The End of the American Dream
Cultural Competency of Poverty leading to Homelessness

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Objectives

Why so many homeless?
- Social Systems and increased homelessness by the numbers

Who are the homeless?
- Barriers to reduce homelessness

Who is doing what? What are gaps in services?
- Community partners and resources
Let’s Talk about Poverty!

“I wish everybody would understand the only color that matters is green. If you’re poor, you’re going to have trouble,” -Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter

http://playspent.org poverty simulator (10 min. exercise)
Poverty in SC

- Poverty rate: **18%**
- 2/5 workers in SC are low income
- Food insecurity: **14%**
- Uninsured: **20%**
Why is Poverty an Issue?

America has the highest poverty rates now than in the past 60 years
1/3 of our country is struggling

- Mental or physical disability “Worthy Poor”
  - 90% of public assistance is for elderly, disabled and working poor

- Job opportunities
  - 1/3 jobs in SC are low-wage jobs

- The 1%
  - Among similar countries, The US Ranks the lowest on ability to move up in economic status
  - 10% of all US wealth is shared by 80% of the population

Why do People remain in Poverty (6 min video-the 1%)
Self Sufficiency Standard for SC vs Federal Poverty Level

FPL 4 decades ago considering only food as 1/3 of budget
SSS Costs of all basic needs of food, housing, child care, health care, transportation, plus taxes and tax credits
Considers children's age and County in the state

Infants and Children);

- the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of three;
- the Federal minimum wage of $7.25 per hour; and
- the HUD income limits for a family of three in Beaufort County.

Note that the Standard is more specific in terms of the age as well as number of children and geography than any of these other income benchmarks. Even though

**FIGURE D.** The Self-Sufficiency Standard Compared to Other Benchmarks
One Adult, One Preschooler, and One School-Age Child Beaufort County, SC 2016

**ANNUAL INCOME**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Benchmark</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self-Sufficiency Wage</td>
<td>$45,737</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welfare TANF, SNAP, &amp; WIC</td>
<td>$10,017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Poverty Level</td>
<td>$20,090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-Time Minimum Wage**</td>
<td>$21,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HUD Income Limit/Median Family Income**</td>
<td>$82,010</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TANF, SNAP, AND WIC.** The second bar on the left in Figure D calculates the cash value of the basic public assistance package, assuming no other income, and includes the cash value of SNAP (formerly food stamps), WIC, and TANF. This public assistance package totals $10,017 per year for three-person families in South Carolina, which is just 22% of the Standard for a three-person family in Beaufort County, and 50% of the FPL for a three-person family.
Not enough $$

Low Education & Job Skills
  - 53% of homeless adults do not have a high school education

Fewer Job opportunities
  - Globalization
  - Industrialization
The Minimum Wage

Average full-time worker earns less now than in the 1970s

- The Average person needs to earn between $10-20/hour
- Richland County
  - 109 hours at MW needed
- Taxpayers subsidize low wage jobs
  - McDonalds cost taxpayers $3.8 billion/year
  - Wal-Mart subsidies = $6.2 billion/year

Henry Ford paid his workers 3X the minimum wage...so they could afford the cars they made
Affordable Housing

• Defined as 1/3 of income
  • In no County in the US does minimum wage meets FMR
  • A 1 bedroom at $689 \times 3 = $2,067 a month
    • Full time Minimum wage before taxes = $1,160 a month
    • SSI is usually $735 a month

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Fair Market Rent</th>
<th>Efficiency</th>
<th>One-Bedroom</th>
<th>Two-Bedroom</th>
<th>Three-Bedroom</th>
<th>Four-Bedroom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Richland, Lexington and Fairfield</td>
<td>$541</td>
<td>$689</td>
<td>$806</td>
<td>$1,063</td>
<td>$1,305</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who is homelessness?

Poor Physical Health
   - 40% identified disabilities

Criminal History
   - 40% in jail have been homeless

Mental Health
   - 22% Severe & Persistent MI

https://youtu.be/Y3uTRbALLhE  4 min video about homeless stereotypes
Homelessness is **STRESSFUL.**

The National Low Income Housing Coalition says housing is “out of reach” for people who earn minimum wage in every state in the U.S.

**A HIGH COST**

In South Carolina, someone would need to be paid **$14.57** an hour in order to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

**FAIR MARKET RENT**

For apartments in Richland County:

- **$656** for a 1-bedroom
- **$778** for a 2-bedroom
- **$1,026** for a 3-bedroom

**JOB LOSS**

Nearly 1/3 of respondents said losing a job was the main cause of their homelessness.
Homelessness is LONELY.

Our research showed that the respondents had very low levels of social support from family and friends.

Almost 1/5 of respondents said they do not have a home because of family violence, divorce, a death in the family or an argument with family and friends.

Sixty percent said there was nothing family or friends could help them with when presented with a list of options such as: “lend you money” and “give you a place to stay.”

Many homeless individuals feel awkward asking for help. Twenty-eight percent said their friends or family had too many problems of their own, and 12% said they felt too independent.
2016 Homelessness in the US

- 564,708 homelessness people
  - 15%, chronically homeless
  - 8% veterans
  - 50% over age 50
  - 550,000 youth

http://www.socialsolutions.com/blog/2016-homelessness-statistics
Point in Time Count
United Way of the Midlands

2016 Homeless Count
- 1,349 Found over 14 counties
  - 339 Unsheltered
  - 261 Temporary Housing
  - 420 In shelter

www.schomeless.org/2016-pit-count/
MYTH BUSTERS

Myth #1: Are lazy
4/10 have jobs

Myth #2: Made terrible decisions
4/10 workers don’t have savings past 3 months

Myth #3: Have Substance problems
3/10

Myth #4: Are criminals
Less likely than those housed to commit violent crimes
(more panhandling and loitering crimes)

Myth #5: Just want your money
People like you

Why would you not stay in a shelter?

1. They are full
2. Lack of control and privacy
3. Theft
4. Staff are disrespectful
5. Separated from family or animals
6. Being around addicts
7. Fear of bugs, diseases
8. Fear of assault

https://soapboxie.com/social-issues/why_homeless_people_avoid_shelters
Engaging and Equipping Homeless Adults of the Midlands to Transition into Stability and Permanent Housing
SERVICES

Day Center open 8:30-5:00 Mon-Sun
- Meals
- Linens and Towels
- Laundry facilities on-site
- Library with a quiet area
- Courtyard with designated smoking area
- Computer lab with internet access
- Transportation
- Clothing closet
- Hygiene products
- Over 45 partners on-site including a Doctors Office
Bed Levels (260 = 167M / 93F)

Emergency (71M | 26F) Convalescent (9M | 5F)

Program (55M | 30F)

Extended Program (32M | 32F)
Partners on Site

- Lexington Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center (LRADAC)
- Palmetto Health Mental Health (ACT Team)
- Mental Illness Recovery Center Inc. (MIRCI)
- Columbia Area Mental Health (CAMH)
- Eau Claire Cooperative Health Center (ECCHC)
- Salvation Army (Kitchen)
- 45+ partners offering one-on-one with clients (over 250 hours/month)
Where are clients from?

1,265 clients reported residence during Jul 1, 2016 to Jun 30, 2017

1,310 clients 91% from SC
- 1,165 or 71% from one of 14 MACH counties
  - 984 or 64% Richland County
  - 117 or 9% Lexington County
Mental Health | Substance | Veteran Services

36% of all clients have Mental Health Cases
- Columbia and Lexington Area Mental Health
- MIRCI
- Eau Claire Cooperative Center Behavioral Health
- Palmetto Health Mental Health

36% Substance
- LRADAC
- Palmetto Health Mental Health
- CAMH
- AA/NA

10% of Population is Veteran (209 FY16)
- SE Region VA
- Dorn Homeless Outreach Services
- Veterans Formation
- Alston Wilkes Society
- One80 Place
Client Demographics

Race
African-American 65%
Caucasian 32%
Other 3%

Gender
Male 71%
Female 29%
Transgender < 0.01 %
Unidentified 0%

Age
62 or Over 7%
45-61 5%
35-44 19%
25-34 16%
18-24 8%
Women

- 93 Female Beds Filled Daily
- 1,561 Females served as of 6/30/2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th># of Females Served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>143</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>307</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>366</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-61</td>
<td>661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62+</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Youth ages 18-24
(additional 52 used Day Center only)

- Of 106 Residents Served:
  - 60% Male, 40% Female
  - 60% African American, 40% Caucasian
  - 4% Veteran, 7% Chronically Homeless
  - 25% Income, 29% Health insurance
  - 10% moved up in programs
  - 29% exited to permanent housing
Cost Comparison

- Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center: $65.00/night
- Emergency Room Visit Charge: $2,500-$5,000
- Average charge of hospital bed: $5,000/night
- Cost of a bed at Transitions: $22.00/night

Cost Facts

- Annual Security Costs: $305,000
- Annual Water/Sewer Bill: $50,400
- Annual Eau Claire Clinic Charge Savings at Transitions: 6M
Accomplishments

• 5,865 Unique Client Served (2,256 in FY16)

• 1,326 Clients moved to permanent housing
  HUD subsidy, nursing home, rental, permanent residence with friends/family

• 4,487 Clients moved from homelessness to a more positive living situation Ex.
  hospital, psychiatric, Impatient psychiatric or substance abuse, transitional housing, temporary residence with friends/family
Accomplishments

853,778 nutritious meals served (229,352 in FY16)

Over 421,000 beds filled

Day Center Showers 28,206 (6,498 in FY16)

Day Center and Residents Laundry Loads over 34,000 (12,749 in FY16)
Inclement Weather Center

- Runs Nov 1-March 31
- Subcontractor for UWM under City of Columbia
- Opens 40 degrees and below (flexibility for rain)
- Transportation by bus (Pick up at Clean of Hearts)
- Dinner and breakfast by Salvation Army
- Runs 6:00PM until 7:15AM
Inclement Weather Center

- Declining core group down to 52 clients only staying ½ time open (33 nights)
- Cold group not as pronounced (36 to 31)
- Veterans reduced by 66%
- FY 16: Opened 65 total nights
  - 17,124 meals served
  - 8,562 beds filled
  - 739 unique clients; 24% became Transitions
What can you do?

How do you find community resources for your clients?

- Know the facts and educate others to advocate
- Make contacts in the community-Know who does what!
- United Way 211 (Serves SC)
- Transitions Community Resource Guide-Request a copy!
What's the answer? **AFFORDABLE HOUSING.**

Help us make housing accessible to everyone by increasing the supply of affordable and supportive housing. Housing provides the foundation for life stability and success.

**Everyone deserves a home.**

STAY INFORMED AT: UWAY.ORG AND SCHOMELESS.ORG.
Questions?

End Midlands Homelessness

www.transitionssc.org
Resources

Books:

Articles:
theantimedia.org/these-welfare-recipients-should-get-their-government-assistance-cut-now/

Videos:
www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/cliffhanger/
www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/poor-kids/
www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Dpl61B_Df4