

HOMELESS & ADDICTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, July 11, 2024

5:00 PM

City Hall Council Chambers

300 West Crowell Street

Monroe, NC

Item 1. Public Comment

Item 2. Approval of Minutes – May 9, 2024

Item 3. Addiction Presentation(s)

ATTENTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Please contact Heidi Bumgarner at 704.282.4527 to confirm your attendance. Thank you.

CITY OF MONROE
HOMELESS AND ADDICTION COMMITTEE MEETING
May 9, 2024
MINUTES

The Homeless and Addiction Committee of the City of Monroe, North Carolina, met in the City Hall Council Chambers located at 300 West Crowell Street in Monroe, North Carolina at 5:00 p.m. on May 9, 2024 with Chair Gary Anderson presiding.

Present: Chair Gary Anderson, Member Gray Biber, Member Joseph Quinto, Member Sheila Crunkleton and Clerk Heidi Bumgarner.

Absent: None

Staff: Doug Britt, Teresa Campo and Lisa Hollowell

Guests: Dennis Reid, UC Shelter Manager

Chair Anderson called the Homeless and Addiction Committee Meeting of May 9, 2024 to order at 5:05 p.m. A quorum was present.

Item No. 1. Public Comment. None

Item No. 2. Approval of Minutes – April 11, 2024.

Motion: Member Joseph Quinto made a motion to approve the April 11, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes as presented

Second: Member Gray Biber

Action: The motion to approve passed unanimously.

Item No. 3. Presentation by the Union County Community Shelter. Chair Anderson introduced Melissa McKeown, Chief Executive Officer of the Union County Community Shelter, who gave a presentation that amongst other things, provided statistics of homelessness nationwide, comparing the same statistics within Union County. Ms. McKeown highlighted the many programs provided through the Community Shelter, in addition to feeding the hungry three meals a day, seven days a week. Ms. McKeown briefly outlined some of the many reasons there is an affordable housing crisis nationally and more specifically in Monroe.

Throughout the presentation, Committee members asked various questions regarding each topic, with at times brief discussions taking place. Teresa Campo, Manager of Community Development, who collaborates with the Community Shelter, also provided insights in answering questions from committee members.

Chair Anderson wanted to make the distinction as to the purpose of the committee, which is to make recommendations to City Council addressing the homeless issues as well as addiction issues within Monroe. It is an unfair stigma that all homeless people have addiction issues, or that homelessness and addiction problems go hand in hand. All those on the committee agreed. Chair Anderson suggested the June meeting could have speakers addressing addiction issues as this meeting primarily spoke to homeless issues.

Item No. 4. Presentation by the Monroe Police Department. Chair Anderson introduced Sgt. Patrick Harris with the Monroe Police Department to speak on Monroe's homeless issues from the perspective of the police department. Sgt. Harris explained it is the chronic homeless, those not just passing through or sheltering, but choose to live on the streets are the ones the police department deals with the most. They estimate the number to be about 100. Homeless camps are those where at least ten or more are living, and they work closely with Code Enforcement to mitigate those situations. Substance abuse, major life changes, mental health issues are all reasons found for the chronic homeless. Monroe attracts many, as their basic needs such as shelter, food and water are within walking distance. Sgt. Harris and committee members shared thoughts and asked questions regarding the lack of mental health or addiction services and programs within Monroe. Hospitals do not want them, the jail does not want them, and there is no easy solution.

A brief discussion followed involving committee members, Sgt. Harris, Teresa Campo, Doug Britt and Melissa McKeown regarding options for long-term solutions, community support systems and ideas for possible homeless solutions for Monroe, with all needing further investigation. Chair Anderson thanked everyone for their help in working on these challenges and openly communicating their thoughts and ideas.

There being no further business, Chair Anderson made a motion to adjourn the Homeless and Addiction Committee Meeting of May 9, 2024 at 6:41 p.m.

Second: Member Crunkleton

Action: The motion passed unanimously with the following votes:

Attest:

Gary Anderson, Chair

Heidi Bumgarner, Clerk




The Community Shelter provides Emergency Shelter, Food, and Rehousing. Our low-barrier services support equitable opportunities because safe, affordable housing and access to food are basic human rights.

1

Definition of Homelessness

An individual with no permanent living arrangement, i.e., no fixed place of residence, is considered homeless or transient.

- Literally Homeless
- Imminent Risk of Homelessness
- Homeless Under Other Federal Statutes
- Fleeing/Attempting to Flee Domestic Violence

DISCLAIMER: Does not include "couch surfing" or individuals/families who are able to pay for their own hotel or motel.

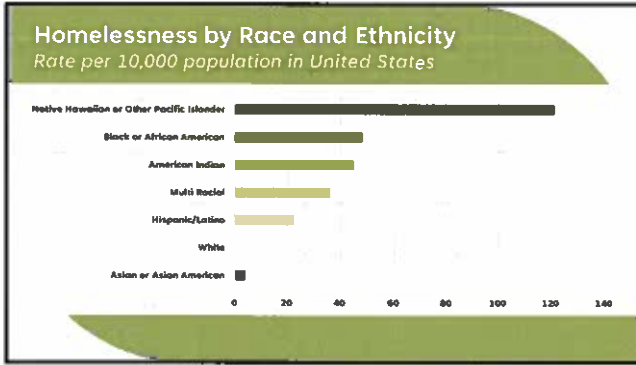
2

National State of Homelessness

Who is experiencing homelessness: Special Populations

-  22 percent are **chronically homeless individuals** (or people with disabilities who have experienced long-term or repeated incidents of homelessness)
-  6 percent are **veterans** (distinguished due to their service to the country), and
-  5 percent are **unaccompanied youth under 25** (considered vulnerable due to their age)
-  1/3 of people experiencing homelessness struggle with alcohol or substance use

3



4

WHAT WE DO: EMERGENCY SHELTER

Service: Onsite emergency shelter for individuals and families experiencing homelessness

Focus: Immediate needs and comprehensive support

Integration: Case management, education, and employment assistance

Approach: Addressing root causes of homelessness

Empowerment: Aim to regain stability and independence

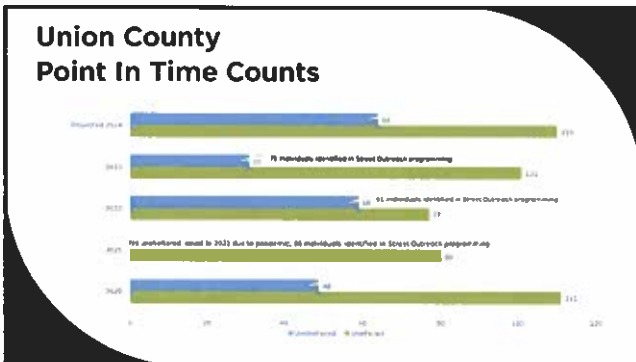
Low Barrier: Ensuring access to critical support for all

Philosophy: Housing First

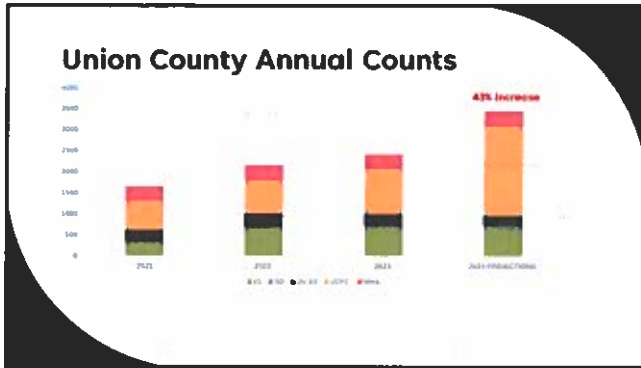
Outcome: Empowering individuals for long-term stability



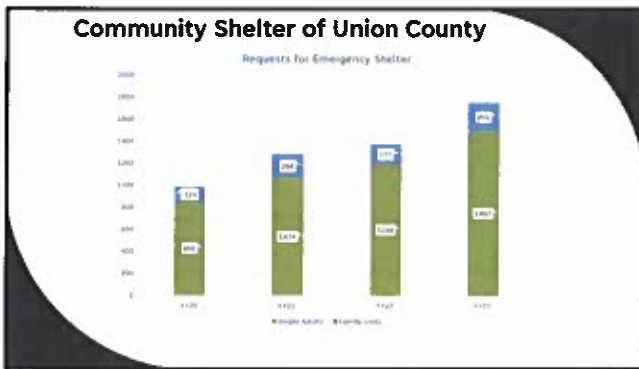
5



6



7



8

WHAT WE DO: EMERGENCY SHELTER

Last FY,

- 631 unique individuals
- 42 family units served
- Average length of stay – 58 days

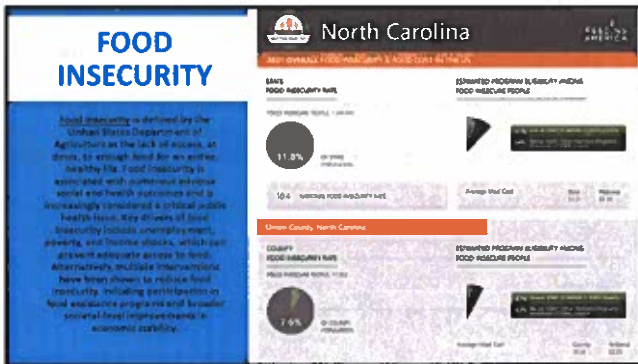
9

WHAT WE DO: FEED THE HUNGRY

Initiative: Addressing food insecurity in the community
Services: Prepared meals at the Community Shelter
Outreach: Drive-thru food pantry services for broader community reach; Senior Food Boxes
Approach: Multifaceted strategy for comprehensive support
Access: Ensuring availability of nutritious meals
Impact: Fostering physical well-being and dignity
Inclusion: Promoting a sense of community and belonging
Community Support: Extending a helping hand to those in need



10



11

WHAT WE DO: FEED THE HUNGRY

Last FY,

333,811
Meals Served



12

WHAT WE DO: REHOUSING



- Objective: Facilitating rapid transition from homelessness to stable housing
- Team: Dedicated case managers for personalized assistance
- Process: Identification of suitable housing options
- Support: Assistance with housing search and placement
- Financial Aid: Aid for deposits, short-term rent, and utilities
- Empowerment: Providing upfront support and ongoing guidance
- Outcome: Breaking the cycle of homelessness by securing and maintaining stable housing

13

Making Affordable Housing Attainable Definitions

Affordable housing is housing that a household can pay for, while still having money left over for other necessities like food, transportation, and health care. That means that what's considered "affordable" depends on a household's income.

The department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) typically defines housing as affordable when it consumes no more than 30 percent of a household's income.

Cost Burdened - families who spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent or mortgage to be cost-burdened

Severely Cost-Burdened - families who spend more than 50 percent of their income on rent or mortgage are considered severely cost-burdened.

14

Why is there an Affordable Housing Crisis Nationally?



15

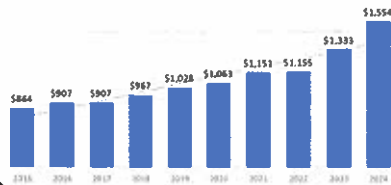
Who Needs Affordable Housing

Historically Marginalized Communities
Low Income Workers
Seniors and Disabled on Fixed Incomes
Single-adult caregivers
Students

16

Housing in Union County

Union County Fair Market Rent for a 2-Bdrm Rental



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Housing and Vacancy Survey, New York, 2024

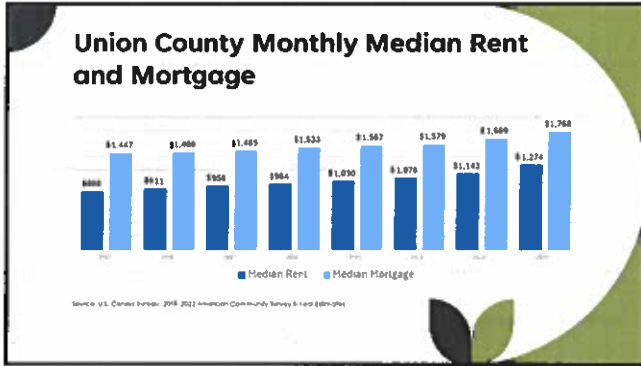
17

Median Home Value

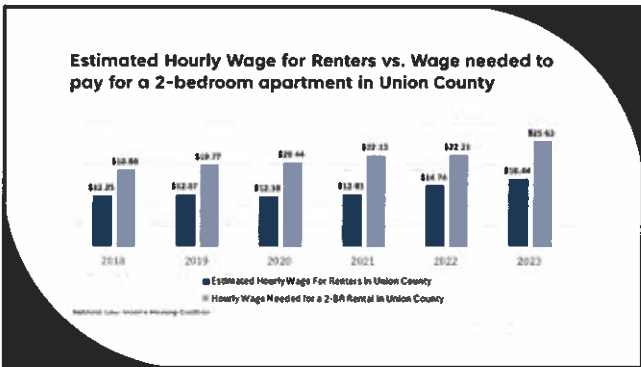


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

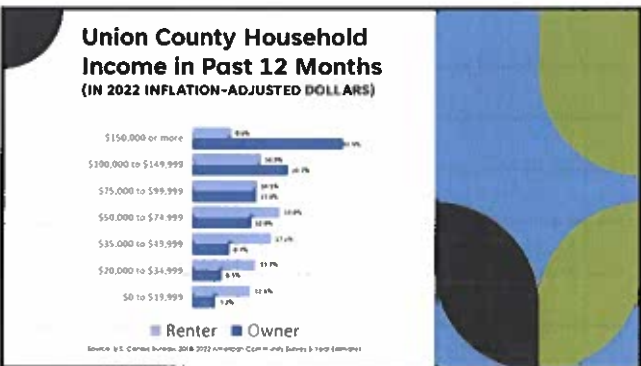
18



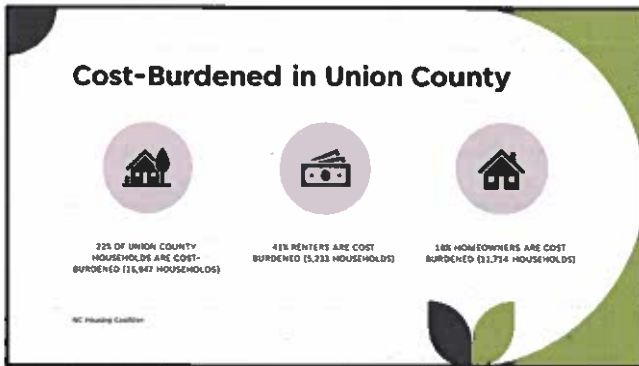
19



20



21



22

WHAT WE DO: REHOUSING

Last FY,

- 108 Individuals moved from homelessness to housing
- 64 households furnished through Home Again

28

WHAT WE DO: ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Mission: Empowering individuals for employment success

Program: Employment Lab within Economic Mobility Program

Focus: Skills and resources for job acquisition and retention

Training Sessions: Diverse workshops for job readiness enhancement

Workshops: Tailored to develop professional skills

Job Market Navigation: Strategies for successful employment search

Resources: Access to job search tools

Resume Assistance: Crafting effective resumes

Interview Preparation: Techniques for successful interviews

Outcome: Equipping individuals for financial independence

29

An Income of \$62,160 per year is needed to afford the Fair Market Rent

Jobs	Salaries
Food Preparation and Service	\$22,483
Health Support Occupations	\$31,576
Sales and Office Occupations	\$39,703
Construction and Extraction Occupations	\$41,291
Educational Instruction	\$41,673
Transportation Occupations	\$53,669
Law Enforcement Workers	\$55,794
Community and Social Service Occupations	\$61,798

30



Taxes \$13,549

Alicia
Single mom of 2
Profession: HR Manager
Children: ages 4 and 7
Rents: 2-bedroom apartment

Categories	Budget
Income (Gross)	\$71,800
Food	\$8,707
Childcare (2 child)	\$10,417
Housing	\$15,996
Medical	\$10,553
Transportation	\$12,045
Other	\$8,755
Total Expenses	\$73,294
Overage	-\$15,043

31



Taxes \$21,821

Stephen & Monica
Profession: Teacher Assistant, Police Officer
Children: Ages 1 and 3
Rents: 2 bedroom apartment

Categories	Budget
Income (Gross)	\$99,700
Food	\$11,564
Childcare (2 children)	\$20,834
Housing	\$15,996
Medical	\$10,478
Transportation	\$14,484
Other	\$9,610
Total Expenses	\$82,966
Overage	-\$5,087

32



33



34



35
