



People Sheltering on Transit

Metropolitan Council – Committee of the Whole

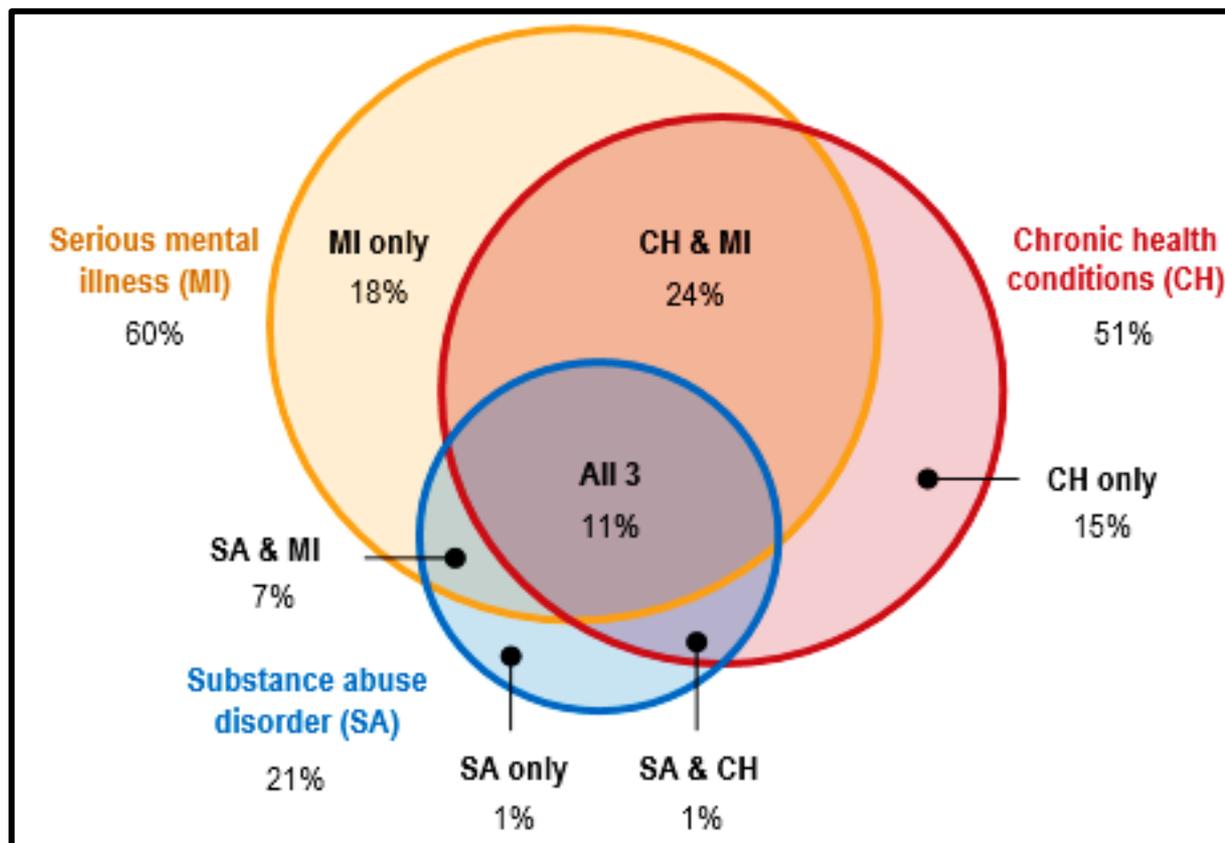
April 3, 2019



Problem Oriented Policing Project



Connection between Chronic Health Conditions and Homelessness



Source: Wilder Research: Homelessness in Minnesota; Findings from the 2015 Statewide Study. November 2016.

The Cost of the Endless Cycle

- Emergency Room
- Jail
- Detox
- Transit
- 2018: 2,770 Police Calls



Safety Concerns



- Operator and staff safety
- Passenger safety
- Homeless safety
- Hygiene





Working Toward Solutions

Metro Transit Police Department Homeless Action Team (HAT)

- Best practices research
- Addressing:
 - Customer service complaints
 - Community concerns about health and safety
- Shifts—overnight when shelters close through morning rush



HAT Training Topics

- Crisis Intervention and De-escalation
- Outreach Worker Certification
- HMIS Assessor Training
- Trauma-Informed Interviewing
- Understanding Addiction
 - Narcan
- Building Community Trust

Community Engagement

Arresting those needing help is not the answer

St. Stephen's Street Outreach

Catholic Charities

Union Gospel Mission

People Incorporated

Radias Health

Outside—In

Governor's Council



CATHOLIC CHARITIES
of St. Paul and Minneapolis



ST. STEPHEN'S
Ending Homelessness



UNION GOSPEL MISSION
TWIN CITIES



Frequent Users Pilot Program

- **Partners**
 - Guild
 - Outside-In Consultants
 - Catholic Charities
 - East Metro Crisis Alliance
 - Dept Human Services
 - SPPD & SPFD
- **Vision**
 - Identify Top 30 Resource Users
 - Many use Metro Transit
 - Focus social, legal and medical services. Close endless cycle.
 - Create Permanent Solutions



Ongoing Challenge



Housing Partnership

- Council's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) awarded 89 new federal housing vouchers
 - Provide federal rent assistance to homeless transit riders with disabilities
- Participants rent a housing unit from a private landlord
- Pay 30% of income towards rent
- HRA outreach team assists with pre-move counseling, housing search and post-move supports

Housing Challenges

- Homeless transit riders come with high barriers
 - Criminal backgrounds, mental health issues, poor housing history
- Resources are scarce to provide necessary supports
- Not all riders are housing ready for independent living with a voucher.
- Integration funds needed for success.
- 10 Families housed
- 36 additional referrals in process

Regional Efforts to End Unsheltered Homelessness

- MN Interagency Council on Homelessness
- 11 State Agencies and the Metropolitan Council
- 2018 Point in Time Count – Homelessness in MN
 - Overall homelessness down by 14%
 - Unsheltered homelessness up by 40%
- Statewide and regional efforts to end unsheltered homelessness
 - Coordinated efforts
 - Commitments from all agencies

Thank You



Lt. Mario Ruberto

Metro Transit Police Department

612-349-7239

mario.ruberto@metrotransit.org

Terri Smith

Director

Metropolitan Council Housing & Redevelopment Authority

(651) 602-1187

terri.smith@metc.state.mn.us

