



Home, Together: Bismarck-Mandan

Plan to Prevent & End Homelessness

2019-2023

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Introduction

Bismarck-Mandan Steering Committee

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City of Bismarck:	Nancy Guy, Commissioner
Custer Health:	Jodie Fetsch, RN, Director of Nursing
Native American Development Center:	Lorraine Davis, Executive Director
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ND Housing & Finance Agency:	Kay Ver Helst, Director of Public Affairs
	Jennifer Henderson, Director Planning/Housing
Youthworks:	Mark Heinert, Program Manager
United Way Emergency Shelter:	Jena Gullo, Executive Director

This steering committee would like to thank the people from the Bismarck-Mandan area including organizations, community volunteers, advocates and many others, who provided their time and expertise to ensure this plan reflects a diversity of perspectives.

Home.

The only true end to homelessness is a safe and stable place to call home. Housing is a fundamental human need that lays the foundation for success in every aspect of life.

Home enables everyone to have a solid foundation to pursue opportunities. Having a home provides people with a better chance to succeed in school and at work. It also allows individuals to take care of their health, build strong families, and give back to their communities.

Unfortunately, far too many people experience homelessness in our area, limiting their ability to pursue these opportunities.



Together, Bismarck-Mandan.

The causes of homelessness are complex, and the solutions are going to take the entire Bismarck-Mandan community working together to achieve success. Thriving communities need enough housing that's affordable for people across a full spectrum of incomes, from young adults just starting out to seniors wanting to spend their remaining years aging in place.

Quality educational and career opportunities, child care, health care, substance abuse and mental health services, and aging services can help individuals and families build strong social networks and strengthen overall well-being. These services, in addition to federal, state, and local programs, must be well-coordinated with the business, philanthropic, and faith communities that can supplement and enhance them.



A community-wide coordinated approach to delivering services, housing and programs is ongoing in the Bismarck-Mandan community. Efforts will continue to be strategic and data-driven to make informed decisions that effectively allocate resources, services and programs to best address those experiencing homelessness in this area.

Types of Homelessness

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, there are three types of homelessness: chronic, transitional, and episodic.

These types can be defined as follows:

Chronic Homelessness

- Chronically homeless persons are likely to be established in the shelter system and consider sheltering long-term housing rather than an emergency arrangement. These individuals are likely to be older, often the “hard-core unemployed”, suffering from disabilities and substance abuse issues. Chronically homeless persons represent a far smaller proportion of the population compared to the transitionally homeless. People experiencing chronic homelessness are particularly vulnerable because they disproportionately live in unsheltered locations and have one or more disabilities.

Transitional Homelessness

- Transitionally homeless individuals generally enter the shelter system for only one stay and for a short period of time. These individuals are likely to be younger members of the insecurely housed population and have become homeless due to a catastrophic life event. Likely they’ve been forced to spend a short time in a homeless shelter before making a transition into more stable housing. Over time, transitionally homeless individuals will account for the majority of the homeless population.

Episodic Homelessness

- Those who frequently transfer in and out of homelessness are known as episodically homeless. They are most likely to be young, but unlike those in transitional homelessness, episodically homeless individuals often are chronically unemployed and experience medical, mental health, and substance abuse issues.



Community Statistics

Because of methodological and financial constraints, most studies are limited to counting people in shelters or on the street. While there are efforts underway to better reflect accurate numbers for the homeless population, data continues to be difficult to obtain and often inaccurate in true representation of the immense need for homeless services in the Bismarck-Mandan community.

Staff employed by the local access points for persons experiencing homelessness in Bismarck-Mandan enter data into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

HMIS data from January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

**Please note: During this reporting period United Way opened an emergency shelter for men, women and children. United Way began entering data into HMIS on July 1, 2018.*

Total unduplicated clients served in Bismarck-Mandan = 1,019

Number of adults (age 18 or over) = 715 (70%)

Number of children under age 18 = 373 (29%)

Number of veterans = 47 (5%)

Number of chronically homeless = 80 (8%)

Homelessness by Race:

48% White

31% American Indian/Alaskan Native

10% Black or African American

9% Multiple Races

Burleigh County continues to have the highest American Indian population of any non-reservation county in North Dakota. We continue to see a need for services for the American Indian population in the Bismarck-Mandan community. Historically, 50% of the clients at the Abused Adult Resource Center (ARRC) emergency shelter are American Indian women. United Way's Emergency Shelter reports 33% of clients sheltered there are American Indian.

Youthworks reports the following statistics for runaway and homeless youth they serve:

43% American Indian

36% Former Foster Youth

28% Former Correctional Youth

57% of Youth Have Behavioral Health Issues

10% are LGBTQ+

11% have been Trafficked

As of June 1 2019, there were 507 children in the Bismarck Public School system identified as homeless, this includes children ages 0-5 in addition to school aged children.

The good news is that we continue to move forward with the support of local government and the private sector and are making progress implementing best practices and building the coordinated responses necessary to reduce and ultimately end homelessness in the Bismarck-Mandan area.

Together, We Are Making Progress



The Bismarck-Mandan community is focused more than ever to find a solution to end homelessness. In October 2017, the only emergency homeless shelter closed. Since then organizations have come together and continue to break down silos to collaborate in new ways. United Way began providing emergency shelter in October 2017 for men, women and children experiencing homelessness and has sustained operations to date. The Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People has made efforts to revamp the coalition to enhance partnerships in the community embracing “Housing First” practices to assist people in finding the stability of “home”. They have recently completed a strategic planning process to realign and restructure themselves to best approach homeless needs in this area.

The Bismarck-Mandan community has transitioned from a single-point of entry to multiple points of entry for persons experiencing homelessness to access services. With multiple points of access, people who need help are identified quickly, their needs and strengths are assessed, and they can be matched to the appropriate local housing services and social supports they need. This coordinated effort, Coordinated Access, Referral and Evaluation System (CARES) provides referrals within the entire state of North Dakota.

The access points identified in our community are as follows:

Abused Adult Resource Center - *Victims of domestic violence.*
218 W Broadway Avenue, Bismarck, ND

Community Action Program - *Rent/utility assistance/emergency food/household items.*
2105 Lee Avenue, Bismarck, ND (Must start here if homeless veteran seeking SSVF.)

Native American Development Center - *Housing, consumer finance, peer support, development, culture, advocacy and policy for Native Americans.*
205 N 24th Street, Bismarck, ND

Salvation Army - *Emergency food, rent/utility assistance.*
601 S Washington Street, Bismarck, ND

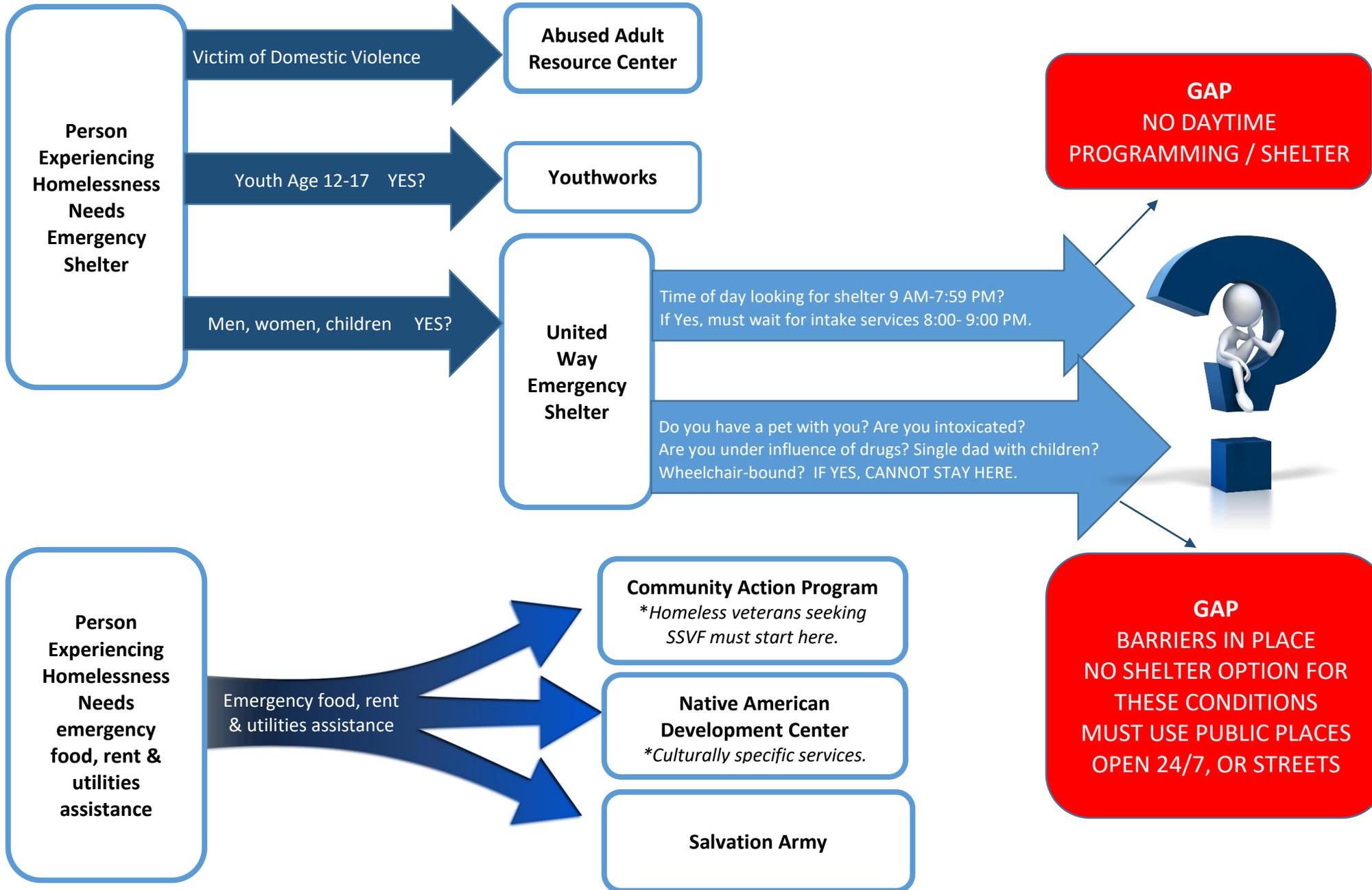
United Way Emergency Shelter - *Emergency shelter for men, women and children.*
114 N 3rd St, Bismarck, ND

Youthworks - *Emergency Shelter to Ages 12-17, Transitional Housing to ages 18-21*
217 W Rosser Avenue, Bismarck, ND

Homeless Access Points in Bismarck-Mandan

If you are homeless you **MUST** start at one of these access points.

Other community resources may be available with referrals provided after checking in at the appropriate access point.



The Continuum of Care

In many communities across the country a linear model exists where people experiencing homelessness are expected to progress through four levels of care (See Figure 1).

The reality is much more complicated than this (See Figure 2) and someone experiencing homelessness can be placed directly into permanent housing with support services rather than taking up critical emergency shelter space. This is why the role of “intake and assessment” has increased in importance over the past few years.

Figure 1.

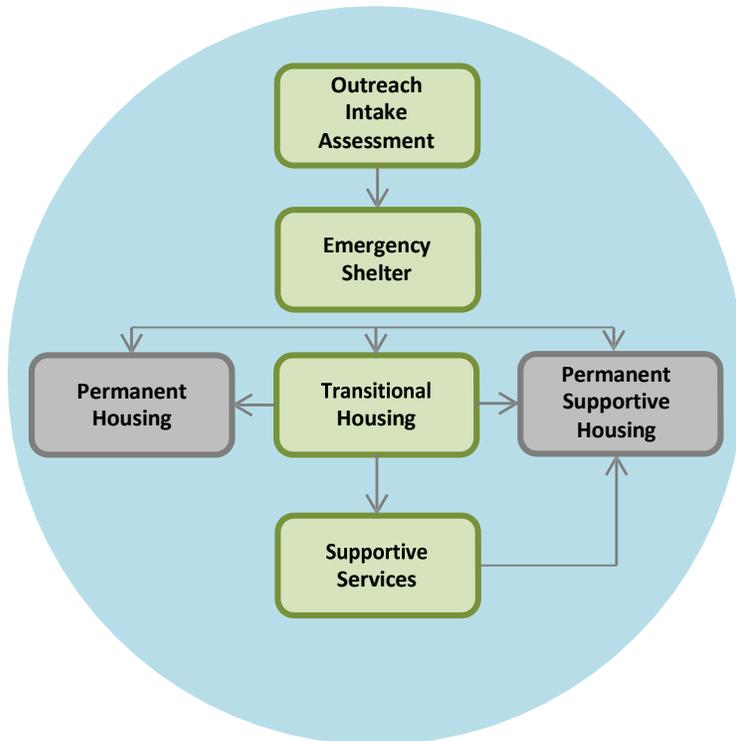
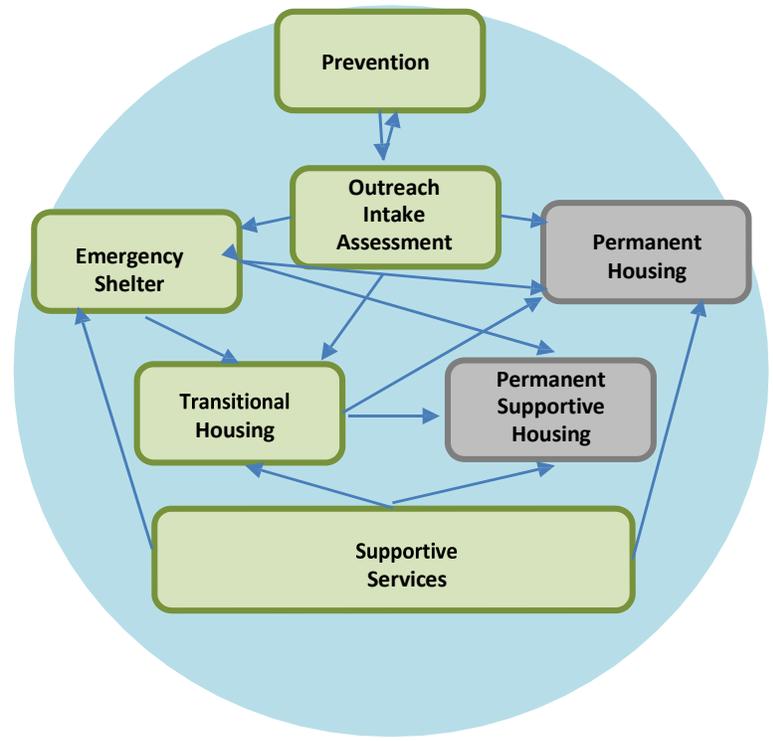


Figure 2.



The Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People continues to promote the evidence-based practice “Housing First” model. This model takes a consumer-based approach in supporting client’s needs and encouraging clients to create and implement their own goals while immediately housing clients with no preconditions (except complying with a standard lease agreement).

Research has shown that “Housing First” programs increase housing stability for clients served, are more cost effective compared to traditional services that impose sobriety perquisites to housing and increase client utilization of other supportive services.

In the Bismarck-Mandan community, the process for individuals experiencing homelessness can be complex (see Figure 3). Navigating the system can be challenging and there is room for improvement in the process for those seeking assistance.

The Path Home

While our progress is promising, we know we have much more work to do, and many challenges to face together. The steering committee for Bismarck-Mandan's Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness and members of the Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People identified gaps in the community. Areas of concern will be addressed through strategies identified in this plan.



Gaps have been identified as follows:

- Lack of family housing, keeping family members sheltered together if different gender
- No low barrier shelter, shelter for those under the influence of drugs and or alcohol
- Lack of 24/7 access to sheltering and supportive services
- No community detox facility
- No mobile crisis unit for mental health issues
- No daytime drop-in-center for homeless to access services
- Need for additional case management services to support housing stability
- Access to behavioral health treatment and services
- Adults discharged from prison/jail/correctional facilities into homelessness
- Youth discharged from correctional facilities or foster care into homelessness
- Individuals discharged from hospitals and/or treatment centers into homelessness
- Data collection – accurate reporting/multiple access points vs. single point of entry
- Shortage of accessible affordable housing units/permanent supportive housing units
- No transitional housing
- Lack of affordable daycare options
- Lack of supports/services for unaccompanied youth ages 19-24 experiencing homelessness in school system
- Transportation issues
- Limited assistance in paying for phone service, medications/prescriptions
- Hunger

These are difficult challenges, but momentum is on our side. The development of this plan provides a road map for us to show where we are going and how we are going to get there.

Defining Success

This community must have a systemic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it can't be prevented, it is a rare, brief, and one-time experience. That means that this community must have the capacity to:

- Quickly identify and engage people at risk of and experiencing homelessness.
- Intervene to prevent people from losing their housing and divert people from entering the homelessness services system.
- Provide people with immediate access to shelter and crisis services without barriers to entry if homelessness does occur.
- Quickly connect people experiencing homelessness to housing assistance and services tailored to their unique needs and strengths to help them achieve and maintain stable housing.

Measuring Progress

To drive and track progress we will focus on changes in the following key measures:

- **Number of People Experiencing Homelessness at a Point-in-Time**

The number of people experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness at a point in time in the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) count, including Veterans, people experiencing chronic homelessness, families with children, unaccompanied youth, and all individuals. The Point-in-Time count is a federal requirement of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

HUD uses information from the local PIT counts, among other data sources, in the congressionally-mandated Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (AHAR). This report is meant to inform Congress about the number of people experiencing homelessness in the United States and the effectiveness of HUD's programs and policies in decreasing those numbers.

The PIT count is the only measure that enumerates people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in addition to those who are sheltered. Despite its flaws, the annual PIT count results in the most reliable estimate of people experiencing homelessness in the United States from which progress can be measured.

- **Number of People Experiencing Chronic Homelessness**

The number of people, including Veterans, experiencing chronic homelessness, families with children, unaccompanied youth, and all individuals, spending time in emergency shelter and transitional housing annually.

- **Number of Youth Experiencing Homelessness**

The number of children and youth, including both students in families and unaccompanied students, identified as experiencing homelessness at some point during the school year.



Goals & Objectives

This plan is focused on strategies that will support the Bismarck-Mandan communities to make homelessness a rare, brief, and one-time experience and sustain that success once achieved.

GOAL #1: Ensure homelessness is a rare experience.

Objective 1.1: By July 2019 the Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People will identify unmet social health needs in the Bismarck-Mandan community.

Objective 1.2: By December 2023 the Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People will work collaboratively to build lasting systems addressing unmet social health needs in the Bismarck-Mandan Community.

Objective 1.3: By December 2023, the Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People will increase capacity and strengthen practices to prevent housing crises and homelessness.

GOAL #2: Ensure homelessness is a brief experience.

Objective 2.1: By December 2023, the Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People will identify and engage all people experiencing homelessness as quickly as possible through utilization of multiple access points in the Bismarck-Mandan Community.

Objective 2.3: By December 2023, the Bismarck-Mandan community will strengthen current coordinated entry to standardize assessment and prioritization processes and streamline connections to housing and services through utilization of HMIS.

Objective 2.2: By December 2023, the Bismarck-Mandan community will provide immediate access to low-barrier emergency shelter or other temporary accommodation to all who need it.

Objective 2.4: By December 2023, the Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People will assist people to move swiftly into permanent housing with appropriate and person-centered services

GOAL #3: Ensure homelessness is a one-time experience.

Objective 3.1: By December 2023, the Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People will prevent returns to homelessness through connections to adequate services and opportunities through the efforts of local service providers.

PROGRESS REPORT: Bismarck-Mandan 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness 2008-2018



**Progress report completed by: Renae Moch, MBA, FACMPE
Director, Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health with assistance from the
Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People**

Summary: Update on Bismarck-Mandan 10-year Plan to End Long-term Homelessness

Success Defined in 2008

Our community will successfully end long-term homelessness assuming the program that is developed is attractive to and adopted by the long-term homeless population. This isn't a situation where we can mandate change, people must choose to go down a different path than any taken before.

The cities of Bismarck and Mandan will identify success by three measurements:

1. The number of long-term homeless individuals & families living in the Bismarck-Mandan area will decline & essentially be zero, by 2018.
 - 2007 Baseline: 100 long-term homeless in Bismarck/Mandan
 - 2013 Goal: 50 long-term homeless in Bismarck/Mandan
 - 2018 Goal: 0 long-term homeless in Bismarck/Mandan - **2018 regional long-term homeless numbers are not available as of yet, but for 2017 Region 7 had 17 chronically homeless persons and 126 in an emergency shelter or transitional facility.**
2. By 2018, unscheduled demand for crisis and institution-based services by individuals who could be classified as "long-term homeless" will decline by 80 percent. The "system" includes emergency shelter, hospital emergency rooms and psychiatric wards, county jail and State penitentiary, the State Hospital, and detox. Baseline statistics on the type of system level outcomes described above are not available as of the writing of this plan. Efforts to establish a baseline will begin with plan adoption and should be complete by 2009. **The demand for crisis and institution-based services has actually increased due to the changing dynamics and increasing needs for services in our community.**
3. The community will also analyze data collected in the state HMIS system to measure an individual's usage of the system (client-level outcomes). The intention is to quantify improvements in housing stability and personal income for the long-term homeless population who have moved in to permanent housing versus those who have not moved in to permanent housing. **The ND Coalition for Homeless Persons has been working to get the HMIS system better organized leading to more efficient reports. The Institute for Community Alliances administers the HMIS system for North Dakota.**

Benchmarks

Participants in the 2008 planning process were asked to identify at least three benchmarks that could be used to measure results and track progress.

Housing Solutions

Benchmark #1: Develop a minimum of 13 permanent supportive housing units on an annual basis for 10 years.

Benchmark #2: Assess number of short term, interim housing units, determine additional number of units needed to meet the demand for long-term homeless in our area.

Benchmark #3: Seek and secure a "start-up" fund to implement the plan.

Supportive Services Solutions

Benchmark #4: At least 90% of providers will input data into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) within the first year of implementing the 10-year plan.

Benchmark #5: Create a manual for integrated inter-agency collaboration within the first year of the plan.

Benchmark #6: Increase the number of case managers to correlate with the annual increase in permanent supportive housing units.

Prevention Solutions

Benchmark #7: Establish a committee within the first year to create a single point of entry into the system. The service should ultimately be staffed by professionals.

Benchmark #8: In 10 years, the cost to support the long-term homeless will be equal to or less than that of short term homelessness.

Benchmark #9: Assess perceptions relating to homelessness as a means of establishing a benchmark for future planning purposes.

GOALS DEVELOPED IN 2008

Housing Matters (Availability)

Strategy: Increase the availability of permanent supportive housing units.

GOAL	STATUS IN 2008	STILL NEEDED TO BE DONE IN 2008	WHO'S INVOLVED?	STATUS IN 2018
<p>GOAL #1: Increase the availability of short-term, interim housing units until such time as an adequate number of permanent supportive housing units are available. This could include transitional housing and emergency shelter units.</p>	<p>There are not enough short term units currently available for families.</p> <p>Existing units are available at Ruth Meier's (Welcome House), and through Burleigh County.</p> <p>Pride also has transitional units for people with chemical dependency.</p> <p>Burleigh County Housing is planning to offer an RFP to build a 27-bed unit in early 2008. The plan is to convert the facility to transitional housing. The facility won't use subsidies. It will need 24/7 staffing. The goal is to work with existing service providers to for staffing and service support. It could be a safe haven facility. Could use CDBG funds to renovate.</p>	<p>Assess the current capacity of short term, interim housing units available for long-term homelessness, and quantify the number of additional units needed.</p> <p>Develop a program in collaboration with area hotels to address the immediate needs for short term, interim housing.</p> <p>Funding support may be available from Red Cross and the Salvation Army.</p> <p>Offer participating hotels a break on city taxes. The Welcome House has a start on a program such as this.</p> <p>Seek additional low income tax credits.</p> <p>Create transitional housing that doesn't have federal dollars attached to it. Then transition into subsidized housing for men, women, children, families, etc.</p>	<p>Shelter providers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youthworks • Pride • Ruth Meier's • The Dacotah Foundation <p>Partner with area businesses and community organizations including, but not limited to: Bismarck-Mandan Apartment Assoc., Burleigh County Housing, AID, Inc., Salvation Army, Red Cross, area builders and contractors, social service agencies, non-profits, habitat for humanity, etc.</p>	<p>AARC leased and opened the Diane Zainhofsky Hope House in January 2010. It is transitional housing and has 25 beds.</p> <p>2013 - RMHH Emergency Shelter for Women and Children Closed</p> <p>2017 - RMHH Emergency Shelter for Men Closed</p> <p>2018 - United Way Emergency Homeless Shelter opened for up to 68 men, women, and children</p> <p>It was determined not to be cost effective to offer an RFP for a 27-bed unit so this was not pursued by Burleigh County Housing Authority.</p>
<p>GOAL #2: Convert existing housing units into permanent supportive housing units.</p>	<p>As of January 2008, there isn't any current activity occurring relative to this goal. The Dacotah Foundation's building is ¾ empty. Kirkwood investors own the building.</p>	<p>Consider converting the facility to permanent housing units. Get labor and materials donated.</p>	<p>Ruth Meier's Hospitality Burleigh and Morton County Housing The Dacotah Foundation Bismarck-Mandan Apartment Assoc. City building inspection departments</p>	

<p>GOAL #3 Build new housing to be designated as permanent supportive housing units for people afflicted by long-term homelessness.</p>	<p>Burleigh County Housing recently opened a 4-unit facility and designated one unit for permanent supportive housing. They have applied for HOME and federal home funding support.</p> <p>Morton County Housing provides tenant-based vouchers. They don't own facilities like Burleigh County does.</p>	<p>Provide incentives to developers and investors for building rental properties that designate a percentage of units to long-term homeless (e.g., income tax credits, bonus points for LIHTC and HOME funds, etc.).</p> <p>Note: LIHTC is already doing this to encourage the set aside of units for homelessness.</p> <p>Explore the feasibility of building additional community-based, affordable housing units for long-term homelessness (e.g., blocks of 12-16 units).</p> <p>Partner with area organizations to build additional affordable housing units.</p> <p>Publicly recognize builders and developers who support these efforts.</p>	<p>Burleigh County Housing</p> <p>Morton County Housing</p> <p>Builders and developers</p> <p>Habitat for Humanity</p> <p>UTTC</p> <p>All agencies providing services relating to homelessness.</p>	<p>AARC opened Bonnie's Apartments in 2011. This unit has 7 efficiency apartments. We use project based Shelter Plus Care vouchers from Burleigh County Housing.</p>
<p>GOAL #4 Establish a single-point-of-entry and 24/7 "drop in" center for anyone experiencing homelessness or at risk of being discharged into homelessness.</p>	<p>- Ruth Meier's is open at nights for individuals need placement.</p>	<p>- Explore the merits of establishing the new 27-bed facility being built through Burleigh County Housing as a 24//7 drop in center.</p> <p>Workers need to be knowledgeable on whom to call for placement.</p>	<p>All service providers</p> <p>Police, Churches</p>	<p>There is no longer a "Single Point of Entry". RMHH was provided financial support for this in 2008 but the Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People (MVCHP) has now established 6 access points in the community. Homeless must start at one of the following access points to be connected to services:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abused Adult Resource Center 2. Community Action Program 3. Ruth Meiers Hospitality House 4. Salvation Army 5. YouthWorks 6. Native American Development Center <p>Access points refer homeless to United Way Shelter as needed.</p>

<p>GOAL #5 Establish a single-point-of-entry and 24/7 “drop in” center for anyone experiencing homelessness or at risk of being discharged into homelessness.</p>	<p>- A program for children experiencing homelessness is currently available through the Bismarck Public Schools system.</p>	<p>- Assure that people experiencing LT homelessness can get into housing first before having to meet restrictive criteria.</p> <p>Study other programs across the nation to determine eligibility criteria.</p>	<p>All service providers and agencies need to develop the criteria.</p>	<p>There is no longer a “Single Point of Entry”. RMHH was provided financial support for this in 2008 but the Missouri Valley Coalition for Homeless People (MVCHP) has now established 6 access points in the community. Homeless must start at one of the following access points to be connected to services:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Abused Adult Resource Center 2. Community Action Program 3. Ruth Meiers Hospitality House 4. Salvation Army 5. YouthWorks 6. Native American Development Center <p>Access points refer homeless to United Way Shelter as needed.</p>
<p>GOAL #6 Establish a HUD-based, “safe-haven” housing option in the community.</p>	<p>A safe havens option is currently not available in our community. Safe havens offer a residence to people with mental illness (and/or other disabilities) who have been unwilling or unable to participate in other housing and services. The initial goal of such a facility is to engage residents in living in the Safe Haven; the ultimate goal is to facilitate access to permanent housing/services.</p>	<p>Explore the merits of merging this initiative with the 24/7 housing facility and service.</p> <p>Seek grant funding from the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Each year, HUD identifies grant awardees who provide very low cost housing, known as safe havens.</p> <p>Study what is being done relative to safe haven housing in other communities.</p>	<p>HUD (state office) Cities Service providers</p> <p>Substance abuse and mental health providers Mental Health America of ND Protection and advocacy groups Churches and Hospitals Major corporations as possible sponsors or funding sources (e.g., Burger King, Space Aliens, etc.)</p>	<p>A safe havens option is currently not available in our community.</p>

<p>GOAL #7 Create a community crisis response plan to open public facilities (recreation centers, schools, churches, etc.) as overflow shelters in extreme weather conditions.</p>	<p>No formal plan exists; however, organizations are prepared to work together on an as needed basis.</p>	<p>Develop a task force to create a response plan.</p> <p>Communicate the plan to the media and community residents.</p>	<p>Ministerial Assoc. Civic center Motels/hotels Schools Service providers Red Cross Homeless coalition Emergency mgmt. Cities and parks</p>	<p>Community Crisis Response, open public facilities as overflow in extreme weather, was decided not needed but United Way has the information for funding just in case it is needed in the future. Was brought to the table for a need in 2014 but RMHH informed the community it was not needed as they could meet the need. Need to reconsider the need for this in future plan. MVCHP is currently working with ND Dept of Emergency Management to develop a Code Blue/Code Red policy.</p>
<p>GOAL #8 Make rent subsidies and vouchers more available to long-term homeless individuals and families.</p>	<p>The Burleigh County Housing Authority and Community Action provide Shelter + care vouchers.</p> <p>There are waiting lists for most existing programs; however, there isn't as long a wait in Morton county.</p> <p>The Salvation Army and churches provide some financial support for covering the cost of hotels on occasion.</p> <p>AID, Inc. helps with emergency rent, utilities, food and medications as their dollars allow.</p>	<p>Obtain funding for additional Shelter Plus Care (S+C) vouchers.</p> <p>Expand HOME- funded (HUD), tenant-based assistance vouchers for rent and security deposits (especially for long term homeless families).</p> <p>Pursue access to Section 8 vouchers for tenants who are currently excluded.</p> <p>Pursue access to Continuum of Care (COC) funding for rent subsidies (especially for adult long-term homeless individuals).</p> <p>Increase the dollar level of existing voucher programs.</p>	<p>City and county housing authorities typically administer most programs for housing assistance.</p> <p>AID, Inc.</p> <p>Community Action</p> <p>Ruth Meier's – Horizon building</p> <p>HUD</p> <p>State homeless coalition to address this from the state and federal level.</p>	<p>The Burleigh County Housing Authority provides Shelter + Care Vouchers for Homeless and VASH Vouchers for Veterans.</p> <p>Rent subsidies and vouchers are provided through HOME funding to Community Action for this purpose. The city has awarded both HOME funds and CDBG funding to nonprofits for security deposit assistance and homelessness prevention.</p> <p>Salvation Army will assist with past due rent for people staying in shelters and help pay fees and other costs that normally homeless people do not have due to their living arrangements and available jobs, as most do not have ID's and other necessary hiring documents needed. AARC will help with rental assistance when they have funding available.</p> <p>Housing assistance - AID, Inc. assists with past-due and current month's rent, past-due and current month's utilities, transportation (bus tickets, bus passes, gas vouchers), ID's, birth certificates,</p>

				<p>laundry vouchers, foods and non-foods and more.</p> <p>United Way has limited funding of \$13,000 from Department of Commerce to provide security deposits and rental assistance to homeless.</p>
<p>GOAL #9 Provide targeted, employment placement for anyone receiving housing assistance through the long-term homeless plan.</p>			Refer to service action plan.	
<p>GOAL #10 Help long-term homelessness tenants gain and maintain eligibility for mainstream supports (e.g. SSI, SSDI, TANF, food stamps, Medicaid, Medicare, etc.)</p>			Refer to service action plan.	<p>RMHH, West Central, AID, Inc. and Community Options are all providing services to long term homeless in order to gain employment and maintain eligibility for mainstream resources (Medicaid expansion, SSI, SSDI, SNAP benefits, housing). Each of these organizations are providing on-going services for those who are long term homeless, have disabling conditions and face housing challenges. Native Americans are assisted thru the Native American Development Center.</p>
<p>GOAL #11 Increase the availability of payee and financial management services to focus on maintenance of housing stability.</p>	<p>GAPS provides a payee service in the Bismarck area.</p> <p>The Village in Fargo has an excellent counseling program.</p>	<p>Work with existing services providers to offer credit counseling and increase financial literacy among people experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>GAPS</p> <p>The Dacotah Foundation</p>	<p>Salvation Army has started the Pathway to Hope program for budgeting etc. with families they are assisting. Native American Development Center hiring a financial counselor and hosting workshops on home buying & tenant resources.</p>
<p>GOAL #12 Advocate for the creation of a transitional jobs program for people experiencing homelessness in the Bismarck and Mandan area.</p>	<p>Local job service offices are available to assist with jobs placement.</p>	<p>Work with job placement providers to discuss the need and develop a response plan.</p> <p>Work with targeted employers that have ongoing needs for workers (fast food,</p>	<p>Job Service (spot jobs)</p> <p>Community and Career Options</p> <p>ND Dept. of Human Services (VR and RCS)</p> <p>Labor Ready Chamber</p>	<p>DVRCC provides education and employment programs to their clients. The program, New Directions, assist with resumes, interviewing skills, on the job training as well as other life skill classes. YouthWorks clients get targeted employment assistance. West Central is</p>

	The better the economy, the better the opportunity for jobs.	retail, service, energy, manufacturing, etc.) Tie the transitional jobs program to housing support. (e.g., must work in order to get support)		working on more supportive employment options with their clients thru the Human Service Center. Vocational Rehab is looking to establish a supportive employment program. AID, Inc. pays for CNA classes (as the classes are available) and the TB testing required and can offer free scrubs through the Thrift Shop. Experience Works provides employment opportunities for those 55+ that are income-qualified. Contact Deb Martinson 701-426-8903 for enrollment information.
GOAL #13 Establish a fund to provide start up resources to tenants participating in the long-term homelessness plan.	Some slush fund dollars are available through various agencies to cover furniture, clothing, and other basic items.	Create a fund to help tenants cover security deposits, as well as to pay landlords for damages to units. Deposits could be returned to the fund.	Apartment Association AID, Inc. Jeans Day funds United Way Private donations Agencies	Work being done by North Dakota Housing Finance on the Opening Doors Landlord Risk Mitigation Fund.
GOAL #14 Support the creation of additional, affordable rental units that are at or below the fair market rents values as determined annually by HUD.	Some out-of-state developers are looking at building some low income rental units (new development). Burleigh County recently increased the fair market rents from 40% to 50%. (includes utilities)	Make more units available and provide higher subsidies. The city needs to consider offering tax breaks or other incentives to reduce the cost to purchase land or renovate existing units (e.g. tax increment financing). Explore renovating existing buildings. Don't use federal funds.	Builders and developers Cities (zoning) Non-profits Housing authorities Explore the possibility of securing gaming revenue (state and tribal).	Burleigh County House recently increased the fair market rents to 110% of the 40% fair market rents as published by HUD (includes utilities). Burleigh County Housing is developing 40 single units of permanent supportive housing for homeless to open in September 2019 called Edwinton Place. Former Mandan Jr High transformed into 39 units of affordable housing called Historic Apartments on 4th. The rehab of this historic structure will not only revitalize the neighborhood around the property, it will also create housing for the community's growing workforce. All are reserved for income-qualified households and rent (currently) for \$499 to \$775 depending on unit size and household income. In addition to running the on-site daycare, the Mother

				Teresa Outreach, an affiliate of Spirit of Life Church, will offer supportive services to tenants who have experienced housing instability. (For more information contact Kaycee Boehm, the property's on-site manager, 751-1542.)
GOAL #15 Advocate for changes that enable people in poverty to increase their personal income without immediately decreasing their public assistance benefits. (e.g., limit housing costs to a maximum of 30% of total income).	Discretionary housing authority is available through counties as part of their voucher programs.	Study existing federal laws to determine what can be changed in relation to disability, SSI, TANF, etc. Apply for waivers.	Cities and counties ND Department of Human Services Seek funding from the tobacco settlement.	Community Options, West Central, Burleigh County, AID, Inc. and AARC have programs that enable people in poverty to increase their personal income without immediately decreasing their public assistance benefits.

SERVICE MATTERS (QUALITY)

Strategy: Enhance the quality and delivery of supportive services.

GOAL	STATUS IN 2008	STILL NEEDED TO BE DONE IN 2008	WHO'S INVOLVED?	STATUS IN 2018
GOAL #16 Explore the feasibility of establishing a detoxification program and/or implementing a "harm reduction" model to address the needs of people suffering from substance abuse. The program could offer various levels of treatment (e.g., full, intermediate and emergency detoxification).	Exploration *thought needs to be given to drugs other than alcohol, how will illegal or prescription drug abuse be handled *there are facilities in Fargo that allow a certain number of drinks per hour, a place to detox *given a name that isn't negative	*this idea can be a hard sell to the community *thought must be put in to how to address this with the media and communicate the intentions to the community *the place must be safe *set up for feasibility	- West Central - Heartview - Law Enforcement -Homeless shelter providers - Facility managers -Fargo, ND - Hospitals <i>Other notes:</i> -thought of as a radical idea = hard sell	The Gold Star Community Task Force was formed in June 2017 and a subcommittee of this task force is working to address this as a priority for our community. Social detox is being considered as a community solution and progress on this effort will continue to move forward in the next few years.
GOAL #17 Develop a case management system to address the needs of anyone placed into a permanent supportive housing unit.	HMIS is currently available Not every place offers the same services	Establish a standardized process and criteria for admitting individuals and families into the long-term homeless case management system. Hire and designate case managers and case aides to provide supportive services to anyone placed in a permanent supportive housing unit.	All agencies currently doing intake	AARC provides case management services to our residents in Bonnie's Apartments as well as Shelter Plus Care case management for our clients that are in the community.

<p>GOAL #18 Provide supportive services to address the primary disabling conditions and housing challenges often associated with long-term homelessness.</p>	<p>There is a severe shortage of case aids on the support side</p> <p>Sex-offender housing is being provided – transitional housing</p>	<p>Peer mentorship program Community support on a large scale Funding for formalized training and educational opportunities Make use of existing programs More aware of what’s available Getting people to the service offerings</p>	<p>The Village AARC Community Action Bismarck Food Pantry Anyone providing formalized housing Youth Works Professional volunteers The colleges – UTTC, U of Mary, BSC Whomever does the background checks –BCI/Law enforcement</p>	
<p>GOAL #19 Develop and provide dedicated resources to house individuals discharged from psychiatric care institutions.</p>	<p>Are current facilities operating under certain discharge criteria?</p> <p>ACS/West Central Alternative crisis center Arbor House Dakota Foundation</p>	<p>Some don’t meet qualifications for current facility Develop a transitional plan for quick discharge Need more contact w/ individuals</p>	<p>ACS West Central Arbor House Dakota Foundation Hospitals Psych units (in & out) Human Service Center</p>	<p>Ongoing collaboration with hospitals to develop and provide dedicated resources to house individuals discharged from psychiatric institutions.</p> <p>Hospitals regularly discharge from psychiatric units to the United Way Shelter.</p>
<p>GOAL #20 Establish innovative ways to support the unique needs of youth afflicted by long-term homelessness.</p>	<p>YouthWorks AARC YES Bismarck and Mandan schools have all taken an active role</p> <p>Street outreach Drop in welcome</p> <p>Provide places to wash clothes and/or get supplies</p>	<p>Mandatory education requirement (drop- out age) Greater need for family support No more shelters Research about laws/funds Emancipation law for ND Credit law protecting parents from using minor’s social number to gain/destroy credit Identity theft and financial abuse protection</p>	<p>Legislators State coalition Lobbying groups</p> <p>YES Youth Works</p>	<p>The unique needs of youth in long term homeless situations was established by HUD when they passed Homeless and Runaway Youth Act.</p>
<p>GOAL #21 Work to provide affordable transportation services for members of long-term homeless households.</p>	<p>Youth Works AARC YES Bismarck and Mandan schools have all taken an active role</p> <p>Street outreach Drop in welcome</p>	<p>What are the federal regulations? Should be a strong push for non-motorized Move to less auto- oriented. Fixed transit route Housing in relation to transportation available.</p>	<p>IMPO Transit/CAT City planning & Development DOT</p>	<p>Due to financial concerns, Transit operations have been negatively impacted but attention to this issue continues to be a focus.</p> <p>AID, Inc. provides bus tickets, bus passes, gas vouchers, & limited transit passes. Also assists with car repairs</p>

	Provide places to wash clothes and/or get supplies	Agreed rate for all. Advocate for eligibility to include long-term homelessness as a qualification Communicate with transit Address hours of availability Funding research Provide non- motorized modes of Transportation		(based on interview), individual must have a source of household income, a valid driver's license, vehicle registration and proof of insurance. AID, Inc. may assist with financial part of obtaining a driver's license. AID, Inc. also provides laundry vouchers (participating agencies have laundry vouchers to distribute to those in need). Community Options CCO (Creative Connections & Opportunities) has a Wheels for Work program, donating cars to those in need (701-226-2488).
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SERVICE MATTERS (Collaboration)

Strategy: Enhance the quality and delivery of supportive services.

GOAL	STATUS IN 2008	STILL NEEDED TO BE DONE IN 2008	WHO'S INVOLVED?	STATUS IN 2018
GOAL #22 Support existing efforts to conduct an inventory of supportive services to identify current capacity, resources, gaps and unnecessary duplication of services relating to homelessness.	The annual continuum of care initiative is conducting the inventory.	Reach out more for federally funded programs GAPS analysis Utilize public entities Make all inclusive	Coalition Native American organizations	
GOAL #23 Educate service providers and other stakeholders about the resources available to address long-term homelessness in the Bismarck and Mandan area.	Homeless coalition in place United Way 211	Need a paid director/coordinator Expand the lists dissemination Emergency services directory Share Network	Coalition Churches Mental Health America of ND - 211 United Way	MVCHP will continue with Homeless 101 training as long as funding is available. There will be legislation at the state level advocating for this during 2019 session. Resource guides for services are available from Money Follows the Person. These guides have been provided to all service agencies. MVCHP also has the resource guide available via their website and is updated regularly.

				<p>Gold Star Community Task Force, renamed Burleigh-Morton Behavioral Health Coalition in February 2019, includes homelessness updates in quarterly meetings as needed.</p> <p>United Way presented to 100's of businesses and service clubs on homelessness.</p> <p>BBPH Director presented information to Sanford Health staff on homelessness and the work of the Gold Star Task Force.</p>
<p>GOAL #24 Enhance networking and communication among service providers, area businesses, tribal entities and other stakeholders.</p>		<p>Broadening and increasing the membership</p> <p>Invite others</p> <p>Having meetings at other facilities</p> <p>Membership drive/campaign</p> <p>Publicize meetings</p> <p>Keep being productive</p>	<p>Coalition</p> <p>Businesses and professionals</p> <p>Community</p>	<p>MVCHP contracted with a consultant to revamp the coalition and restructure the organization which will impact communication among service providers, area businesses and other stakeholders.</p>
<p>GOAL #25 Enhance the coordination between West Central Human Services and the Veteran's Administration (VA) to provide enhanced service for veterans.</p>		<p>Disproportionate # of veterans</p> <p>There is currently coordination going on for this. Doesn't seem to be a major issue at this time for this region</p>		<p>SSVF and Vash is now implemented statewide thru Community Action, along with West Central to increase the services provided to Veterans</p>

Prevention Matters (Availability)

Strategy: Enhance the availability of prevention services.

GOAL	STATUS IN 2008	STILL NEEDED TO BE DONE IN 2008	WHO'S INVOLVED?	STATUS IN 2018
<p>GOAL #26 Develop a landlord-tenant program</p>	<p>Community Action program</p> <p>ND Apartment Association (rights booklets)</p> <p>Bismarck/Mandan Apartment Association (rights booklets)</p> <p>City of Mandan provides free background checks for property owners</p> <p>Fair Housing Authority (only handles discrimination cases)</p>	<p>Educate rental property owners, managers and tenants about the rights and responsibilities of the long-term homelessness.</p> <p>Coordinate and provide 24-hour crisis assistance for housing providers</p> <p>Develop a publicly- supported fund to indemnify rental property owners and service providers against excessive losses associated with tenant's compliance with lease terms.</p> <p>Identify rental property owners willing to rent to homeless individuals and families, and develop partnerships to mitigate the risk.</p> <p>Provide long-term homeless tenants with assistance relating to disputes with landlords. (e.g. eviction, lease termination, property damage, increasing costs, etc.)</p> <p>Provide supportive services to anyone at risk of being evicted from their home and cast into homelessness.</p>	<p>Apartment Associations (ND and Bis/Man)</p> <p>Community Action</p> <p>(Hotline provider, Community Action, etc.).</p> <p>City, county and state government</p> <p>Apartment Associations (ND and Bis/Man)</p> <p>Fair Housing Authority</p> <p>Case managers</p> <p>Social service organizations</p> <p>West Central Human Services AID, Inc.</p> <p>Case managers</p> <p>Emergency services</p> <p>West Central Human Services Center</p>	<p>AARC has spoken at Bismarck-Mandan Apartment Association a few times as well as being involved in Homelessness 101 events to speak about domestic violence and homelessness.</p>
<p>GOAL #27 Enhance the re-entry program that requires discharge planning from prisons and other public institutions to help individuals "at risk" of homelessness make the transition back into society.</p>	<p>Prison re-entry program</p> <p>Bismarck Transition Center</p>	<p>Secure funding Provide education</p> <p>Expansion of current programs</p> <p>Increase staff</p>	<p>Current organizations</p> <p>City and state funds</p> <p>ND Coalition for Homeless People</p> <p>Single point of entry</p>	<p>Ministry on the Margins moved to a new location and was able to gain more space. They've defined their focus as being committed to supporting those who fall through the cracks during times of transition.</p>

	<p>Center, Inc. Salvation Army</p> <p>Prison After-Care</p> <p>Youth Correctional Center</p> <p>NOTE: These organizations/programs cater to people with certain circumstances (e.g., Salvation Army is only for sex offenders).</p>			<p>AID, Inc. assists those going through transition at Centre, Inc. in Mandan with transportation assistance, clothing and assistance with rent (based on client interview process).</p>
<p>GOAL #28</p> <p>Make services and resources more accessible and responsive to people who are at risk or currently experiencing long-term homelessness.</p>	<p>Project Homeless Connect</p> <p>211 Hotline</p> <p>- Advocate the use of the 211 help line as a community resource, and provide current information about the long-term homeless single point of entry process.</p>	<p>- Support the creation of an ombudsman and advocacy program.</p> <p>- Support the establishment of an Urban Indian Center/Community Health Center</p> <p>- Create and publish a guide with available social services (use United Way guide as starting point). Work on wider distribution.</p>	<p>- Service agencies</p> <p>- Increased staff</p> <p>- Dakota Foundation</p> <p>- UND School of Medicine</p> <p>- State and Federal funding</p> <p>- Service organizations</p> <p>- Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>- ND Homeless Coalition</p> <p>- United Way</p> <p>- Job Service</p> <p>- Hospitals</p>	<p>Project Homeless Connect (also called Project Service Connect) serves those in need during their annual event. This was not hosted in 2018 however. Resource Guides listing services are available on MVCHP website and through Money Follows the Person. Services can be accessed through the Access and Assessment Sites listed in Goals #4 and #5.</p> <p>Formation of the Native American Development Center and the Northland Community Health Center.</p>
<p>GOAL #29</p> <p>Connect health care providers with resources and work with them to develop protocols to prevent people from being discharged into homelessness.</p>	<p>- Individual basis (case workers, social services)</p>	<p>Create single point of entry</p> <p>Pre-planning and follow-up with discharge</p> <p>Coordinate and pool funding</p>	<p>Medical centers Social services</p> <p>West Central Human Service Center</p>	<p>BBPH Director educating Sanford Health Nursing staff on community homelessness, caring for homeless, and opportunity for referrals upon discharge.</p> <p>United Way met with social workers at Sanford Health and CHI to educate and improve coordination of appropriate discharges.</p>

<p>GOAL #30 Establish a coordinated team of trained outreach volunteers and/or staff to work with law enforcement officials to proactively move people off the streets and into housing.</p>	<p>Individual basis (case workers, social services)</p> <p>Youthworks Bismarck Public Schools (Carrie's Kids)</p> <p>Churches Jails</p>	<p>Create single point of entry</p> <p>Coordinate faith organizations</p> <p>Educate public / create awareness</p>	<p>Law enforcement</p> <p>Service organizations</p> <p>Youthworks Case workers</p> <p>Colleges and universities</p>	<p>Service providers work with law enforcement as needed. Bis/Man police department is working with MVCHP to work proactively to move people off the streets and into housing. Police dept. is working with the coalition to assist with Point in Time survey and providing information for Homelessness 101 training. Will be ongoing to establish a coordinated team of volunteers and/or staff to work with enforcement officials.</p> <p>DOCR and the Human Service Centers are in a collaborative process to assist those with mental illness being discharged. The DOCR has created a staff position with the probation and parole to assist individuals being released with serious mental illness. This team consists of DOCR, West Central, Heartview and county jails.</p>
<p>GOAL #31 Expand the use of pre-arrest diversion and post-booking diversion options to prevent unnecessary incarceration for people who are homeless, including community, mental health and/or drug courts to address non-violent offenses or serious mental illness.</p>	<p>None. Individuals are either sent to prison, ER or detox</p>	<p>Increase staff</p> <p>Visit with drug court on current criteria for acceptance</p> <p>Establish single point of entry</p>	<p>Human service organizations</p> <p>West Central Human Service Center</p> <p>Case managers Prison personnel Drug court Law enforcement Detention centers ERs both medical centers</p>	<p>Work in progress with Justice Reinvestment Grant work in the community.</p>

PREVENTION MATTERS (Outreach):
Strategy: Conduct education, market research and advocacy efforts.

GOAL	STATUS IN 2008	STILL NEEDED TO BE DONE IN 2008	WHO'S INVOLVED?	STATUS IN 2018
<p>GOAL #32 Seek to enhance the public's awareness, understanding and support for abolishing long-term homelessness in our community.</p>	<p>Kick off for awareness (Coalition)</p> <p>Inspire Magazine</p> <p>City Magazine</p> <p>National Hunger and Homeless Week (Nov 12 – 16)</p>	<p>Educate the public about the needs relating to the long- term homelessness, and address negative attitudes that may exist toward homeless people.</p> <p>Work with the area media to inform the public about the issues and needs relating to long-term homelessness in our community.</p>	<p>Develop grass roots efforts</p> <p>Public relations personnel – develop campaign</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>Steering Committee</p> <p>Tribune TV/Radio outlets</p>	<p>Gold Star Task Force, renamed Burleigh-Morton Behavioral Health Coalition in February 2019, has been instrumental in bringing this issue to the forefront in addition to the work being done locally United Way and other service providers. MVCHP creates awareness, understanding and support for homelessness through Homeless 101 training and Project Service Connect.</p> <p>United Way educates the public through media, presentations and personal visits.</p>
<p>GOAL #33 Encourage and support efforts of the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People to conduct a statewide annual conference on homelessness.</p>	<p>The conference has faded in last few years</p> <p>Currently mostly for networking</p>	<p>Convince local agencies to become involved on state level</p> <p>Hold state conference in Bismarck</p> <p>Focus on developing a legislative agenda.</p>	<p>Public</p> <p>Service organizations</p> <p>Members of Coalition (state and local)</p>	<p>MVCHP will continue, as it has in the past, to support NDCHP in the statewide efforts to conduct annual conferences. We will also support NDCHP in the efforts to develop a legislative agenda to address issues of homeless. NDCHP legislative committee works on educating about and advocating for affordable housing and homelessness issues. MVCHP has assisted and participated in the state wide NDCHP conferences. MVCHP will continue to provide training, education and advocating in area of homelessness thru the H101. MVCHP will also provide outside agencies with information on anti-discriminating laws, cultural</p>

				sensitivity pertaining to the unique needs of homeless people and other vulnerable populations thru the H101, public speaking engagements as requested and ongoing outreach to outside organizations.
GOAL #34 Support the statewide efforts of the North Dakota Coalition for Homeless People in developing a legislative agenda to address issues of homelessness.	SEE GOAL #33			Still supporting ND Coalition for Homeless People through community involvement with meetings, etc.
GOAL #35 Provide all publicly-funded agencies and housing providers with training relating to anti-discrimination laws and cultural sensitivity pertaining to the unique needs of homeless people and other vulnerable populations (e.g., minorities, veterans and people with disabilities, etc.).	Done by state Computer-based training	Establish the most effective way to train the agencies Funding Establish training into orientation for new employees	United Way Chamber of Commerce Related agencies Hospitals City employees	Not completed across the board, but do know that healthcare providers, clinics, hospitals have cultural diversity training offered to staff.
GOAL #36 Seek input and advice from people who have experienced and overcome homelessness in order to enhance the effectiveness of the efforts to abolish long-term homelessness.	People have been identified to review plan and share concerns	Engage these people to become involved	Steering committee People who have experienced homelessness	Consider including this in plan moving forward.

Current Number of Housing/Shelter Units Available in the Bismarck-Mandan Area

BISMARCK/MANDAN INVENTORY – FALL 2018

NAME	POPULATION SERVED	LOCATION	#of Beds/Units (Max Capacity)
Abused Adult Resource Center	Victims of domestic violence	Bismarck	38 emergency, 25 transitional housing, 7 permanent supportive housing
Ruth Meiers Hospitality House	Transitional living for individuals & families	Bismarck	47 current beds and 77 under development
Welcome House	Family Shelter	Bismarck	19 for Single Female households with children
Youthworks	Emergency shelter ages 12-17 & transitional housing age 18-21	Bismarck	20 transitional, 5 emergency
United Way - Sunrise	Emergency shelter for men, women and children	Bismarck	Total beds = 68 Women and Children (8 beds, 8 overflow) Men (32 beds, 20 overflow)
Alternative Care Services – <i>Operated by Dacotah Foundation</i>	Short-term residential facility offering 10 crisis beds for adults with mental illness and/or chemical dependency as an alternative to hospitalization, 24-hour awake staff to support needs of the residents	Bismarck	10 crisis beds
Arbor House Transitional Housing – <i>Operated by Dacotah Foundation</i>	Adults with mental illness. The maximum length of stay is 18 months with 24-hour awake staff to support the needs of the residents	Bismarck	11 beds
Hope Manor	Sober living homes. Hope Manor is NOT a housing community; it's a recovery-oriented community rooted in the 12 steps of recovery, encouraging individuals through a life-saving, life-enriching process while holding individuals accountable to rules and guidelines	Bismarck	Mother with children's home, women's house and a men's house = 30 beds total
F-5 Project	Re-entry housing transitioning citizens from confinement to a new life for both men and women	Bismarck	2 men's facilities = 12 beds 1 women's facility = 6 beds
Centre, Inc.	Residential Transitional Re-entry Center	Mandan	