

STREET COUNT 2020 VOLUNTEER TRAINING



COALITION
FOR THE
HOMELESS

AGENDA

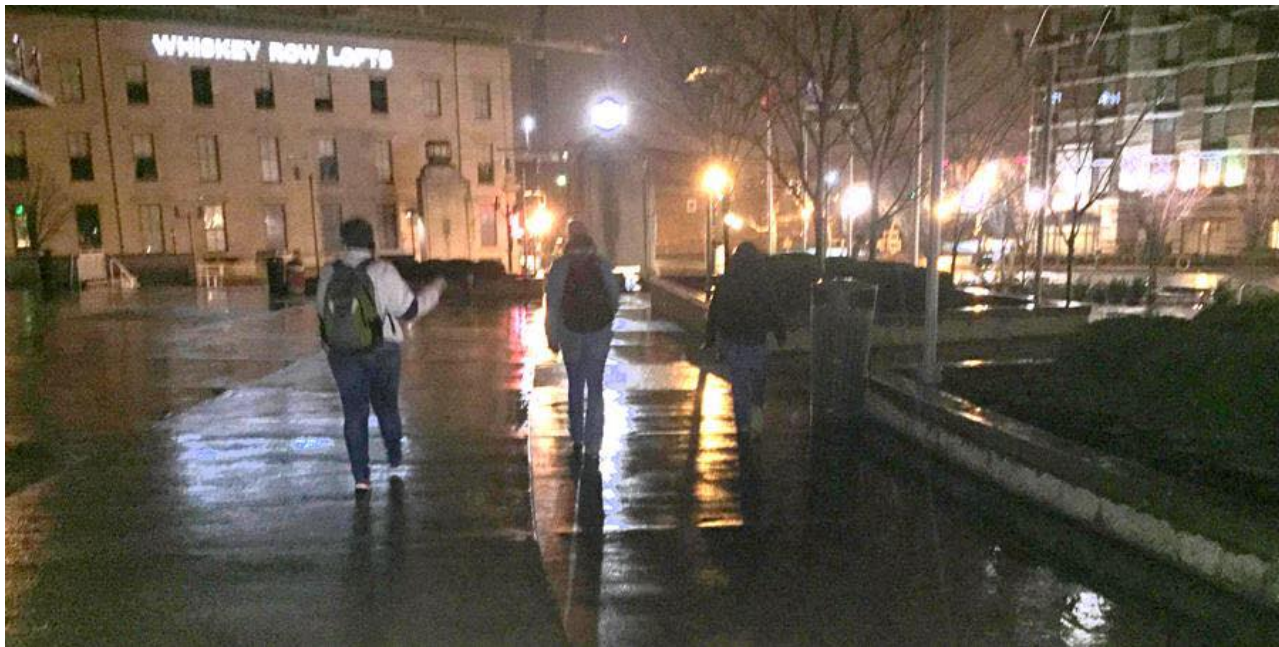
1. **Welcome:** Natalie Harris
2. **Who is the Coalition:** Natalie Harris
3. **Homelessness Overview:** Catherine McGeeney
4. **Why We Are Here:** Mary Frances Schafer
5. **Street Count Training:** Erin Rutherford
6. **Outreach Tips:** Carrie Dorton and Tiny Herron
7. **Stay Engaged:** George Eklund
8. **Thank You:** Natalie Harris
9. **Split Into Teams!**

WELCOME + INTRO

Natalie Harris, Executive Director

WELCOME!

Thank you for your compassion and willingness to get up before 4am.



WELCOME!



Nearly 400 people signed up this year, some of whom have been participating in the Street Count for many years.

Half of our volunteers have never volunteered before!

WHO IS THE COALITION?

- The Coalition is the **lead advocate** for the homeless locally
- Our mission is to **prevent and end homelessness** through **advocacy, education, and coordination** of our 30+ partner agencies

WHO IS THE COALITION?

- In 2016, we worked with partners to **end homelessness among veterans**
- This year, we're working with partners to **end homelessness among young adults**

HOMELESSNESS OVERVIEW

Catherine McGeeney
Director of Communications

WHY ARE PEOPLE HOMELESS?

Poverty is the primary cause of homelessness.

WHY ARE PEOPLE HOMELESS?

- Prior to HUD funding cuts in the 1980s, \$83 billion (**\$583 billion in today's dollars**) was spent per year on **affordable housing** for Americans below the poverty line
- 2019 HUD budget request was only **\$41 billion**, or 7% of pre-1970s spending

WHY ARE PEOPLE HOMELESS?

What **triggers** homelessness?

- Low wages or loss of job
- Lack of affordable housing
- Housing segregation/redlining
- Eviction (Louisville's rate is twice the national average)
- Lack of shelter beds for families
- Long-term encampments broken up
- Addiction
- Untreated mental health issues
- Abuse at home

HOMELESSNESS IN LOUISVILLE

- On any given night in Louisville, about **1,100 people** sleep in shelters or on the streets
- 10% of these people sleep outdoors, while the remaining 90% are in shelters

HOMELESSNESS IN LOUISVILLE

- In 2018, we counted **nearly 7,000 people** who slept in emergency shelters or on the streets
- This number **does not include** people who experience housing instability but do not seek services
- **Over 13,000 families** are currently on waiting list for Section 8 housing in Louisville
- On average, about **55 families** are on the waiting list for family emergency shelter every night

WHY WE ARE HERE

Mary Frances Schafer
Director of Community Coordination

WHAT IS THE PIT?

- Sheltered Point-in-Time (PIT) count happens four times a year
- Counts **sheltered** individuals and those receiving services from **outreach** programs
- We use this time to take an inventory of the **number of available shelter beds**

WHAT IS STREET COUNT?

- The **Street Count** in January is a nationwide effort to determine how many people sleep outdoors across the country on a given night
- On this same night, our **emergency overnight shelters** are counting the number of people sleeping in their facilities
- Together, Louisville's counts become our **PIT (Point-in-Time) count** for the year

WHAT IS THE COC?

- Continuum of Care (CoC) is the **community of service providers** addressing homelessness
- The CoC is also the mechanism by which we apply for about **\$10 million in federal funding** for our community
- The Point-in-Time count helps to **make the case** for these critical, life-saving funds
- The Coalition for the Homeless is the **CoC Lead**

TRAINING

Erin Rutherford
Monitoring and Training Specialist

TEAMS

- Your teams have been pre-assigned
- You should have received your team assignment upon signing in
- One of your team members is the electronic surveyor
- You have been assigned to a mapped area
- After our presentation, you'll find your team

GETTING STARTED

- The mobile app users are the team leads
- Get your leader's cell phone number!
- Pick a person to drive to the destination and carpool (unless it's within walking distance)
- Pick a person to navigate to your mapped area
- Pick a person to pick up and bring the tote bags

THINGS TO BRING

- Flashlight
- ID and cell phone (leave other valuables behind – purse, jewelry, etc.)
- Bright-colored, warm weather gear
- Water bottle

REVIEW YOUR FORMS

Tally Sheet

Hard Copy
Forms

Mobile App
Instructions

Resources

Things to
Remember

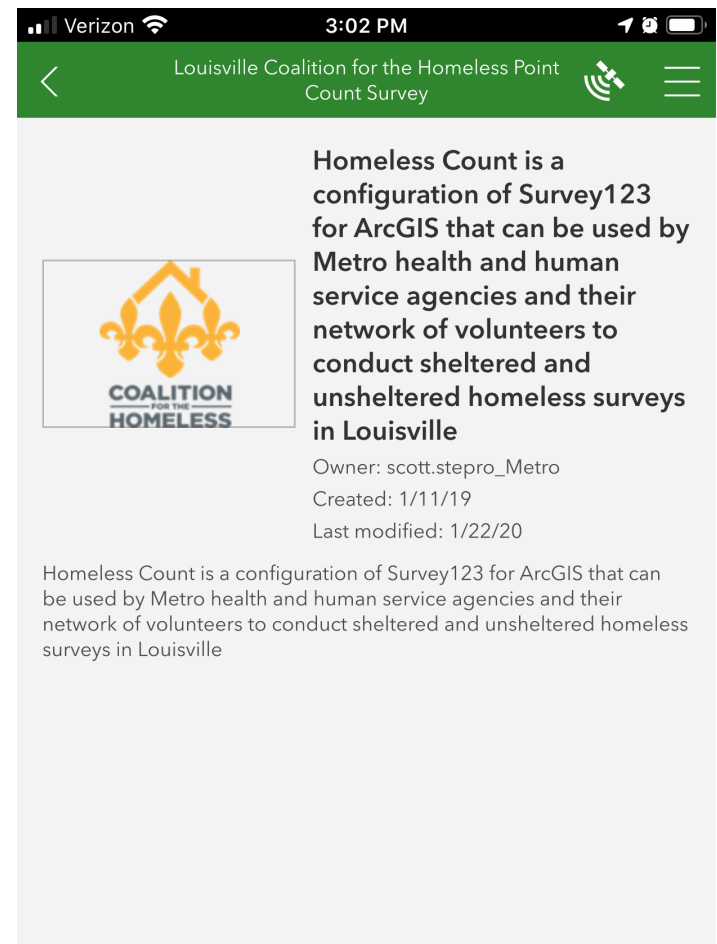
Map

TALLY SHEET

- **The tally sheet is VERY IMPORTANT – this is how we determine our count!**
- Everything is tallied and written here
- Keep the form in the binder, which must be returned after you finish counting

MOBILE APP

- Using Survey123, an app provided by the city
- Uses GIS technology to map your location
- Back-up forms in binder if internet fails



MAPS

- New maps this year!
- Census Bureau provided maps covering the entire metro area
- Maps are in your binders
- May have notes on places to check
- Survey areas are larger this year – feel free to drive between locations if needed

THE BAG

- Outreach materials: hats, gloves, lip balm, socks, hygiene kits, blankets, and a draw-string bag (donated by Anthem-Medicaid, Census Bureau, and Aetna Better Health of KY)
- Be sure to collect multiple bags to take with you on your way out

OUTREACH TIPS

**Carrie Dorton and Tiny Herron
St. John Center outreach team**

APPROACHING SOMEONE/CAMP

- Announce yourself – you are walking in to their space: “Street Count! Street Count!”
- Use a friendly intro: “Hi, I’m Carrie. I’m helping the Coalition for the Homeless with the Annual Street Count. Can I ask you a few questions?”
- Give them time to wake up
- Most people know Street Count is happening

BEST PRACTICES

- Be sincere and thank people for their time
- Honor requests to not participate in the survey (they still get a bag)
- Always ask someone if they are experiencing homelessness, rather than assuming
- Remember: you are entering a person's home - be non-intrusive and respectful of their space
- Shine flashlight toward yourself to introduce yourself

TEAM SAFETY

- Stick with your team!
- Have safety word/phrase to alert your team if you are uncomfortable (e.g., “squirrel!”)
- Trust your instincts
- Keep a safe and respectful distance
- Beware of dogs! Don't run, pet, approach without owner restraint, or make eye contact

THINGS NOT TO DO 😊

- Do not touch people to wake them up
- Do not invade people's space
- Do not require participation in the survey
- Do not put anyone in danger
- Do not be judgmental
- Do not promise housing or services
- Do not give money or offer rides
- Do not give out your personal cell number
- Do not deviate from the questions
- Do not separate from the team
- Do not wear all black
- Do not share any confidential information or photos of the participants

REVIEW FOR TOMORROW

Erin Rutherford
Monitoring and Training Specialist

AGENDA FOR TOMORROW

- Report back to Hotel Louisville at 4 a.m.
- Get with assigned team
- Be ready to go at 4:30 a.m.
- Head out to assigned area and count
- Report back to Hotel Louisville by 6:30 a.m.
- **Turn in your binder with tally sheet completed!!**
- Enjoy breakfast, sponsored by Aetna Better Health of Kentucky

SOCIAL MEDIA

- Spread the word about the Street Count on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and elsewhere!
- Use our hashtags: #streetcountlou #streetcount2020 #housingforall #louhomeless
- Take photos of your team and share with us!
- Maintain privacy and dignity of our clients: do not take pictures of any homeless people's faces or camps, and do not disclose their locations

STAY ENGAGED

George Eklund
Director of Education & Advocacy

STAY ENGAGED: ADVOCATE!

Have a Heart for Housing Day is
Tuesday, February 4

**HOUSING
FOR ALL**



STAY ENGAGED: ADVOCATE!

1. Call the KY Legislative Hotline: **1-800-372-7181**.
2. Say, *“I would like to leave a message for members of the Jefferson County delegation.”*
3. Provide your contact information.
4. Say, *“I urge my representatives to vote in favor of House Bill 213, and against Senate Bill 11 and Senate Bill 1.”*

THANK YOU!

**Natalie Harris
Executive Director**

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



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Thanks to our breakfast sponsor,
Aetna Better Health of Kentucky!



Aetna Better Health[®] of Kentucky

*Thanks also to Heine Brothers' Coffee for providing us with
coffee and keeping us caffeinated!*

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

Louisville has so many hardworking agencies and volunteers who have committed their lives to ending homelessness in Louisville.

If you work for a partner agency, or volunteer for a street outreach group, please stand so we can thank you!

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

*Thank you for
showing up!*

FIND YOUR TEAM!