

Southernmost Homeless Assistance League, Inc.

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SHAL Monthly Report For January 2016

SHAL staff and Shelter residents were saddened early Wednesday morning with the news that another client, a 61-year-old man, had passed away in the mangroves along College Road. The client stayed occasionally at the Shelter, had been active in case management and struggled with alcoholism and other substance abuse. Relatives in South Florida had been working to get him to permanently relocate, but he didn't want to leave Key West.

We are again reminded by this untimely death that homelessness is a life-threatening situation.

January SHAL News

SHAL is working with multiple clients, making appointments with the Immigration Services lawyer that was made available by Catholic Charities.

SHAL is coordinating delivery of hundreds of used blankets generously donated by the Navy Hotel Services. Many of these will be for future use, and others shared local nonprofits.

SHAL's Financial Education

program is underway, as part of the SHAL Housing First program. Developing and improving financial literacy will be critical to the success of formerly homeless individuals with the ability to become housed. The first class was taught in late January by Executive Director **John Miller** and Outreach Director **Elicia Pintabona**, and included over 20 Shelter residents eager to move into permanent housing. All have income and many have saved enough already to participate.



Many blankets

At the request of the **Monroe County Sheriff's Office**, Elicia has taken the class on the road to the jail, working more closely with the **Jail In-House Program (JIP)** in order to make our Housing First program available to level two inmates who will be released in the next few months. She will provide the inmates with the financial education curriculum that SHAL Executive Director John Miller created and provide case management to assist them in finding housing upon release.

The Outreach team also had success in obtaining a green card for a long time KOTS resident, and are working hard to get him approved for his social security income. After he obtains his income, we are hopeful to matriculate him into the SHAL Housing First program and see him well on his way to self-sufficiency.

SHAL SHELTER OPERATIONS

Shelter Usage

The Client Track database shows that there were an average of about **110** clients sleeping in the Shelter in January 2016. The Shelter was not full by 9 pm on any evening. The new and more reliable data also shows that **281** different (non-duplicated) individuals stayed at the Shelter during the month. The Shelter staff helped **2** clients into apartments and **5** to get jobs in the community.

SHAL continues to improve safety, cleanliness and make operational changes so that more homeless persons will utilize the shelter, helping to integrate them into SHAL programs and Case Management, and move them more quickly toward self-sufficiency.

There were only **3** EMT calls made for Shelter clients in January. Clients with non-urgent medical needs are transported via the SHAL automobile, saving an ambulance run.

SHAL OUTREACH

Service Summary Report • January 2015

SHAL Outreach perked along, providing over **541** services to **125** sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons in Key West and Marathon. Seven more individuals were relocated back to the mainland and other states, breaking the 200 mark in the past 18 months.

Total Services: 541, Case Management contacts: **125**

Health Care Services Rendered: 28

Other Services:

Case Management: 127	Information Services: 156
Cell Phones: 21	Mailing Address: 81
Food/Clothing: 5	ID/Residency Services: 65
SS Issues: 7	Job Assistance: 3
Birth Certificates: 32	Long Distance Relocation: 9
Trans. Services: 17	EBT Services: 1

Coordinated Assessments: 55

Other Highlights

- SHAL continued to provide temporary mailing address for SS, Food Stamps and Birth Certificates.
- Were able to pay for clients' medication for acute illnesses.
- Continued outreach to the Middle Keys with a limited presence in Marathon funded by Monroe County.
- SHAL began attending meetings for the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Council.
- Continued case management services to jail clients.
- SHAL continues to work with the Public Defender's Office and the JIP program to assist clients upon release from jail.