



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Development

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Homeless Point-In-Time Count Results Released

FAYETTEVILLE – The 2017 Point-in-Time Count recorded 442 people as homeless in Cumberland County, 73 fewer individuals than in 2016. Approximately 136, or one in three, of those counted were considered chronically homeless. Cumberland County Community Development, the City of Fayetteville and the Continuum of Care conducted the count from 6 a.m. Jan. 25 to 6 a.m. on Jan. 26.

The 22-page report shows a steady decrease since 2014 in the county's per-capita homeless rate, from 2.0 to 1.4 homeless individuals for every 1,000 residents.

“For the third year in a row, we have seen an overall decline in our homeless population based on this annual one-day count and that's good news. This information is important as we and our community partners work to serve this population and meet their needs,” said Cumberland County Community Development Director Sylvia McLean.

The Point-in-Time count is a 24-hour snapshot of homelessness in a community, and the information is used to assess the local homeless assistance systems in place; to strategically plan and structure programs to meet existing needs; and to inform the public about homeless trends. The count is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development conducted in conformance with Federal and State requirements. These findings are estimates and not precise counts. They should not be inferred as exact increases or decreases in the homeless population.

Demographics

Males made up 57 percent of the homeless population; and females made up 43 percent in the count. Approximately three-quarters of the homeless population was over 24 years of age, while a quarter of the population was under 18 years of age. Approximately 66 percent was African-American, while 24 percent was white.

There were 41 homeless veterans counted, and the report states that the county's homeless veteran population sits at “functional zero,” meaning homelessness amongst veterans is “rare, brief, and non-reoccurring.” Additionally, there were 68 victims of domestic violence, 83 adults with substance abuse, 63 adults with serious mental illness and four people with HIV/AIDS. Thirty-six people included in the count were released from medical care, behavioral health care or jail/prison the night before the survey.

Homeless Situations

The Point-in-Time count only attempts to count people living in unsheltered and certain sheltered conditions. Certain segments of the homeless population are difficult to count, including unsheltered people who stay in hard-to-find locations and often move around; people living in vehicles or campgrounds; people experiencing

domestic violence; unaccompanied youth and undocumented persons. People staying with relatives or friends are not counted as homeless, per HUD definitions.

Approximately 204 Hurricane Matthew households were staying in hotels when the count was completed, but only 30 individual victims were included in the survey results because information was not available during the count.

Shelter Decrease

There are 215 homeless shelter beds for the homeless population of 442. The number of available shelter beds decreased partly because of Hurricane Matthew, which flooded the Salvation Army Shelter on Alexander Street and is still closed for repair.

The full Point-in-Time report is available online at http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/community_dev.aspx.

For more information, contact Cumberland County Community Development at 910-323-6112. Cumberland County Community Development is located at 707 Executive Place, Fayetteville.

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