



leadership

The City of New Bedford's Continuum of Care—its
Homeless Service Provider's Network [HSPN]—had a
productive and successful calendar year in 2016 under the
leadership of its Chair, Carl Alves, and fellow officers and
members of the HSPN Executive Committee.

Chair Carl Alves, PAACA
Vice Chair Stephen Montenmbault, SFS
Clerk Will Jacobson, Women's Center
Immediate Past Chair Rev. David Lima, GNB ICC

Executive Committee Members

Arlene McNamee, CSS
Patrick Sullivan, DPHCD
Jennifer Clarke, DPHCD
Peter Muise, First Citizens FCU
Kelly-Cabral-Mosher, HOPE Collaborative
Brenda Souza, PAACA
Bruce Morell, PACE
Kathleen Schedler-Clark, Steppingstone
James Reid, VTH

2016



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a range of activities in 2016...

Calendar	Highlight	
JANUARY	Point in Time Count, Chronic Homelessness	
FEBRUARY	Brainstorming, StreetSheet.2016	
MARCH	Strategic Plan Process	
APRIL	Loss of THPs, Sister Rose Award	
MAY	Drug Forum	
JUNE	Community Conversations	



a range of activities in 2016...

Calendar	Highlight	
JULY	Summer Break	
AUGUST	NOFA	
SEPT	Overflow Protocols, NB Connect	
OCT	NBHA & SouthCoast Behavioral Health	
NOV	Strategic Plan Worksession	
DEC	The CALL at one year, Encampments	



The HSPN's annual "Point In Time" count creating a census of those experiencing homelessness was conducted in a 24hr period beginning Wednesday, January 27, 2016.

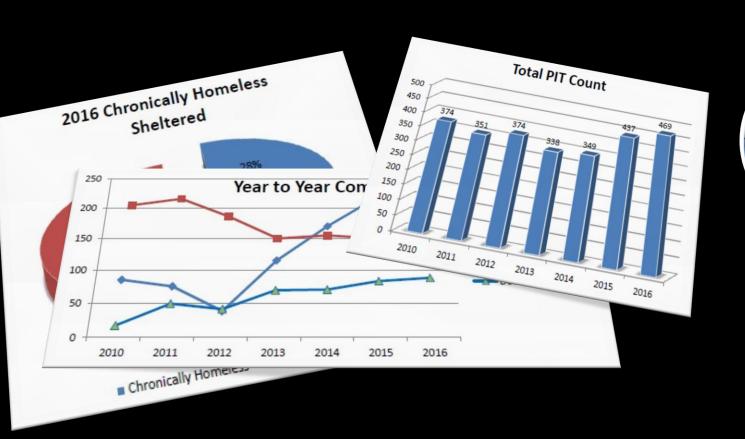


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The information collected through the PIT Count is used to help guide community planning efforts—including federal funding decisions for homeless programs—and to measure New Bedford's progress towards ending homelessness.



2016



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Many people made the 2016 PIT Count possible and a lot of careful planning and hard work went into making this a success. A special thanks goes out to the 2016 PIT Committee and all of the volunteers whose efforts made this possible...thank you!

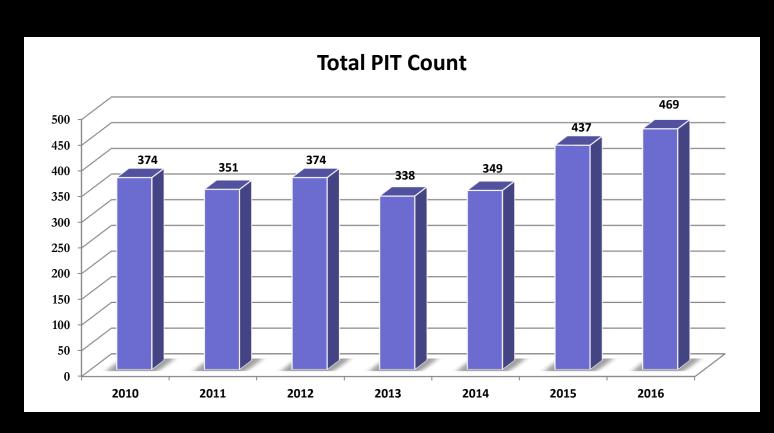


2016



On the night of January 27th, the PIT Count identified 469 homeless men, women and children in New Bedford of whom 55 were unsheltered and 414 were either in emergency shelters or transitional housing in the city.

This represent a roughly 7% overall increase from 2015.



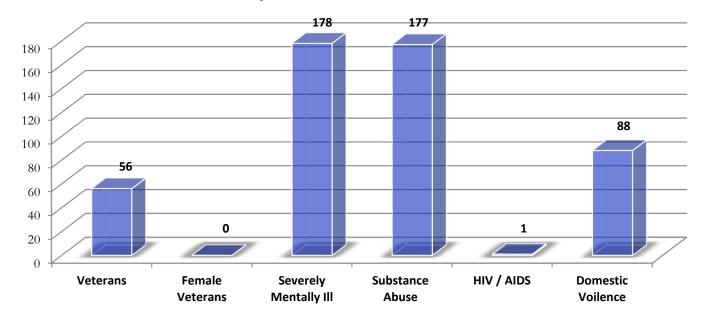
2016



By conducting this annual count, the city also gets an important snapshot into the specific subpopulations most prevalent within the overall population of those experiencing homelessness.

As a result, resources can be better targeted to ensure those in greatest need are getting the assistance they need to move out of homelessness.

2016 Sub-Populations in All Adult Households



2016



the chronic homeless definition

HUD released its "final rule" redefining what it means to be chronically homeless—and what documentation is needed to prove it. The new definition went into effect January 15, 2016.

The most significant changes between the definitions of chronically homeless previously in effect and the definition included in the <u>CoC Program interim rule</u> as amended by the <u>Final Rule Defining</u> "Chronically Homeless":

To be considered chronically homeless, an individual or head of household must meet the definition of "homeless individual with a disability" from the McKinney-Vento Act, as amended by the HEARTH Act and have been living in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or in a safe haven for the last 12 months continuously or on at least four occasions in the last three years where those occasions cumulatively total at least 12 months; The term "disabling condition" was replaced with "homeless individual with a disability" from the Act. While the types of conditions that can be considered are the same, the definition of "homeless individual with a disability" also requires that the

= significant changes, new forms and technical assistance.

Occasions are defined by a break of at least seven nights not residing in an emergency shelter, safe haven, or residing in a place meant for human habitation (e.g., with a friend or family). Stays of fewer than seven nights residing in a place meant for human habitation, or not in an emergency shelter or safe haven do not constitute a break and count toward total time homeless; and

Stays in institutions of fewer than 90 days where they were residing in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, or in a safe haven immediately prior to entering the institution, do not constitute as a break and the time in the institution counts towards the total time homeless. Where a stay in an institution is 90 days or longer, the entire time is counted as a break and none of the time in the institution can count towards a person's total time homeless.



2016



brainstorming

The HSPN membership spent some time brainstorming what it saw as barriers locally, statewide and nationally to folks achieving housing stability and also thought about topics it wanted to discuss and who we need to have at the table.



Barriers to housing stability folks face locally, What ONE thing do you want the at the state level and nationally HSPN to talk about at a future meeting

- (Homebase, transitional housing, permanent housing, emergency shelters,
- Transferring accountability back to
- Solutions and problem solving
- Shelter/CoC strategies
- CORI updates
- daytime for folks
- - - shelter counts/gaps
- Over prescribed/over medicated
- No housing for sex offenders Addictions
- Poor housing conditions

 Not on SSI/SSDI, etc. Absence of family shelters

Unstable wages

Top five barriers:

too low to pay

CORI checks

Unemployment

Lack of living wage jobs

expectations, etc.

Criminal background

No money for apt deposits

resources, etc.

Eviction history

ADA needs

No savings

Fitting in program criteria

Drugs Mental health issues

Lack of affordable housing

Income—too high to qualify or

Other local and state barriers noted:

Lack of knowledge of system, criteria,

Need disproportionate to supply,

- Safe housing
- Failure to follow rules
- NBHA rules for entry

Other local/state barriers, Continued:

- · Financial issues arising from healthcare issues, etc.
- Program restrictions
- Language barriers
- · Fair housing bias, discrimination,
- Enablers
- Lead hazards
- Zoning
- LGBTQ discrimination, lack of safety in shelter/housing
- High risk populations
- Unaccompanied youth
- Lack of subsidized housing
- Undocumented folks
- Bad/poor credit
- Absence of family supports
- Absence of societal network supports
- Insufficient number of shelters Childcare
- Lack of intensive supports

Federal, specifically:

- · Eligibility process for disabilities and entitlement programs like SSI/SSDI
- Federal definitions
- Lack of family shelters, emphasis nationally
- No continuity across states

- · Information about programs and systems

- · Programs that are available in the
- Local and regional food distribution
- · What is causing individuals to need
- Fair housing/spotting fair housing issues
- The number of beds available at shelters;
- Street outreach
- Mental health opportunities
- Life skills
- Allow people to share concerns without fear of retribution and criticism
- How to have better information about
- the services that are available Statistics from THE CALL
- · What it's like to be homeless
- Family shelters

Who is missing from the table

- Top five groups to invite:
- NB Housing Authority Landlords
- NB Police Department
- SouthCoast Hospitals

- Individuals experiencing homelessness
- Political leadership
- GNB Career Center
- Private businesses
- Industry
- Realtors
- · Chamber of Commerce
- United Way
- Corrections
- · NB Department of Health Legal Services
- LGBT Alliance
- Transportation providers (SRTA, etc.)
- Housing agents (Housing Solutions, etc.)



streetsheet.2016

The 2016 edition of the city's "StreetSheet" detailing resources throughout the city for those experiencing homelessness or in need of supportive services.

Thanks to funding from United Way and the unbelievable support of Trinity Press, roughly 9,000 StreetSheets were distributed throughout the community in three languages—English, Portuguese and Spanish—an increase of over 20% within one year!



2016



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strategic planning

The City of New Bedford's Department of Planning, Housing & **Community Development issued an RFP for planning services** to help the HSPN develop a strategic plan.

This effort has been funded by a planning grant from HUD as part of the CoC NOFA and is in keeping with plans addressing the eradication of homelessness all over the country.



Connecting People and Places:



loss of transitional housing

As part of its shift toward housing first, HUD chose not to fund the two transitional housing programs in New Bedford in 2016. Because of this loss of funding, VTH's "Network House" and Steppingstone's "Graduate Program" faced challenges about their respective futures.



2016



funding

The New Bedford Continuum of Care was awarded just under \$1.7 million in funding in 2016.

The funding provided critical dollars to renew the city's existing permanent housing programs.

Program	Project Type	Amount
Family Preservation – SRN	Permanent Housing	\$260,920
Step-Up –PAACA	Permanent Housing	\$277,130
Transition to Stability—Catholic Social Services	Permanent Housing	\$199,896
Welcome Home—Steppingstone	Permanent Housing	\$170,590
Prism—Catholic Social Services	Permanent Housing	\$109,030
Portico—Catholic Social Services	Permanent Housing	\$591,092
HMIS—City of New Bedford	HMIS	\$29,524
Total Funding:		\$1,684,939

2016



sister rose award

The Sister Rose Award was established by the HSPN in honor of its first recipient, sister Rose Ellen Gallogly, Executive Director of Market Ministries and one of the founding members of the HSPN.



The award is given annually to:
"...an individual from within the
Continuum of Care in
recognition of his/her
achievement, dedication,
compassion in his/her personal
and professional life in living
out the mission of the HSPN
rooted in the belief that every
person is entitled to live in
dignity."

2016



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sister rose award

The 2016 Sister Rose Award was presented to George Bailey of Mobile Ministries in recognition of his enormous contributions, both personal and professional, to serving the homeless in the City of New Bedford.



drug forum

Over sixty people attended the HSPN meeting in May where a panel of experts involved in all sectors of the opiate crisis addressed those gathered and answered questions.





Involved students

After working almost a year raising funds, researching homelessness in the city and deciding on a course of action, the self-named, "Sorority Philanthropy" from Normandin Middle School presented the HSPN with 40 brand new backpacks filled with life essentials for individuals experiencing homelessness.









community conversations



HSPN members were involved in conversations across the community including a breakfast meeting with political leadership to discuss panhandling, statewide as an active participant in developing and endorsing an important position paper for HUD and multiple discussions with the **New Bedford School Department officials** about the intersection of education and homelessness.

2016



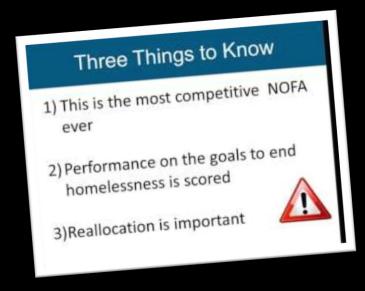
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nofa

Each year we know that the federal NOFA—Notice of Funding Availability—from HUD will be issued to provide an opportunity for local CoC's like the HSPN to articulate their strategies for ending homelessness and the extent to which they are achieving success towards that goal.

The 2016 NOFA arrived during the summer and proved to be an extremely competitive undertaking. Results are anticipated by

the end of 2016 or early 2017.





2016



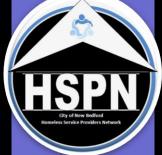
nb connect.2016

After a successful "One Homeless Night" event in 2015, the Rise Up team worked hard with SouthCoast Leadership in delivering an impressive one day-one resource fair for those close to, or in the midst of, homelessness.

NB Connect.2016 was an impressive success bringing out service providers, community agencies, city departments and volunteers along with over 100 guests in need of resources and/or housing.

It is anticipated this important resource event along with the important dialogue in the city around poverty, need and homelessness will continue next year with a future NB Connect.





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nbha, southcoast behavioral health

The year also included great speakers at HSPN membership meetings. In October, the HSPN welcomed the New Bedford Housing Authority and Southcoast Behavioral Health.





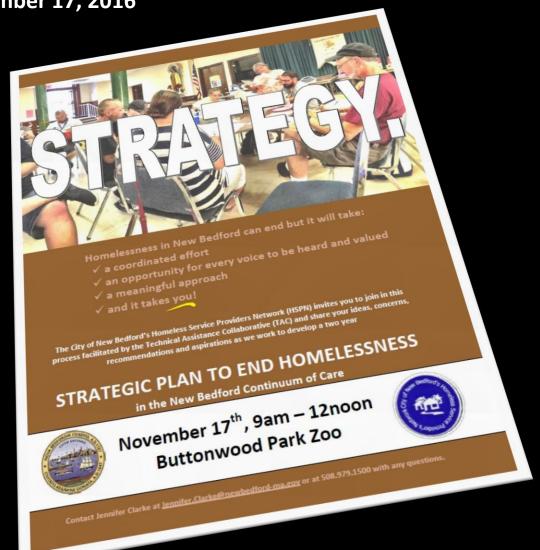
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strategic planning worksession

November 17, 2016





After over a year and a half of careful planning, strategic development, brainstorming and training sessions, the continuum's new coordinated intake system went live on December 1, 2015.

THE CALL (Coordinated Access to Local Links) was adopted as the centralized intake system across the three Bristol County continuums and its operational protocols were adopted by the HSPN.





November 30th of 2016 marked the final day of the first year of coordinated entry in the New Bedford CoC. The system dubbed, "The CALL," is a program of Catholic Social Services who have actively trained and met with agencies and community members ensuring best practices.

2016

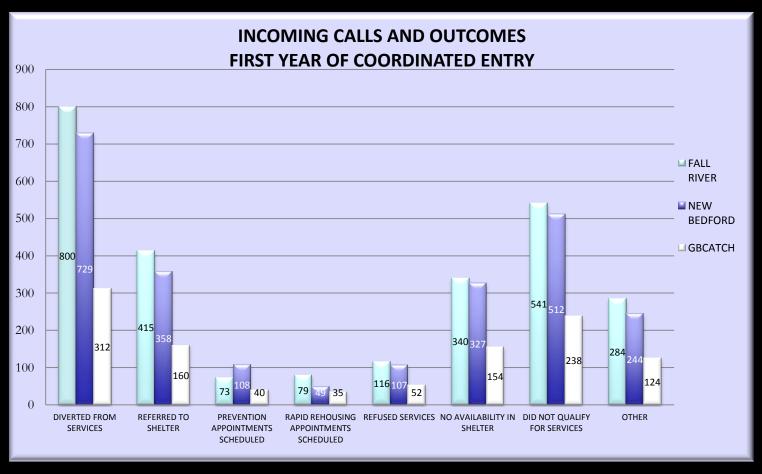


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The CALL received over 2,600 calls in the span of 12 months for New Bedford, only.





Seven hundred twenty-nine people were diverted from shelter in the first year of The CALL.



extreme weather shelter planning

After torturous winter weather in 2015-2016 the HSPN's Executive Committee took the lead in working with the city to make plans for a new cold weather shelter space.

Through the efforts of Rise Up and an appropriation by the city, extreme weather overflow shelter availability will be available during the winter of 2016-2017.



extreme weather overflow shelter

While Catholic Social Services' (CSS) emergency shelters were under construction at the outset of 2016, PAACA stepped up and provided extreme weather overflow shelter for those in need. Once the weather cleared and CSS' new facilities opened, operational protocols were developed, funding was secured and a plan was set in motion. The winter of 2016-2017 will hopefully be mild, but if not, New Bedford's overflow shelter will be ready.

encampments

The number of people residing in encampments within the city renewed significant attention during the fall of 2016. In response, the HSPN's Outreach Committee began collaborating with the CCIT (Community Crisis Intervention Team), the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Bedford, the MA Department of Mental Health, the City of New Bedford and others to ensure a pragmatic, timely and compassionate response.



2016



partners: soco

The South Coast Regional Network (SoCo) is one of ten regional networks across the Commonwealth working in bringing collaborative voices to the table with the fixed purpose of ending homelessness. SoCo includes the City of New Bedford within its catchment area.





rise up for homes

Rise Up is a collaborative campaign established by the HSPN designed to build community awareness and raise funds to meet the complex needs of individuals/families experiencing homelessness in New Bedford. It's purpose is more than just fundraising; it's about changing the narrative about homelessness, presenting facts and opportunity for conversation to create innovative solutions to the problem while ensuring everyone has a voice in this process.

As of November 30, 2016 rise up had raised \$21,024.28.



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and the work of the hspn ...goes on.



the work of the hspn

The City of New Bedford's Continuum of Care prides itself on carefully executing strategic actions that provide the pathway out of homelessness for everyone.





the work of the hspn

This work takes place in offices, encampments, kitchens, shelters, church halls, conference rooms, underpasses and online and it involves everyone, most especially, YOU.



the work of the hspn

To those who's professional and/or personal paths have helped reach out to and serve those experiencing homelessness in whatever form—thank you...



...and we're counting on you for 2017.

