“The Downtown Engagement Project”

A Law Enforcement – Community Solution to Serving the Mentally Ill

Nomination for the 2015 Herman Goldstein Award for Excellence in Problem-Oriented Policing

PARTNERS

Dayton Police Department
Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board
Goodwill/Easter Seals of the Miami Valley
Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness
Downtown Dayton Partnership
"The Downtown Engagement Project"

SUMMARY

Downtown Dayton, like downtown areas in many American cities, has a population of homeless and mentally ill individuals. In 2013, the Downtown Dayton Partnership, a downtown advocacy organization, received complaints from downtown business, residential and entertainment stakeholders regarding individuals in the downtown area who appeared to be experiencing mental health, substance abuse, homelessness and/or co-occurring issues. The Downtown Dayton Partnership reached out to the Dayton Police Department for solutions to this situation.

For the Dayton Police Department, this was a familiar scenario. For many years, police officers assigned to the Central Patrol Operations Division (downtown area) have had a high rate of interactions with individuals with mental health afflictions. In addition to officers addressing this population in calls for service, these interactions have included arrests for misdemeanor offenses and removals to hospitals. Overall, these interactions have consumed a great deal of health care, police and corrections resources.

Also in 2013, unrelated to the above-mentioned complaints, the City of Dayton commissioned a professional survey of downtown stakeholders on how safe they felt living, working and playing in the downtown area. The survey was conducted by Fahlgren Mortine, a public relations and advertising firm. Among the responses by the respondents in the survey, a common perception referred to the mentally ill population in downtown Dayton as "people without a purpose."

Over the years, the frequency of Dayton Police Officers’ encounters with the mentally ill has steadily risen. Trips to jail or local hospitals have been temporary solutions and are not effective in addressing long-term care for the mentally ill.

In late 2013, members of the Dayton Police Department Central Patrol Operations Division joined forces with the Montgomery County Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board, Goodwill/Easter Seals of the Miami Valley (GESMV), Miami Valley
Housing Opportunities’ Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Program and the Downtown Dayton Partnership (DDP) to develop a strategy to address the mentally ill and homeless in downtown Dayton. Out of this collaboration, the Downtown Engagement Project was borne.

As a result of the Downtown Engagement Project, there have been fewer calls for police service involving the mentally ill and homeless, fewer contacts involving an initial target group, daily information sharing which never before existed and more mentally ill and homeless connected to services, programs, and even jobs, than ever before.

**SCANNING**

Downtown Dayton is experiencing a rapid resurgence as a vibrant place to live, work and play. Since 2010, downtown Dayton has seen more than 400 million dollars in public and private investment. Downtown Dayton employs more than 42,000 people, has approximately 20,000 residents and hosts more than 7 million people each year to its attractions. Downtown Dayton has become a hub for small business and entrepreneurs and well as becoming the new home of established businesses from the suburbs. Waterfront development currently underway on the Great Miami River will combine housing, business and retail, which adds to the diversity of traditional office towers and historic buildings already in place. Downtown Dayton is home to city, county and federal government, a large community college, the area’s premier performing arts center and a professional baseball team.

Mentally ill and homeless individuals inhabit many communities. Because of the layout and dynamics of downtown areas, however, they are much more prevalent and visible. Perhaps it is the bustling activity of city centers that have somehow always attracted persons who are mentally ill and/or homeless. New development and investment in downtown Dayton has not displaced this population. As more stakeholders commit to making downtown Dayton their home and destination – as downtown Dayton becomes more busy – the homeless and mentally ill population become more noticed.
The Downtown Dayton Partnership began to field many concerns and complaints about the homeless and mentally ill in 2013. Many of the concerns and complaints were of fear. Some of the concerns and complaints pertained to uncivil behavior, vulgarity and cleanliness and hygiene. Some of the concerns and complaints were based on actual experiences involving criminal behavior. The concerns and complaints came from businesses and individuals, and ranged from female employees being afraid to leave their office buildings for lunch, to business owners who were annoyed by an individual staring at his reflection in a store window for a seemingly endless period of time.

The Downtown Dayton Partnership and the Dayton Police Department have enjoyed a very close relationship for many years. While this situation was not a new phenomenon for the Dayton Police Department, we had no easy answers. In fact, it was “head scratcher.” Officers assigned to the downtown area have endured repeated interactions with the homeless and mentally ill over a period of many years – decades, in fact – which could be summed up as frustrating and empty. At the same time, the 48-page “Perceptions of Safety Study” commissioned by the City of Dayton released in late 2013 echoed many of the same sentiments.

After a series of meetings and brainstorming, it was decided that with the mental health resources in the community, this was a worthwhile problem to attack. The complexity of this problem fit the SARA model for solutions. While there were other crime-related problems occurring in downtown Dayton, such as thefts from automobiles and some disorder in select liquor establishments, there was no question that a solution to this problem could enhance the quality of life of many.

It was determined that the primary unit of analysis would be a specific group of individuals who exhibit mentally ill behavior and are commonly encountered by police officers. It was determined that one way to measure this group’s impact on downtown Dayton was to analyze calls for service which bring the police into contact with them. Lastly, a unit of measurement was developed in the form of information sharing with mental health authorities (Mental Health Field Interview Contacts; discussed later) which tracks mentally ill and homeless people, regardless of whether they are arrested.
ANALYSIS

Several methods, information sources and data sets were used to analyze this problem. First, downtown patrol officers were polled to submit information on the most frequently encountered individuals with mental health issues. It was learned that some of the individuals were encountered so frequently by officers that they no longer created records of the encounters. A list was then compiled of the most frequently encountered individuals, referred to as the initial “target group” for engagement. Tracking the activity of the “target group” would be achieved through crime analysis.

The target group manifests itself in more ways than criminal behavior resulting in arrests. In fact, not all contact by our police officers with the target group resulted in arrests. Many of the contacts that police officers have with the target group are a result of calls for service from citizens and are resolved (or unresolved) through contact without an arrest. As such, calls for service, under a variety of types, were used to analyze this problem (also achieved through crime analysis).

Another source used as a reference in analysis was the “Perceptions of Safety Study” commissioned by the City of Dayton. This survey contained the “voices” of respondents who felt unsafe, fearful or repulsed by the mentally ill and homeless. The feelings of the respondents in this survey became the basis for one of the components of the response to this problem, Community Education in Stigma Reduction.

Other data used in analysis was a record originated by the Dayton Police Department and then sent to the Montgomery County Board of Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services. A new type of Field Interview Contact, commonly referred to in the law enforcement profession as “FIC,” was developed so that police officers could document encounters with the mentally ill. This new type of FIC was categorized as “MEN” (referring to mental health) so that it could stand alone and be tracked separately from other types of contacts. This new type of FIC is discussed further in RESPONSE.
Other data for analysis was provided by Goodwill/Easter Seals of the Miami Valley, the
eengagement partner of this project. The data consists of the number of mentally ill or homeless
individuals contacted by the engagement team and the number of individuals who accepted the
services of the Goodwill/Easter Seals Miracle Clubhouse. Engagement is discussed in more
detail in RESPONSE.

Lastly, interviews with certain members of the downtown community occurred after the
Downtown Engagement Project began. Some of the members of the community professed to be
helping the homeless and mentally ill when, in reality, all they were really doing was
perpetuating their situations.

The homeless and mentally ill population in downtown Dayton has existed for decades. In the
1970’s, a prominent homeless individual who inhabited downtown Dayton was nicknamed
"Rags." "Rags" was named for the tattered clothes he wore. "Rags" was both a legend and a
mystery. Not many knew his real name or his story. "Rags," like many homeless and mentally
ill persons downtown, was aloof and kept to himself. He was seen walking the streets of
downtown Dayton every day. "Rags died in 1980 on the streets of downtown Dayton. Like
those before and after him, "Rags" was one of many faces through the years of persons who
called downtown Dayton home. All had a story, most of them sad. Many of these individuals
die alone on the streets, from accidents or exposure or medical conditions which were unattended
or undiagnosed. Even those who occasionally or regularly stay in homeless shelters but spend
their time roaming through downtown Dayton lack constructive activity and are susceptible to
short life spans. An engagement project was long overdue.

A large segment of the downtown community are affected or involved in this problem. The
homeless and mentally ill are both victims of crime and offenders of crime. In fact, studies have
shown that people with psychiatric disabilities are far more likely to be victims of violent crime
than perpetrators of violent crime. As offenders, their motivations are fueled by substance abuse,
lack of monetary resources and lack of judgment. As victims of crime, they are vulnerable
because they lack the mental faculties to stand up to those who prey upon them. They are also
often weak of stature and considered easy targets and will not fight back. Many crimes in which
they are victims are probably unreported because they are fearful of the police or do not understand the criminal justice system and how to proceed with the filing of charges.

The business, residential and entertainment members of downtown may have been victims of crimes perpetrated by mentally ill persons but, for the most part, they perceive that they lose customers or their customers and employees are being annoyed by their criminal and non-criminal behaviors.

The harms resulting from the problem are many. Without engagement, the mentally ill and homeless remain underserved. Without engagement, the business, residential and entertainment entities downtown operate at less than 100% in confidence, efficiency and peace of mind. Without engagement, law enforcement and criminal justice resources are stretched way beyond what they optimally should. Without engagement, health care resources are stretched way beyond managed health care norms.

The analysis revealed that this problem probably began when the mentally ill were de-institutionalized in the early 1980’s. The analysis also revealed the problem cannot be solved solely with conventional police resources, because this population is not always committing crimes, and also because this population needs more than the criminal justice system to get them on track. From the downtown community’s perspective, it did not matter how the problem got solved; just that it gets solved. From the Dayton Police Department’s perspective, we needed assistance from mental health professionals to tackle the problem.

RESPONSE

After the initial meetings between the partners, it was agreed that police officers do not have the formal training and expertise to assess the needs of the mentally ill. It was agreed that the very uniform a police officer wears is a barrier in connecting with the mentally ill, that it is often symbolic of impending incarceration or an unwanted hospital stay. It was agreed that engagement by mental health professionals was key to determining the needs of the mentally ill. The partners agreed that a team approach, leveraging everyone’s expertise, would accomplish
more than a one-dimensional approach. The approach was a departure from traditional law enforcement solutions such as arrests or “pink-slip” removals to hospitals, most of which were involuntary. The approach was predicated on fact-finding, assessment, dialogue and trust. It was believed (and hoped) that these would be effective methods; that maybe offers of help would be what the target group was in need of but not receiving. Because there were no obstacles prohibiting implementation, the partners believed the project was practical. The partners believed the community would accept this new approach. There was minimal cost to this project, as each partner pledged already-encumbered resources.

The partners agreed that the Downtown Engagement Project would consist of the following components:

- Information Sharing
- Engagement
- The Miracle Clubhouse
- Community Education in Stigma Reduction

*Information Sharing*

Traditionally, an FIC serves as record within a police database to document information on a particular person when no other record, such as an arrest report will serve that purpose. In addition, an FIC is only accessed by police officers. It was determined that there is significant information in an FIC on a mentally ill person to share with mental health professionals. It was decided that mental health FIC’s would be shared with the ADAMHS, GESMV and PATH partners. By virtue of existing technology, the mental health FIC’s would be electronically transmitted to the partners for review. Any persons named in the mental health FIC’s who receive services from mental health care providers are referred to those providers by ADAMHS staff, along with details of the contact with police. Another benefit to this unique type of record is that other analyses can be achieved with data analytics.
Engagement

Goodwill/Easter Seals of the Miami Valley was enlisted to conduct the engagements. The engagement process consists of a unique model; a certified social work professional along with a peer specialist (mentally ill in recovery) conducting face-to-face contact with members of the target group to assess their current situations. While Dayton Police Officers organize and identify the individuals for engagement, they are not present during the actual engagements. The engagements consist of situational assessments and include an offer of transportation to the Goodwill/Easter Seals Miracle Clubhouse for needs-based interventions such as food, clothing and housing. At the Miracle Clubhouse, members participate in psychosocial recovery-based interventions. Members of the target group who decline the services of the Miracle Clubhouse are encouraged to re-engage in behavioral health treatment services through their own provider, if one exists. In the absence of a community behavioral health provider, a referral is made.

Goodwill/Easter Seals Miracle Clubhouse

The Goodwill/Easter Seals Miracle Clubhouse is a member-based community (a day facility) where people living with persistent mental illness come to rebuild their lives. There are Clubhouses in more than 300 communities across the nation and in 28 countries which provide members with a proven approach to rehabilitation, recovery and re-integration into society. The Miracle Clubhouse is a safe, low-demand environment where members and staff participate in activities that provide a solid foundation for growth, self-respect and individual accomplishment.

Community Education in Stigma Reduction

Without education, understanding and support within the community, outreach to improve conditions for the mentally ill is not possible. To the partners in this initiative, engagement means more than interaction with the mentally ill. A community educated in the nature of mental illness is an engaged community. As such, the ADAMHS Board has constructed a presentation to reduce mental health stigma and portray mental illness as a bona fide health
condition. These presentations to various groups in the downtown Dayton community are ongoing and will continue.

The partners agreed on what would constitute progress as a result of everyone’s roles. It was agreed that due to the seasonal nature of police work, that any data comparisons be exactly matched by month or time of year. The following data is being used to measure the success (or lack of) of the Downtown Engagement Project:

- Reduction in police Mental Health and mental health-related calls for service in the downtown area
- Reduction in police contacts with the mentally ill in the downtown area
- Referrals to the Goodwill/Easter Seals Miracle Clubhouse
- Connection (or re-connection) of persons by police to mental health service providers via Mental Health Field Interview Contacts (MEN FIC’s)

It was agreed by the partners that progress would result in the following improvements:

- Fewer contacts by police with the mentally ill, thus freeing up more time for officers to devote to other law enforcement missions
- Fewer incarcerations for civility and mental health-related offenses, thus lessening overcrowding in the Montgomery County Jail
- Fewer mental health-related prosecutions in the local courts, thus freeing up dockets for more important criminal matters
- Fewer “pink slip” removals to hospitals, thus freeing up valuable health care resources
- A downtown community who feels more safe and comfortable “in its skin” and is more understanding and accepting of those who are mentally ill
- Last, but certainly not least important, improvement in the lives of the mentally ill, that they may be aligned via this partnership with constructive care, programming and services
There were virtually no difficulties in implementing the response. In the initial months after the implementation, the partners met regularly to discuss how the target group was accepting the engagements.

The Downtown Dayton Partnership's ambassadors, who are actually employees of Block-by-Block, a company who provides safety, cleaning, hospitality and outreach services to downtown improvement districts, became integral in directing the engagement team to members of the target group. Because the ambassadors are mobile on the streets of downtown Dayton, on a daily basis they help locate persons for engagement. Later, as new candidates for engagement arrived on the downtown scene, the ambassadors helped point them out to the engagement team.

ASSESSMENT

Progress toward goals and objectives were achieved immediately after implementation of the project. Because of the engagement component, connections with the homeless and mentally ill occurred right away. Because of the dialogue which occurs as part of engagement, new relationships were formed with the target group that were safe and trusting. While not all members of the target group accepted the offerings of the engagement team, the relationships were nevertheless built. The following data was tracked to judge the impact of the project:

*Mental Health-related Calls for Service*

Implementation of the Downtown Engagement Project began in April 2014. A comparison was made of Mental Health and mental health-related calls for police service in the downtown area for three years before the project began (April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2014) versus one full year after the project was underway (April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015). There were six types of calls chosen which commonly involve the mentally ill: Public Intoxication, Person Down, Loitering, Suicide Threats, Panhandling and Mental Health (a “catch-all” call type). The three years of calls for service were averaged. In comparing the two periods, there was a 18% drop in police calls for service after the Downtown Engagement Project began. See Exhibit 1 for an illustration of the data.
Mental Health FIC's

Mental Health FIC's were launched when the Downtown Engagement Project was being designed in late 2013. Contacts with the mentally ill are entered by officers in the field through their in-cruiser computers and instantly transmitted to the Dayton Police Department's Master Name Index. Each morning thereafter, the MEN FIC's are electronically transmitted to a recipient at the ADAMHS Board for review. If the individual is under the care of a mental health services provider, ADAMHS contacts that provider and makes a referral, along with the circumstances of the individual's contact with the police. This information sharing never existed before. In the fifteen months that the Mental Health FIC's have existed, there have been over 140 Mental Health FIC's submitted to ADAMHS. While not all individuals are connected to a mental health service provider, indicated by "NSH" (no service history), some are. Since the inception of Mental Health FIC's, ADAMHS has made referrals of 62 individuals who were receiving care from mental health providers. In December of 2014, two United States military veterans were identified through this information sharing. See Exhibit 2 for an illustration of this data.

Engagements

Engagements are at the core of this project. The engagement team is a "boots on the ground" mobile field force who can spend a few minutes saying hello to a mentally ill or homeless individual, or spend hours talking about their life history. The engagement team does not wear a uniform, badge or carry a firearm. The engagement team dresses in casual clothing for an unintimidating look. What the engagement team has is that police officers do not is infinite time to get to know this population, and the training and experience to direct them toward better solutions than hospitals or jail. Since the inception of the project, the engagement team has kept a running tally of persons contacted, some of whom are little known to the police. Because of the engagement team's relationship with the Dayton Police Department and the other partners, there is a continuous information exchange through periodic meetings. See Exhibit 3 for data from Goodwill/Easter Seals of the Miami Valley on individuals contacted via engagement, which includes those directed to the Miracle Clubhouse.
The following is a success story from engagement:

From Raymond Hood, LCDCII, SWA, of Goodwill/Easter Seals of the Miami Valley:

"While at the downtown library I met Linda (name was changed for confidentiality purposes). Linda was homeless and was staying at the women’s homeless shelter. Linda said she spends her days in the waiting room of a local hospital Emergency Room reading books. Linda said she became homeless after a domestic violence dispute with her husband. Linda has been married for 14 years. I explained the services of the Downtown Engagement Project. Linda shared that she suffers from mental health issues and would like to learn more about the program.

Linda accompanied Carla, Isaiah and I to the Miracle Clubhouse. Linda was introduced to Clubhouse staff and members. Linda said she would like to continue to visit the Clubhouse and is interested in becoming a member.

Linda continued to visit daily and took advantage of all the community referral resources available to her. She complained of not having proper clothing and was in need of underwear, a housecoat, socks and some sleeping pants. The Downtown Engagement Project supported her by purchasing those items. Linda thanked the program for all the support she is receiving. Linda said she was struggling with separation from her husband and children but is on an aggressive job search mission. With assistance from members of the Clubhouse, Linda is now employed."

In another success story, the partners in the Downtown Engagement Project utilized a criminal justice resource in getting help for one of the members of the target group. One of the members of the target group was homeless and lived in the stairwell of a prominent downtown church. Fortunately, the church members attended to some of his needs, but not all of them. Despite the help offered by the church congregation, this individual chronically trespassed on the grounds of a luxury condominium complex next door, to the point where charges were filed and a warrant was issued for his arrest. While all this was occurring, the engagement team had made contact with the individual and had established a relationship. Although the individual declined most of the engagement team’s offerings, he was always open to engagement. After the arrest, all the
partners lobbied for the individual to be transferred to the Dayton Municipal Court's Mental Health Court, who remanded the individual to Summit Behavioral Healthcare Hospital in Cincinnati for residential treatment.

In another by-product of engagement, the engagement team discovered that some of the members of the target group lived in group homes in other areas of Dayton. The engagement team was able to conduct follow-ups at those group homes to determine if the environments were suitable for the individuals. In two of the cases, the engagement team was able to make referrals to authorities on conditions in group homes.

The Downtown Engagement Project is innovative in that the engagements occur on the streets – where many of the mentally ill are found – and not in a clinical setting. These face-to-face engagements are designed for fact-finding but are tempered with genuine care and professionalism. Officers found that they had fewer contacts with the initial target group after the engagement project was launched. Through ongoing contact with the mentally ill, information sharing, referrals to behavioral health services and community education, both the community and the mentally ill benefit from this extraordinary team approach. It is a partnership that has never existed before in the history of the downtown Dayton community.

The Downtown Engagement Project began as a pilot project, with the engagement team working three days per week in 2014. Funding was provided by ADAMHS to train the peer specialists and provide sundries for the homeless and mentally ill. The project was evaluated by the partners in late 2014 and, based on the successes, funding for all of 2015 was approved. The engagement team is now full-time (five days a week) and is now “mounted” (trained by the Dayton Police Department to ride bicycles). The bicycles were provided by the Dayton Police Department.

Dayton Police Officers are trained in crisis intervention techniques. Each year, the Dayton Police Department enrolls a minimum of five officers in formal Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. To date, over 75 Dayton Police Officers have been CIT-trained since 2003. This training will continue in the coming years.
CIT-certified police officers alone, however, fall short in addressing the long-term needs of the chronically mentally ill and homeless. The Downtown Engagement Project brings downtown business and residential stakeholders together with the Dayton Police Department and mental health professionals to improve conditions for this population and create a harmonious community in which all can co-exist.
APPENDICES

- Agency & Officer Information
- Exhibit 1
- Exhibit 2
- Exhibit 3
- Newspaper article
- Letter of Support
AGENCY & OFFICER INFORMATION

Project Contact Person: Lieutenant Kenneth Beall
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937-333-1047
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Key Project Team Members:

From the Dayton Police Department:

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From Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH):

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- Tina Gilley
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CALLS FOR SERVICE
CPOD Focus on Mental Health

Dayton Police Department

A look at Mental Health related call types in CPOD from April through March of 2011 - 2015

Dayton Police Department
A Mental Health Project was started in April of 2014 for CPOD. The primary goal is to decrease the Calls For Service (CFS) within the Central Division for mental health related calls. Ultimately, there's hope to see the CFS for the mental health related calls within the Central Division to decrease over time. Though the expectation in these types of CFS, is to increase in 2014 & 2015, with the mental health partnerships that have been developed so far, these specific types of CFS should decrease in future years.
*Please Note: The address of 4 S. Main St. has been taken out of all data that is being presented within this data.

Dayton Police Department 3
Average Calls for Service

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*STUDY PERIOD 3
*THIS AVERAGE WILL NOW BE CONSIDERED
*AVG: Average count of each call for service

EXHIBIT 2
| Study Period 2 | 65  |
| Study Period 1 | 116 |
| Grand Total | 36 |

**Total CPS:** 28%

**Total April - March Results**

| Study Period 2 | 648 |
| Study Period 1 | 573 |

**Note:** The address of 45 Main St. has been taken out of all data that is being presented within this data.

5/27/2015
**APRIL - MARCH RESULTS**

*Study Period 1 = Average of April 04, 2014 - March 31, 2014

*Study Period 2 = April 01, 2014 - March 31, 2015

*Please Note: The address of 4, Main St. has been taken out of all data that is being presented within this data.

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL % CHNG:**

-18%
Exhibit 3

Month-by-Month Comparison

Study Period 1 = April 01, 2014 - March 31, 2015
Study Period 2 = Average of April 01, 2014 - March 31, 2014

*Note: The address of 5 Main St. has been taken out of all data that is being presented within this data set.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>2013 Total</th>
<th>Open</th>
<th>Closed</th>
<th>CC NSHX</th>
<th>AGENCY</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>NSHX</th>
<th>NO Service History</th>
<th>AC = Crisis Care</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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**Total with Pink Slips:**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total with Pink Slips:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Key:**

- NSHX = No Service History
- AC = Crisis Care

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**Note:** Data only updated through 03/03/2015. 2015 data is incomplete.
### 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Referrals to Community</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Clubhouse Members</th>
<th>Case Management Clients</th>
<th>Total Contacts with Individuals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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### 2014

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Referrals to Community</th>
<th>Resources</th>
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<th>Case Management Clients</th>
<th>Total Contacts with Individuals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** The data seems to be related to the number of visits and resources over the months of 2014 and 2015.
Road salt shortage expected

By Laurencce D. Smith and Andy Bethell Staff Writer

Residents around the Wine Valley are making alternative plans to keep roads and sidewalks clear of a shortage of salt supplies here and across the U.S.

Oakhurst, Springfield and Greene County residents turned to Oakhurst for salt, with 3 tons used by city officials. Communities that have so far secured bids for the upcoming winter season are seeing price increases as high as 138 percent.

A group of mayors appealed for help, saying in U.S. Rep. Mike Turner, R-Englewood, has been assisting with the shortage caused by salt production issues last year and addressing concerns with his colleagues in Congress about the lack of salt supplies.

Salt continues on B4.

COMPLET COVERAGE

Pilot program targets the mentally ill homeless

By Matthew.H.K. and Melanie McDonald Staff Writers

In an effort to improve homelessness services, Dayton has announced a new pilot program aimed at helping the mentally ill homeless population.

The program, called the "Dayton Homeless Outreach Program," will provide mental health services and support to individuals who are homeless and experiencing mental health issues.

The program will be funded through a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Worker locates those in need of services.

Agencies partner to provide help, improve downtown image.

By Matthew K. and Melanie McDonald Staff Writers

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Agencies partner to provide help, improve downtown image.
Mentally ill

Kimberley Hames

It’s true, they are really getting us. Wasington Mayor Bill Brimley said, “I don’t know if there’s a shortage of salt. They are really getting us.”

Salt is a controversial issue in the city, with residents and businesses complaining about the high cost of salt for road maintenance. Mayor Brimley has been under pressure to address the issue, and recently announced plans to increase the city’s salt stockpile.

Salt Purchasing

Some local businesses in the region are using various means of purchasing salt to keep up with the increased demand. One local business owner, who asked to remain anonymous, said they have had to increase their salt purchases by 50% in the past month.

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To whom it may concern:

I applaud and support the Dayton Police Department’s effort in the Downtown Engagement Project.

Dayton Police Department, along with other partnering agencies, have focused on predicated engagement opportunities with the mentally ill and homeless by a professional social worker and peer specialist on the streets of downtown Dayton. These engagements are face-to-face assessments of a target group of individuals who police officers encounter on a frequent basis. The goal of the assessments is to direct individuals to long-term services and programs they desperately need.

The Dayton Police Department has had significant success with this initiative. There are many benefits to helping the mentally ill and homeless population through this project, but perhaps the greatest benefit is fewer arrests for the typical civility crimes which mentally ill persons commit. This translates to more time that police officers can devote to this community. Furthermore, it translates to fewer mentally ill persons in the Montgomery County Jail which is cost savings to the citizens of Montgomery County.

Sincerely,

PHIL PLUMMER  
SHERIFF