



City Council Study Session Minutes

November 10, 2025 6:00 PM

Council Chambers - 111 E. Maple Ave.

PRESENTATIONS

1. Homelessness Prevention and Mitigation

Councilmember McCandless began the presentation regarding homelessness.

Outline

Scope of the issue

Mitigation strategies

Prevention strategies

City responses

Homelessness is increasing across the country

Highest that it has ever been in the US

—Inflation

—Drastic increases in rent in KC Metro

—Low wages and patched together employment

—Not enough affordable housing

—Increased mental health and substance use disorder

Scope of the Issue

1 in 4 people worry about entering homelessness especially young adults

22% of renters spend ALL of their money on rent

Barriers

Identification

Outstanding warrants

Past evictions Cost of housing
Mental health and substance use disorder

Unsheltered Work Group
Alternative Response for Community Health (ARCH)
Community Services League
Community LINC
Comprehensive Mental Health
Drumm Center for Children
Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness
Heartland Center for Behavioral Change
Independence Health Advisory Committee
Independence Housing Authority
Legal Aid of Western Missouri
MidContinent Public Library
Summit Point Restorative Initiative
Truman Heritage Habitat for Humanity

Next presentation was given by Amber Bauer, Senior Director of Continuum of Care
Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness

Point in Time Count
24 hour process on one day in January
Takes coordinated effort of community
Accuracy depends on effort
Why does it matter to have an accurate count?

Who are hard to count?
People living in hotels
People in hospital or jail
Families doubled up
Hard to reach places

Independence numbers
150 unsheltered
41 were chronically homeless (greater than 1 year)
53 were new homeless
3 with children
33% with a disability
20% were over age 50
72% white

Uncounted Estimated
Estimate 2000 are at risk of becoming homeless. Currently doubled up, couch surfing, living in hotels, living in cars - half of these are children

Those with housing supports that are at risk of funding cuts

Medicaid losses in State of Missouri (200,000 people)

Reduction in SNAP and food aid will put more strain on the ability to pay rent

More housing being bought as investments with significant rent increases

Loss of 30% of affordable units (LHTEC expiration)

Ordinances

Prohibition against soliciting for money

Prohibition against camping on public properties

Prohibition against trespassing on private properties

Memorandum of Understanding with businesses to remove trespassers

Arrests for violating City Laws

City Interventions

Removal of illegal encampments

Demolition of dangerous buildings

ARCH program

Community policing

Youth Court - intervene on early interpersonal disputes, substance use, mental health issues (age 7-18)

Truancy Diversion Court - referral for services

Drug Court

if betting treatment services, suspended court action

Address outstanding warrants if working community agency or services

Working with outside agencies

Cross jurisdictional cooperation

Supporting housing efforts

Mitigation

Community Services League

Independence TOGETHER

Drop In Center

Cold Weather Shelter

Savings Plan and Wealth Building

Independence Together has collected 1,000,000 lbs of trash

Comprehensive Mental Health

Behavioral healthcare across the entire age spectrum

Walk-in 24 hour Behavioral Crisis Center (over age 18)

Residential and outpatient substance use disorder treatment

School-based and home-based youth support

Specialty Team does camp reach out to invite to treatment and therapy

Intensive Residential Treatment Program - 20 beds

ARCH Program

Paramedic and Social Worker team
Called to scene by police, fire or dispatch
Conduit to community resources
Transport to mental health facility or ER
Build relationship for longer term intervention
Follow ups with high needs clients

Community Engagement Officers

Make connections
Refer to existing resources
Alert for mental health needs
Arrest if necessary

School Resource Officers

Who is at highest risk?
Mothers with young children
Domestic Violence Survivors
Foster youth
Elderly and disabled
Substance use disorder
Past legal issues

Mother's Refuge

Safe home for pregnant and young moms up to age 21 up to 2 years
Independence Living Program for up to 3 years (gives them a renters history)
Life skills, parenting, money management, mental and physical health care, savings program
:ong term after care supports

Hope House

Keep women stably housed by securing existing home with cameras, new locks, protection from abuse (PFA) orders
Provide legal support, counseling and financial coaching
Parenting supports

Drumm Center for Children

On-site housing and support for foster families (40-60 elementary to high school children at any one time).
Training in life and relationship skills, counseling, school supports
Street outreach to youth with services delivered in schools, libraries, community agencies
Transitional Living Program for 16-24 years old
Case management, therapy services, educational/workforce training for up to 18 months in 31 individual apartment.

92% of youth left the program with a stable place to live, a job and a vehicle

Hillcrest Transitional Housing

90 day adult and family program (rent and utility free for 3 months) to build an exit plan to sustained housing

Targeting working people living in motels or in cars

200 new applicants each month for 90 units

Youth transitional program - added 11 apartment units in Independence for up to 2 years to meet educational goal

Heartland Center for Behavioral Change

Behavioral healthcare and substance use recovery

Services for people coming through drug court

Treating more than 500 clients per year

Specialty Team does camp outreach to invite to treatment and therapy

Partner with ARCH for ride along

Truman Habitate for Humanity

Home preservation through critical home repairs and home modifications

Especially targeted to disabled and elderly to keep them in their homes (15-20/year)

Weatherization programs

Rehab of abandoned or donated homes for new homeowners

Legal Aid of Western Missouri

Home preservation through beneficiary deeds

Eviction prevention

Foreclosure prevention

Help for grandparents to get guardianship of grandchildren

Legal representation to take abandoned housing to put into rehabilitation programs

AHH

Transitional housing for those moving out of homelessness

Take people leaving street living or who are returning from incarceration

Accept people directly from hospital

Help residents relearn what it means to live inside with rules

Must agree to be substance free (random drug testing)

Set goals for education, work training, recovery

Counseling, work supports, transportation, substance use therapy, peer support

Housing assistance after the program

Take Aways

Housing matters

Wrap around services matter

Early supports for children and families pays for lifelong dividends

Make early interventions when someone moves to the street

Lasting reduction takes regional effort and leadership and must be sustained over time

INFORMATION ONLY

1. Boards and Commissions Report
2. **Please Note:** In accordance with RSMo. 610.021, the City Council may convene in a Closed Executive Session during or after the meeting, on matters of litigation, legal action, and/or attorney client communications, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(1), on matters of personnel, as permitted by Sec. 610.021(3) and personnel records, as permitted by 610.021(13), on matters of contracts, as permitted by 610.021(12), on matters of real estate, as permitted by 610.021(2) and/or matters of labor negotiations, as permitted by 610.021(9).