

Addressing Support and Services) RESOLUTION
to Downtown Homeless Youth) 98-25

- a) Multnomah County is committed to building and supporting strong communities and families;
- b) Youth are living on the streets of Portland due to a failure of community and family efforts to address problems in school, alcohol and drug addiction, child and sexual abuse, juvenile delinquency and other types of family and individual dysfunction;
- c) Life on the streets can lead homeless youth to suffer from high rates of depression, low-self esteem, sexual risk taking and other self destructive behaviors;
- d) A population of homeless youth downtown adversely affects the economic and cultural viability of downtown including the willingness of businesses to locate jobs or operations downtown, and citizens to live, work or shop downtown;
- e) Multnomah County recognizes that it is neither safe nor appropriate for youth to be living on the streets. And that although the preference is for youth to be living with their families, many youth can not go home to their families because it is not safe for them to do so;
- f) Multnomah County's priority is to help homeless youth exit street life;
- g) The best way to help homeless youth exit street life and achieve success in their lives is to offer a comprehensive continuum of care that responds to the developmental stage of youth and holds youth accountable for entry level and more serious crimes through enforcement and sanctions.

THE MULTNOMAH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS RESOLVES:

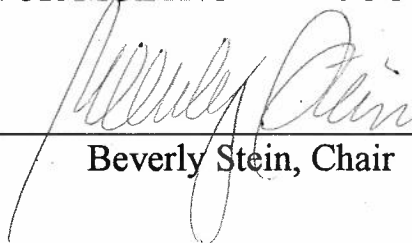
1. Multnomah County, through the Department of Community and Family Services, will take the lead in planning, implementing and distributing funds for support and services to homeless youth in the downtown Portland area;
2. The goal of the County's efforts will be to help youth leave the street and improve the safety and livability for all citizens who live and use downtown;
3. Immediate safety and the future well being of homeless youth is of equal importance so a balance must be created between short term relief from danger and long term programs that help youth transition to self sufficiency;
4. Multnomah County will insure that the service system for downtown homeless youth has the following attributes:
 - i) Accountability to funders and the community by regular information provided to the community about program effectiveness and demographics
 - ii) Clear, measurable outcomes and objectives for programs which have been agreed to in advance by all stakeholders
 - iii) Flexibility, recognizing that a variety of programs and approaches are needed to address the needs of homeless youth
 - iv) A continuum of services including assessment, emergency and transitional housing, case management, education, health care, employment services, alcohol and drug treatment and mental health services
 - v) Maximum effective use of available resources which includes establishment of clear priorities for use of available resources
5. The Chair will appoint an ad hoc committee to plan for service delivery and use of public and private resources through an RFP process. The committee is charged with evaluating the current service delivery system, describing an ideal system for our community, agreeing on outcomes, making recommendations for use of available funding for services for homeless youth in the downtown Portland area and identifying additional policy issues which should be addressed. This resolution shall provide the conceptual and philosophical framework for this planning effort and its implementation.

6. The Department of Community and Family Services will staff the committee. It will include representatives from: the office of Mayor Vera Katz, the office of Commissioner Gretchen Kafoury, the Commission on Children and Families, the Downtown Neighborhood Association, the Northwest Network on Homeless and Runaway Youth, the Portland Police Bureau, the Citizens Crime Commission, the Association for Portland Progress, United Way of the Columbia Willamette, the academic community, an expert in evaluation and performance based management, the Multnomah County Department of Juvenile and Adult Community Justice, Project Luck, Portland Public Schools, the West Side Caring Community, and State Services to Children and Families.
7. The Department of Community and Family Services will report back to the Board of County Commissioners by July, 1998 regarding the outcome of the ad hoc committee, status report on the RFP process, and a timeline and action plans to implement the findings of the committee.

APPROVED this 2nd day of April, 1998.




BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON


Beverly Stein, Chair

REVIEWED:

THOMAS SPONSLER, COUNTY COUNSEL
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 
Thomas Sponsler