

Logic Model

Outcomes

- People with lived homelessness experience were able to share their thoughts on a new approach to homelessness services
- Survey results and listening session responses were documented as an executive report which included recommendations for safety and meeting medical needs at the site
- Executive report shared with stakeholders responsible for the Home for All project

Outputs

- Actionable advice regarding safe sleep areas from 33 participants' survey responses at the Compassion Project
- In-depth perspectives from people with lived homelessness experience regarding project safety and medical needs
- Executive summary with recommendations for safety and medical needs that will be presented to Home for All project leaders.

Activities

- Participants at the Compassion Project were able to rest in the sample microshelters for thirty minutes to an hour each day
- 6 people at Firehouse Shelter discussed safety considerations and 10 discussed medical needs

Inputs

- 40 hours of volunteer work at the Compassion Project
- 33 question survey about the sample microshelter, safety, location, utilization of resources at the Compassion Project, and thoughts on how the Compassion Project and safe sleep shelters could be improved
- 15 hours analyzing survey results and using information to guide additional investigations
- 25 hours planning and designing listening session questions regarding safe sleep area safety and medical needs

Introduction

Addressing the needs of people experiencing street homelessness can be complex due to the inherent instability in daily life and difficulty accessing services. Home For All can address these issues by providing stable shelter and connection to services for people that have not been successfully engaged by more traditional shelter programs. Home for All will be a community-wide partnership in service that will include dignified Pallet sleeping units and a number of wraparound services. However, the success of this project relies on the engagement of the people experiencing street homelessness.

Surveys were conducted at the Compassion Project in July 2022. More than a dozen community partners joined together to form The Compassion Project to provide resource options during The World Games 2022 for some of Birmingham's most vulnerable residents – those experiencing homelessness. The report generated by this project, through the survey results as well as listening sessions with Firehouse participants, identifies some of the concerns and advice from people with lived street homelessness experience. Using this data, we have outlined recommendations for meeting safety and medical needs within this population which we believe will increase the participation and success of the Home For All initiative in Birmingham.



Outside of sample microshelter at the Compassion Project

Impact

- People with lived homelessness experience and people currently experiencing homelessness were able to share their perspectives and advice regarding an innovative new temporary housing strategy in Birmingham
- Based on survey data, we further investigated the safety concerns and medical needs of participants
- A listening session was conducted with six participants at Firehouse Shelter. Participants answered questions regarding:
 - The meaning of safety while experiencing street homelessness
 - Concerns and thoughts regarding the safety of a safe sleep area
 - Suggestions for improving safety and allowing participant input throughout the project
- An additional listening session was conducted with ten participants from Firehouse Shelter's Medical Respite Program. Participants answered questions regarding:
 - How participants met their medical needs while experiencing homelessness prior to their acceptance to the Respite Program
 - Concerns and thoughts regarding meeting medical needs in a safe sleep area
 - Suggestions for meeting medical needs and creating a supportive community in a safe sleep area
- An executive report summarizing the findings of the surveys and listening sessions as well as providing recommendations to meet safety and medical needs has been provided to the stakeholders responsible for building the Home for All project. We hope that the feedback from people with lived homelessness experience can be incorporated into the project and support the success of the project.

Critical Assessment

- We originally expected the sample safe sleep shelters to be usable overnight during the World Games
 - In order to still collect data and provide a rest area for Compassion Project participants, we decided to monitor use of two microshelters for thirty minutes to an hour during the day
- After conducting the surveys, we were unsure if the Safe Sleep Area project would continue past the trial phase
 - We shared our data with Compassion Project stakeholders to support the continued development of the project
 - We continued to plan as though the project would continue to have data prepared should the project be approved
- Working on this project has confirmed my passion for health equity. I hope to use the skills I have developed during this project to prioritize health equity among the many demands of my future career and daily life.



Inside of sample microshelter at the Compassion Project

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