

HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY TELEFORUM SERIES

POLICING & HOMELESSNESS

Thursday, April 17th from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. EDT.



HOMELESSNESS AND POLICING

Ottawa Police Service

Staff Sergeant Paul Johnston
Central East District

www.ottawapolice.ca



OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE
SERVICE DE POLICE D'OTTAWA

Working together for a safer community
La sécurité de notre communauté, un travail d'équipe



Concentration of Social Services





Social Service Agencies & Calls for Service



**Calls for Service Concentration
District 24**





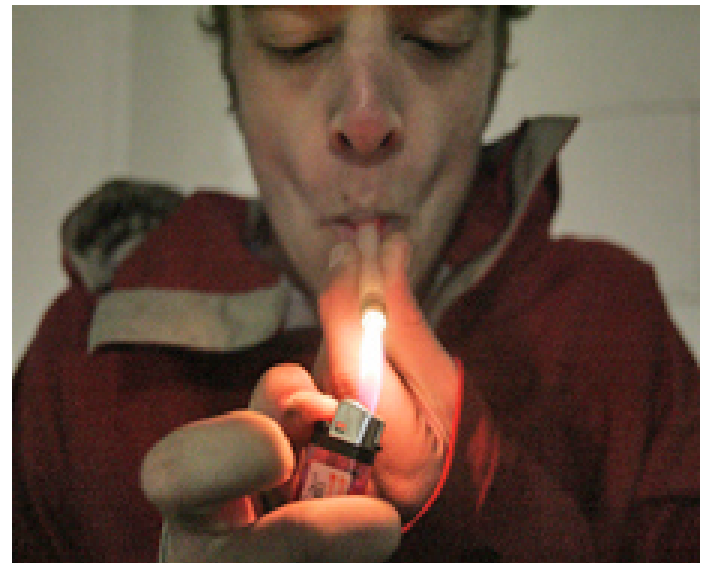
Policing Issues & Homelessness Snapshot

- 960 Homeless in Ottawa (First week of April 2008) used a shelter
- Reportedly 70% have addiction and Mental Health Issues
- Aggressive Panhandling
- Open Alcohol & Drug Use
- Squatting
- Harm Reduction Discards



THE GLOBE AND MAIL 14 April, 2007

- “Crack didn't just arrive in Ottawa one day, but it seems like it: In the past 18 months, police and outreach workers have seen an explosion in the amount available in the capital, sweeping through a street population that already had one of the country's highest rates of hepatitis C and HIV.”
- Erin Anderssen Senior Feature writer





Homelessness & Addiction

- Drug Projects targeting open drug use in and around Social Service Agencies
- Buy & Bust not making substantial change
- Street level traffickers feeding their own addictions returning to their clients to sell after release
- Sentencing problematic
- Addicts charged Criminally for possession or trafficking are being released still addicted Circle of Addiction not addressed



Ambitious Space: Homeless will find the locations that lack design & ownership





Crime Prevention through Environmental Design: Solution or Displacement





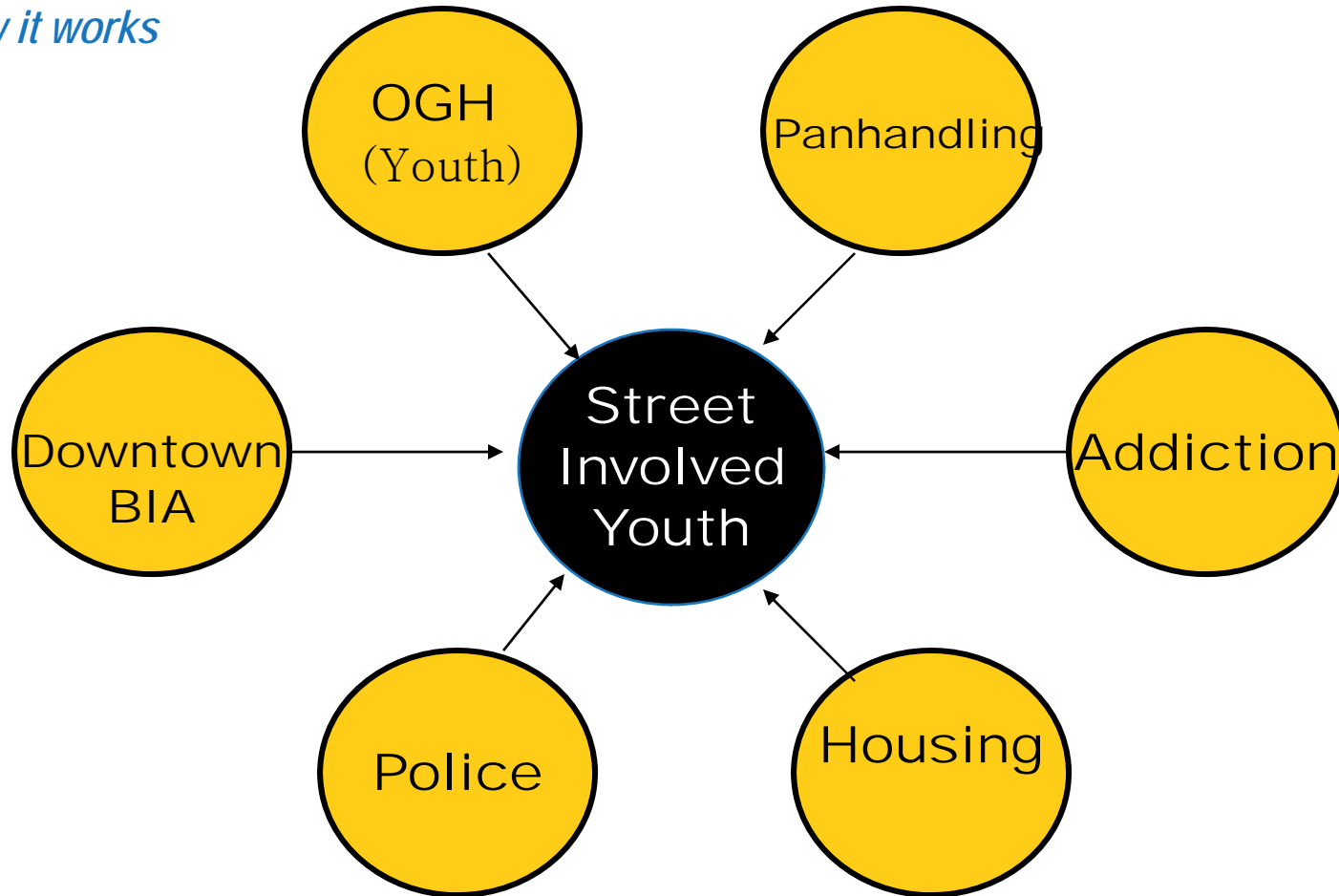
Policing Solutions

- Develop strong ongoing partnerships with Social Services: (Victim Impact Letters for Prosecution & conditional releases)
- Strong Consistent Enforcement
- Mental Health Crisis Unit conduct assessments for Homeless not utilizing Shelters
- Drug Treatment Court
- Mental Health Court
- Residential Treatment



Operation Go Home Partnership

How it works



“No person is missed”



Operation Go Home Street Team



*Sgt. K. Gahdban, Tom Sidney, Erica Tomkinson,
John Byers.*

*Ottawa Sun Newspaper,
2005*



Downtown Ottawa Coalition for a Safer Ottawa

It's okay to say NO to panhandling and YES to giving

Have a  Give Smart



Giving money to panhandlers often supports drug and alcohol addiction. Help them make a real-life change by giving to agencies that can make a difference.

How you can help

There is no reason for anyone to be hungry or go without a bed in downtown Ottawa. There are 10 locations which serve free meals, 10 give free groceries, 5 issue free clothing and 3 main facilities provide beds and shelter.

Make the responsible choice: say YES to giving by redirecting your charity to one of the social service agencies listed below. These organizations, members of the Downtown Ottawa Coalition, also provide valuable counseling, addiction treatment and rehabilitation programs.

THE OTTAWA MISSION
Tel: (613) 234-1144
www.ottawamission.com

OPERATION GO HOME
Tel: (613) 230-4663
www.operationgohome.ca

SHEPHERDS OF GOOD HOPE
Tel: (613) 789-8210
www.shepherdsofgoodhope.com

CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOC., OTTAWA BRANCH
Tel: (613) 737-7791
www.cmhaottawa.ca

For more information go to www.givesmartottawa.ca

To give to other organizations providing complementary services visit: www.cominfo-ottawa.org/English/eBlueBook.htm

Have a  Give Smart

An initiative of



Shepherds of Good Hope
The Ottawa Mission
The Salvation Army
City of Ottawa
Downtown Rideau Business Improvement Area
ByWard Market Business Improvement Area
Councillor Georges Bédard – Rideau-Vanier
Ottawa Police Service
Operation Go Home
Canadian Mental Health Association, Ottawa Branch
St. George Condominium Corporation

www.givesmartottawa.ca



RCMP Police RED DEER Alberta.



Homelessness in a Mid Size City
Challenges For Policing
By
Supt. Brian Simpson



CITY OF RED DEER

- Population of approximately 85,000.
- Service area population of 150,000.
- Situated on Highway #2, between Calgary and Edmonton.
- Growth rate between 3 and 4 percent.
- Communities in surrounding area are growing at faster rate (Blackfalds – 46% between 2001 to 2006).



POLICE SERVICE

- 135 Member on organizational chart-actual 109.
- Support staff of 56 Municipal employees
- Bylaw support services working side by side with police officers.
- 55,000 calls for service.



HOMELESSNES

- Approximately 200 homeless persons in community.
- Criminality vs. Social issue.
- Community expectations.
- Community education.
- Police response.
- Mental Health – undercurrent to issue.



Social Agencies/Programs

- Numerous agencies – coordination of efforts being recognized.
- Provide shelter, but also try and provide opportunity to access assistance.
- People Places/Safe Harbor/Meadowview/ Winter Inn/Churches.
- Support for Winter Shelter through support from Alberta Government Ministry of Housing.



Mayor's Task Force on Homelessness

- Established in 2005.
- 65% of persons identified as homeless were between ages of 25 and 44.
- Gapping in the 18 to 25 year olds-portion that are homeless.
- Over two hundred community members, and agencies involved in Task Force.
- Homeless being the newly employed and new to the community.



POLICING SOLUTIONS

- Involved with various committees, agencies in addressing the issue.
- Parks Bylaw Officer dealing with homeless persons in the Parks.
- Pamphlet-instructions to officers of the various agencies available to help
- Development of team (police/social agency) to deal with social issues/policing.
- Domestic Violence-our experience



MOVING FORWARD

- Development of Community Team.
- Implications for other agencies based on Domestic Violence experience.
- Expansion of use of Bylaw with second Parks Position.
- Continued communication/education with Officers/Bylaw and Community.
- CPTED



SUMMARY

- We are not alone in dealing with this issue.
- Positive support from City Hall, Mayor Morris Flewwelling's Task Force-it is a community issue and a priority in the community.
- Reinforces the value that each agency brings to solution – coordinating of efforts.



QUESTIONS?

Thank you on behalf of the Red Deer City
Police Service and the City of Red Deer.



Lost in Transition:



How a Lack of Capacity in the Mental Health System is Failing Vancouver's Mentally Ill and Draining Police Resources



- **Almost one third of all calls for police service involved a person who was mentally ill**
- **This rises to 36% when only those calls where contact was made with an involved party are considered**
- **In some areas of the city almost half of all contact calls involved a person who was mentally ill**







Legislation



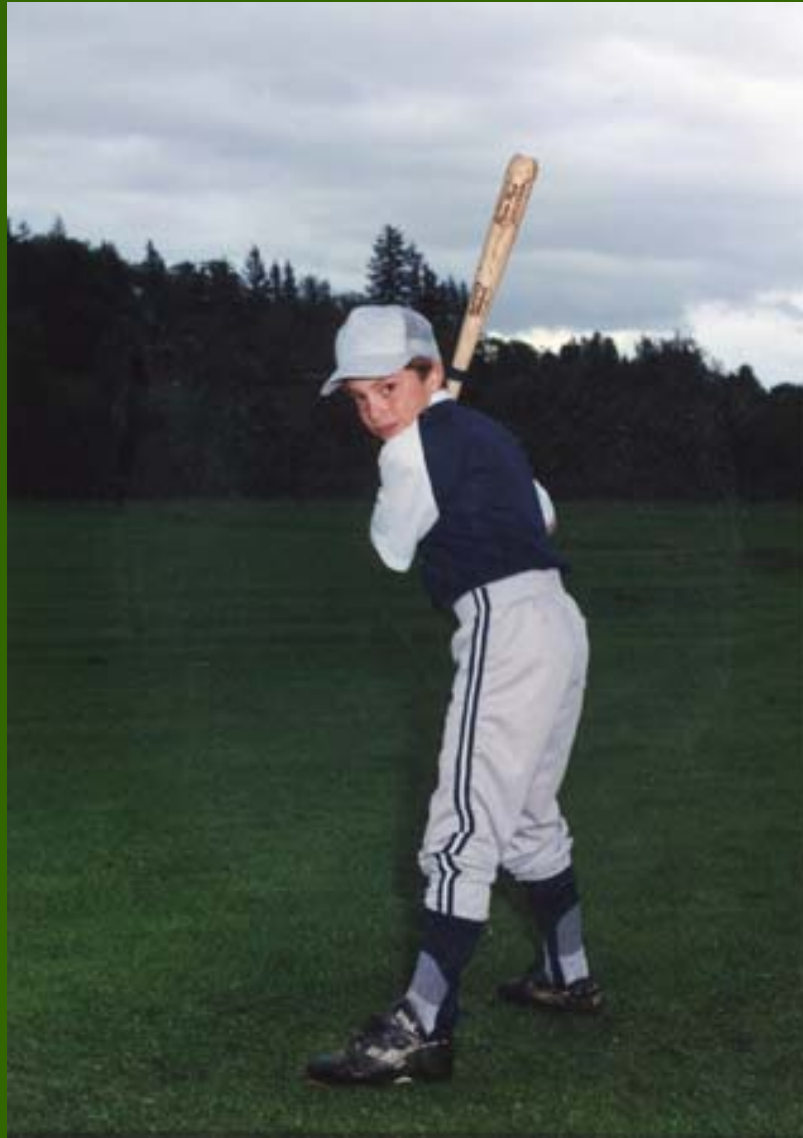
JAIL / COURT PROCESS

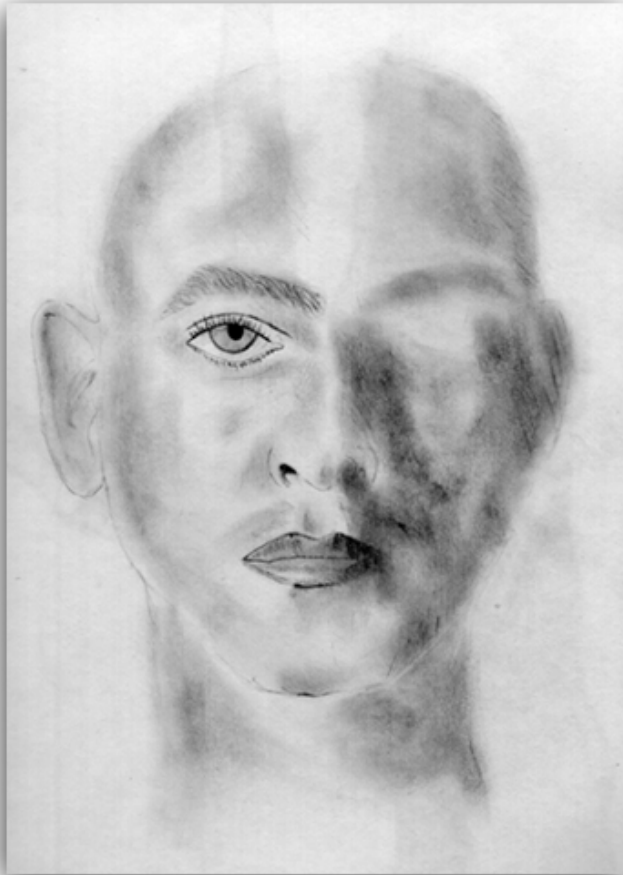


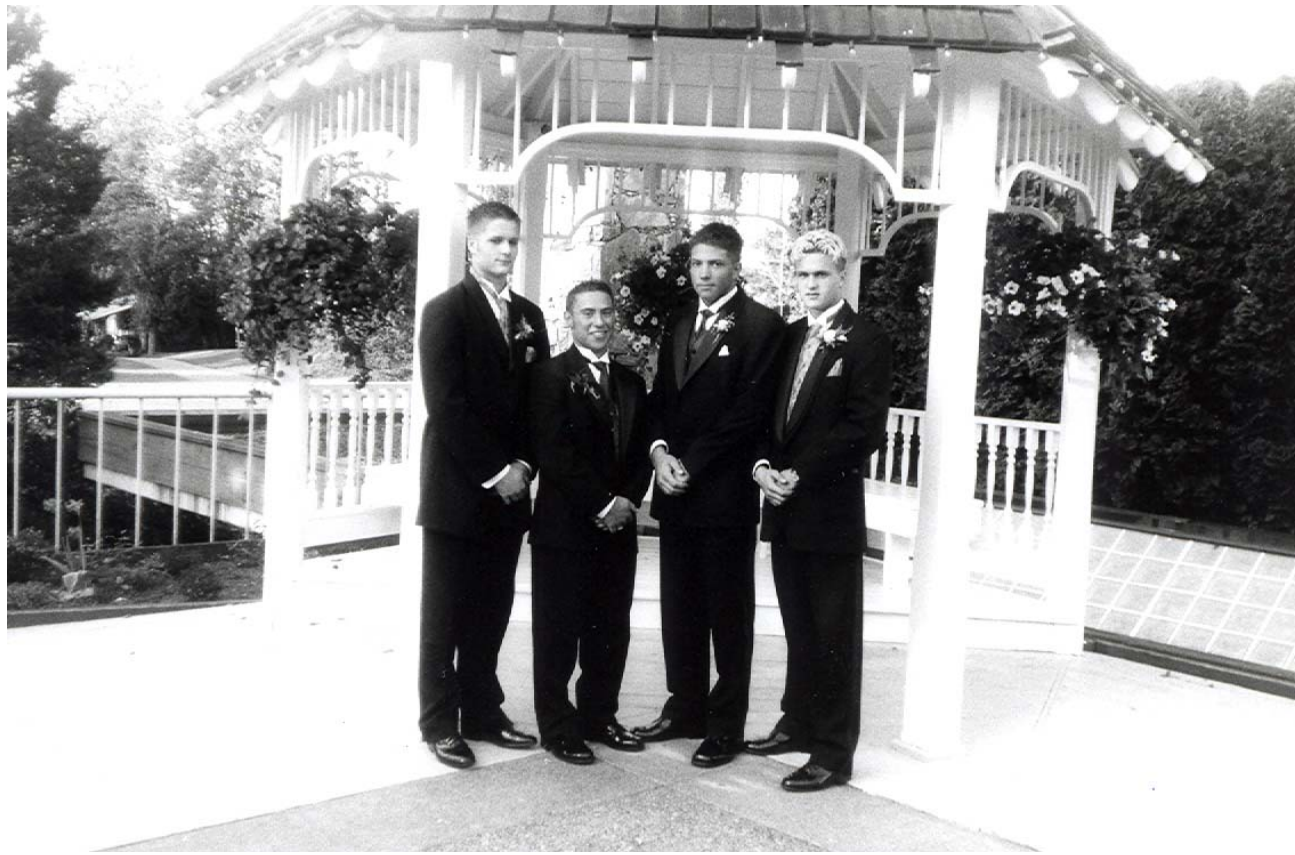
INFORMATION SHARING















2001

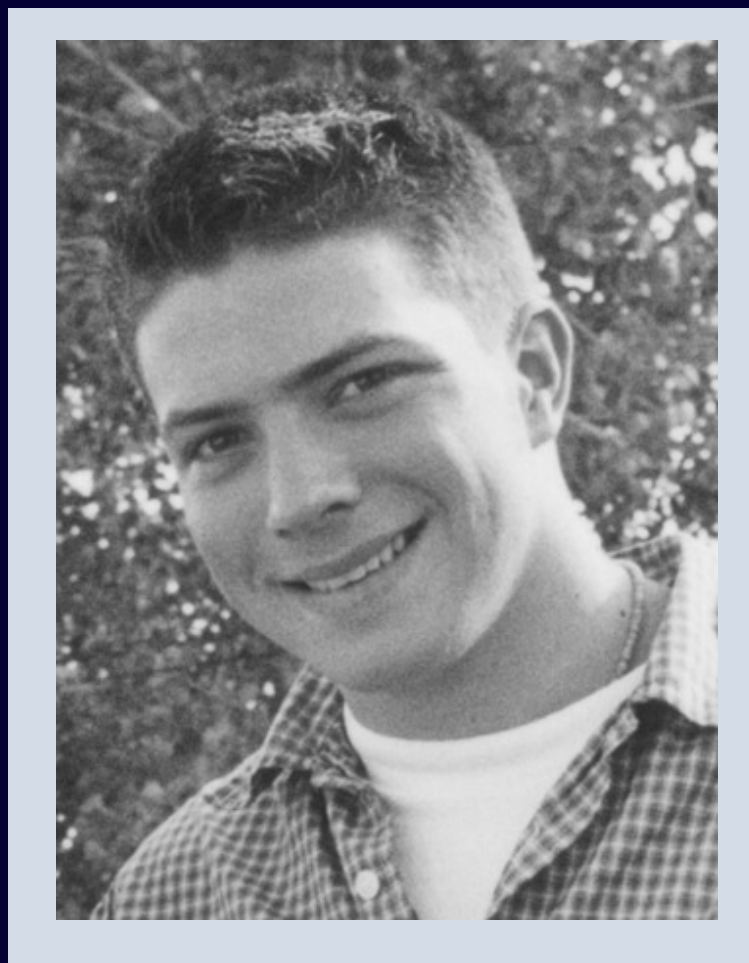


2006



Corey O'Brien

November 16, 1981 – November 25, 2006



What's Needed?

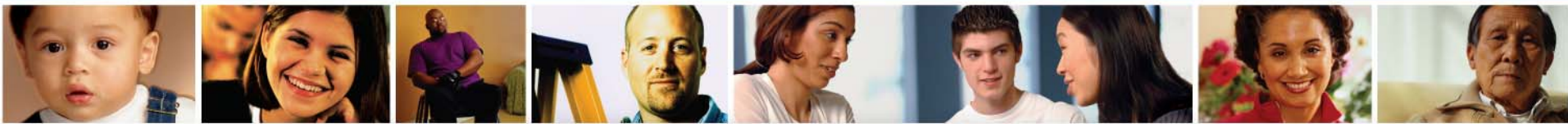
- **Increased services for the mentally ill who are also addicted**
- **A provincial records management system for mental health information**
- **More supportive housing**



What's Needed? (cont)

- A treatment facility for people who require a moderate to long term stay
- A Streamlined admission process at St. Paul's and VGH
- Improved data collection of mental health calls for service for police in BC





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