in service or diversion programs or link them with appropriate services in lieu of citation.”
Americans with Disabilities Act

Pursuant to the ADA, state and local government criminal justice entities – including police – must ensure that people with disabilities are treated equally in the criminal justice system and are afforded equal opportunities to services through the provision of reasonable modifications to practices, procedures and policies.

United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Examples and Resources to Support Criminal Justice Entities in Compliance with Title II of the ADA.
Occurrences between law enforcement and persons with a mental illness have intensified, with approximately 92% of officers having at least one encounter, in the previous month, with a person with a mental illness who is experiencing a crisis, and an average of six encounters overall per month.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Individuals with **co-occurring mental health issues** are **7 times more likely** to have contact with law enforcement officers than others and these encounters are often problematic for law enforcement, mainly because individuals suffering from mental illness do not respond well to traditional police tactics.

Best Practices

HOT Program is a system to operationalize and document the national BEST PRACTICES we identified:

1. **Outreach** through deployment of and referral to social services for homeless individuals.

2. **Diversion** opportunities for criminal offenders to (re)engage in social services.

3. **Case Management** to close the loop of outreach and diversion to social services.

4. **Local Code** to ensure safety and the rule of law for all citizens (Pottinger compliant).
Best Practices

**Keys to success:**

- Case managers: For ongoing advocacy and benefit navigation.
- Early intervention: Individuals need to be diverted to treatment or housing early in life.
- End homelessness early, to achieve success.
Homeless Outreach Teams

Standard Operating Procedure 423.38

- Homeless Outreach Team (HOT): a Homeless Outreach Specialist Officer and a Case Manager, working with various social service organizations:
  - Performing outreach about the local social services that are available.
  - Making referrals of interested persons to these social services.
Homeless Outreach Teams
Homeless Outreach Teams

- Social services personnel can be *deployed* with Homeless Outreach Teams *to offer services pursuant to their own mission*.

- A Homeless Outreach Team is thus a *bridge to services*, not a social service provider itself.

  - Cost, liability, specialization of mission.
  - Consistent with OUR mission.
Homeless Outreach Teams
The SPD HOT Program OPERATIONALIZES the best practices through the “Three E’s” of SPD’s integrated mission:

- **Educate** about social services.
- **Encourage** referral to those services through outreach and diversion.
- **Enforce** the criminal code.
A. **Educate:**

Officers should, when possible, educate interested homeless persons about the **social services available** throughout the local Continuum of Care and other social service organizations. Officers shall provide them the *Sarasota Police Department Homeless Resource Guide* (Annex C), if not previously documented to have been offered one. Officers should, when possible, educate the homeless person about the Sarasota City Code.
Educate
Homeless Outreach Team

Sarasota Police Department’s (SFPD) Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) was established in 2014. The HOT is a decentralized team composed of a homeless outreach specialist and a case manager. The HOT collaborates with various community organizations who seek to build relationships and trust with interested homeless persons. The HOT’s goal is to educate and encourage individuals about the local social services that are available in the Continuum of Care (CoC) and throughout the community. The HOT will refer interested persons to these services.

The HOT or an SFPD officer have provided you with this pamphlet of services to EDUCATE you on the services that are available through the CoC by the Coordinated Entry System. If officers contact you in the future, they will ENCOURAGE you to meet with the HOT, and accept transportation to a service provider. Officers may also take ENFORCEMENT action when you violate the law. We hope you choose to engage with the officer, HOT or the CoC. An officer can offer you shelter, food and security for 3 days. During this time you will have an opportunity to develop a plan for your Coordinated Entry to the CoC.

Sarasota Police Department

Mission: Professional, dedicated police service in partnership with our community.

Vision: The Sarasota Police Department utilizes a proactive, intelligence led law enforcement strategy to prevent and reduce crime.

Contact the Homeless Outreach Team

Senior Case Managers:
Calvin Collins, LMHC
Call: 941-364-7323
Sherree Brown, MSW, MPH, CLC
Call: 941-358-3685

Sgt. Schwietzman
Office: 941-364-3123
Officer Dubendorf
Office: 941-364-5805
Officer Griesdorn
Office: 941-364-5805

Sarasota Police Department Contacts:
2099 Adams Lane, Sarasota, FL 34237
Dispatch: 941-364-1499
Front Desk: 941-954-7045
Property: 941-954-7040
Records: 941-954-7045

Want to report a crime? 941-366-TIPS
www.sarasotacrimetoppers.com
COC Resource Guide

SARASOTA
HOMELESS
RESOURCE GUIDE

Sponsored By:

Suncoast Partnership

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT
OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
MYFLFAMILIES.COM
Encourage

**Standard Operating Procedure 423.52**

**B. Encourage:** Officers should, when possible, encourage interested homeless persons to utilize available local social services and offer the assistance of the Homeless Outreach Team with *referrals* to social service organizations. When possible, officers should assist interested homeless person(s) with *referrals* to such social services. The Homeless Outreach Team shall be notified for follow up and case management when possible or otherwise indicated in this policy.
Encourage
C. **Enforce**: If A & B have previously or presently failed, or are not appropriate in the circumstances, AND Officers have probable cause of criminal activity by the homeless person then Officers *should* proceed with criminal enforcement. In the case of Sarasota City Code Section 34-41, Officers *shall offer referrals to available shelter and/or services* before enforcement and as an alternative to enforcement.
City Code

✓ City Code prohibits:

✓ Outdoor Lodging.

✓ Storage of personal property on public property or private property without permission of the owner.

✓ Obstructing free passage in or upon public rights of away without permission of the owner.
City Code
City Code
City Code Sec. 34-41

Unlawful *lodging out-of-doors* prohibited:

- Lodging out-of-doors means using public or private property for *living accommodation purposes* by the erection, use or occupation of any tent, hut, lean-to, shack or *temporary shelter* for *sleeping purposes* or the laying down of *bedding*, such as a blanket or sleeping bag or similar material for the purpose of sleeping.
City Code Sec. 34-41

Unlawful *lodging out-of-doors* prohibited:

- One or more of the following must also *exist* before a law enforcement officer can find probable cause to issue a summons or to make an arrest:
City Code Sec. 34-41

1. Numerous items of *personal belongings* are present;

2. The person is engaged in *cooking* activities;

3. The person has built or is maintaining a *fire*;

4. The person has engaged in digging or *earth breaking activities*;

5. The person is asleep and when awakened states that he or she has *no other place to live*. 
City Code Sec. 34-41

Unlawful lodging out-of-doors prohibited:

- Whenever an officer has PC to believe that a violation has occurred, they shall advise the person of the violation and afford the person an opportunity to be transported to an available shelter.
NOTICE

“NO storage of unattended personal property on Public Property allowed”

All unattended personal property stored unlawfully will be removed by the Sarasota Police Department without further notice and may be recovered at the Sarasota Police Department within 30 days of removal.

Items will be disposed of after 30 days, unless considered trash or debris which will be disposed of immediately.

By order of Sec. 21-44
Sarasota City Code
City Code
City Code
City Code

The City prohibits:

- Personal solicitation
- Places
- Aggressive
- Solicitation and distribution on public roads
- Arterial Roadways
City Code

In addition to the **PRE-arrest diversion** offered in the field through the **three E’s**, we’ve established **POST-arrest diversion**:

- Supported the creation and co-funded a *Comprehensive Treatment Court*.
- Created a *Sarasota City Code Diversion Program*. 
HOT Program is a system to operationalize and document the national BEST PRACTICES we identified:

1. **Outreach** through deployment of and referral to social services for homeless individuals.

2. **Diversion** opportunities for criminal offenders to (re)engage in social services.

3. **Case management** to close the loop of outreach and diversion to social services.

4. **Local code** to ensure safety and the rule of law for all citizens (*Pottinger compliant*).
Bridge to services

**The other side of the bridge:**

- As part of the HOT Program mission to *deploy partnering community social service resources* into the HOT Program architecture, SPD has formed *collaborative relationships with local social service organizations:*
*Use of these logos is for demonstration purposes only & does NOT indicate that these entities have endorsed SPD’s program or presentation.
SPD HOT Program – Shelter Beds
SPD HOT Program – Shelter Beds

City of Sarasota Emergency Shelter Bed Agreement:

- 24 hours of free dormitory shelter, security and food 24/7/365 for individuals escorted by SPD officers or SPD case managers.
The Sarasota Police Department may transport persons to the Salvation Army for the following reasons:

A. Persons that are in violation of City Code Sec. 34-41 and choose available shelter as an alternative to 34-41 enforcement, and the person voluntarily accepts a referral to shelter and/or other social services (DIVERSION).

B. Persons that the Homeless Outreach Team determines are in need of shelter and/or other social services, and the person voluntarily accepts a referral to shelter and/or other social services (OUTREACH).
SPD HOT Program – Shelter Beds

City of Sarasota Emergency Shelter Bed Agreement:

- Low barrier:
  - No social service counseling, medical treatment or religious instruction required.
  - EEOC compliant.
SPD HOT Program – Shelter Beds

City of Sarasota Emergency Shelter Bed Agreement:

- 3 days of comfort: If individual voluntarily meets with case manager.
- 4 days of change: Can continue to utilize program if engaged in social services and helping in developing a plan for housing.
SPD HOT Program – Shelter Beds

ONE PERSON AT A TIME
Bridge to services
Stop sending us homeless people!

- Do you realize your case workers are sending me people literally homeless?
- Some of these people are coming right out of camp!
SARASOTA:
Creating an Effective HOMELESS CRISIS Response System

Transforming the Homeless Crisis Response System to Effectively Address Adult Homelessness

http://www.flhousing.org/

April 2017
GIT 'R DONE

If we build it, they will complain.
Boss says, just do it!

Even if we have to put a spike in it.
The Continuum of Care (CoC) lead agency is the entity designated and grant funded by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to coordinate housing and services for homeless families and individuals.
SPTEH is the lead agency that supports a two-county Continuum of Care, which convenes service providers, community leaders, law enforcement, government and homeless individuals for the purpose of collaborating and coordinating services for the homeless.
Do HOT beds work with:

- Coordinated Entry
- Common assessment tool
- Acuity scores
- By name list
- Are they a path to housing?
Bridge Beds:
Bridge Beds:

- A client enters the system from the street to a HOT bed.
- Coordinated entry is completed by access point.
- A VI-SPDAT is completed.
- Clients acuity is high enough to need assistance.
- Is entered into a housing project by a provider.
- Provider provides case management for client, HOT team case manager is advocate.
- Can Stay up to 90 days
Bridge Beds:

- We have learned it can take up to 90 days to house someone from the street. Average length of stay is 68 days.
- 68.75% exit to a permanent housing destination.
- Extremely difficult cases can be housed.
- HOT beds do lead to housing outcomes.
- They are successful.
The Fourth “E”
Success?
Successes

_Law Enforcement_ is at the forefront of transformational challenges and changes taking place in our society.
Successes

90% of SPD officers have attended CIT.
Successes
Successes

We measure success by

✓ How many “educate and encourage” contacts are made.
✓ How many individuals accept social services, through outreach or diversion – whether those services are substance abuse, mental health, housing, career or life skills programs.
Successes

9,973 total HOT team contacts in 2017.
Successes

1437 accepted Salvation Army shelter beds, since October, 2015.
Successes

Lyons: An outrageous arrest that maybe kind of wasn’t

Until several years ago, the treatment of some homeless people in Sarasota was a gold mine for a local columnist looking for things to get outraged about.

Sarasota, which a national advocacy group had awarded a "Meanest City" title a decade ago, had police officers famed for talking about "bum hunting." Being homeless was pretty much treated like a crime.

Times are tougher now. For me, that is.

Police now work with Homeless Outreach Teams. They have caseworkers who make serious efforts to take sidewalk- and park-bench campers to helpful service providers instead of jailers. These days, when someone is arrested while homeless, it is usually for something actually criminal, not just for sleeping while homeless or the like.

But I thought I had found an outrageous exception when I heard about the arrest of Maura Wood. As you may know, police charged the 46-year-old disabled woman with a felony after finding her sleeping in a wheelchair in the city’s Payne Park on the Friday night before Memorial Day.


Disabled homeless woman charged with wheelchair theft

Maura Wood has been arrested 28 times since 1991

SARASOTA — When Sarasota police found a 46-year-old disabled homeless woman sleeping in a wheelchair in a city park Friday night, they arrested her for stealing the chair.

Maura Wood, 46, a stroke victim who’s unable to walk, was charged with felony theft after Sarasota Police officer Kimberie Vespa found her asleep in a wheelchair in Payne Park, wrapped in a white hospital blanket.

On back of the wheelchair was stenciled "SMH."

Wood reportedly told the officer that she had just got out of Sarasota Memorial Hospital, and that she was not able to walk the 1.3 miles to the park, so she took the chair.

Successes

### County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent (%)</td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manatee</td>
<td>724</td>
<td>34.66%</td>
<td>1069</td>
<td>47.89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarasota</td>
<td>1365</td>
<td>65.34%</td>
<td>1163</td>
<td>52.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2089</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
<td>2232</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### City

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number</td>
<td>Percent (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anna Maria</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradenton</td>
<td>676</td>
<td>32.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palmetto</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>2.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Englewood</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nokomis</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Port</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>5.27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osprey</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarasota</td>
<td>1106</td>
<td>52.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venice</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>4.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other: Non-Incorporated</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.05%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2089</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2015 HUD Point in Time Survey, Suncoast Partnership to End Homelessness
## Successes

### PIT Survey Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Homeless Count</strong></td>
<td>1468</td>
<td>1447</td>
<td><strong>1192</strong></td>
<td>18% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Veteran</strong></td>
<td>161</td>
<td>149</td>
<td><strong>111</strong></td>
<td>26% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chronically Homeless</strong></td>
<td>311</td>
<td>285</td>
<td><strong>250</strong></td>
<td>12% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Youth</strong></td>
<td>121</td>
<td>121</td>
<td><strong>115</strong></td>
<td>5% ↓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Geographic Mapping

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Manatee</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- City of Bradenton</td>
<td>474</td>
<td>328</td>
<td><strong>340</strong></td>
<td>4% ↑</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Other Manatee County</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>242</td>
<td><strong>205</strong></td>
<td>15% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sarasota</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- City of Sarasota</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>429</td>
<td><strong>351</strong></td>
<td>18% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Other Sarasota County</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>448</td>
<td><strong>296</strong></td>
<td>34% ↓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Family Count

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Manatee</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
<td>24</td>
<td><strong>22</strong></td>
<td>8% ↓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sarasota</strong></td>
<td><strong>55</strong></td>
<td>50</td>
<td><strong>54</strong></td>
<td>8% ↑</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Successes

Approx. 60% of shelter bed entrants accepted secondary social services.
Successes

From 2015 to 2018 the Homeless population in the City of Sarasota dropped by over 677, a 61% reduction. (2015, 2016, 2017 HUD PIT)
Successes

Approx. 30% of shelter bed entrants exited to a HUD housing destination.
Successes

Approx. 39% of shelter bed entrants exited to a positive housing destination.
Successes

“I don’t think (Sarasota) deserves that title anymore”

ACLU of Florida, regarding Sarasota’s “Meanest City” designation

Successes

“I think Sarasota has become progressive in terms of its treatment of the homeless”

- ACLU of Florida

Successes

16th District
U.S. Congressional
Unit Citation Award 2016 & 2018

Successes

Workshop 7.4: Quality of Life By Choice Using Behavioral Insights to Reduce Homelessness

Presenter(s): Major Ethan Frizzell (S) & Captain Kevin Stiff (Sarasota Police Dept.)

In this workshop participants will learn about using behavioral insights to develop “nudges” in service, how to change the organizational culture of homeless services, and how to engage the community in progressive homeless to housing policy.
Successes

2017 Florida Institute on Homelessness & Supportive Housing Workshop Presentation.
Successes

IACP 2017 Annual Conference and Exposition Workshop Presentation.
Successes

2017 IACP Leadership in Human and Civil Rights Award.
QUESTIONS?
THANK YOU!!!

KEVIN STIFF 941.993.3764 M.
KEVIN.STIFF@SARASOTAFL.GOV

JOE POLZAK 941.348-5571 M.
JOE.POLZAK@SARASOTAFL.GOV
Who’s problem is it?