

Social Services Appropriation Committee of the Utah State Legislature: Talking  
Points for Matthew Minkevitch

**A Tale of Two Shelters (chart 1):**

- **Tonight, the Road Home will provide shelter to approximately 1,200 people**
- Currently, approximately 90% of those who are staying in our emergency shelters will have one or possibly to episodes of homelessness.
- The episodes are brief in duration (34 days or fewer) and it is unlikely that most people in this category will ever return to shelter.
- There is a second group of people for whom shelter is a long-term destination, who stay for a minimum of six months; many of whom stay in shelter on and off for years. This group represents about 10% of the 22,000 people who have stayed with us over the course of the past five years.
- On any given night, this group utilizes over half (56%) of the entire shelter beds that are available throughout the Road Home emergency shelters.
- This trend has persisted over the past decade, and is consistent with shelter usage across the United States.

**While a very small percentage of people are living in our shelters for extended durations, the overwhelming majority of people staying with us have little impact on space available at the Road Home shelter (chart 2):**

*13,928 of the 22,107 people who stayed in our shelters over the past five years, stayed with us fewer than six weeks at the most, and utilized as few as 90 beds nightly throughout our shelters.*

**Solutions (in order from most intensive to least intensive):**

1. **Developing more permanent housing as an alternative for people living in shelters or on the streets long-term;**
2. **Providing access to supportive services to these tenants to help them to heal and become stable in housing.**

3. Provide temporary rental assistance for those who do not need permanent supportive housing; namely those who need temporary assistance in order to get out of shelter as rapidly as possible.
4. Provide diversion assistance to those who are turning to the shelter for the first time. Salt Lake Community Action is spearheading a service that has shown promise in helping families to find more suitable alternatives before the family moves into shelter.
5. Create more deeply affordable housing for the growing number of people living with low incomes so that they can afford their rent and not have to turn to emergency shelters. By keeping pace with the demand for deeply affordable housing, our communities can reduce the need for people turning to emergency shelters. If we do not create this housing, the problem of homelessness will worsen.

#### **Currently in Permanent Supportive Housing through the Road Home:**

- 460 Total Households
  - Including 870 Total Individuals with 335 Children

#### **Total People served in Permanent Housing in Fiscal Year 2015 through the Road Home:**

- 550 Total Households
  - Including 1,102 Individuals with 448 Children
  - 188 assisted into housing in FY 2015

#### **Housing Placements per Month:**

- Our teams help approximately 62 households move into housing each month; approximately 19 of those households will be among those considered chronically homeless.

#### **Housing Process:**

- A collaboration of providers are actively prioritizing approximately 100 individuals are through the Community Triage Process. This process targets those who are among the most vulnerable to be considered for the very limited supply of permanent supportive housing.

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- **With more permanent supportive housing, our community could easily help an additional 350 individuals out of the shelter who are currently living there.** Currently, we are only able to help 3-6 individuals per week into permanent supportive housing.
- **Due to limited amount of affordable housing in the housing market in Salt Lake County, our agency has approximately 250 people living in shelter who have been approved for housing, with subsidies in hand actively searching for housing units and have yet to find an apartment.**
- **If our communities commit to creating more permanent housing with supportive services, we can greatly reduce the number of people who are living in shelters.**
- **If we commit to creating deeply affordable housing, we can reduce the growing number of people who are experiencing one time emergencies and thereby turning to shelters.**