



## **Homelessness in Boston – a layman’s look at setting goals for change and achieving them.**

**Our goal is to significantly reduce homelessness in Boston and to provide dignity and respect for those suffering in this current state.**

**Create significant change in the care for the homeless by providing a safe environment in which they can get back on their feet, and/or work to overcome addiction, and/or manage mental illness.**

- a. Offer extensive individual services, including medical care, mental health treatment addiction recovery programs, and job/life skill counselling,
- b. Invest in long-term micro-unit housing to reduce the number of chronically homeless individuals/families in emergency shelters.

### **SUGGESTED CHANGE:**

1. To provide significantly more, well-managed transitional housing opportunities, across the City and the State, for those homeless individuals who can thrive in this setting. Benefits to this include:

- A. Meeting the homeless population’s needs for shelter, security, and comfort with a more dignified and humanistic approach.
- B. Providing a workable solution to ending the cycle of homelessness for many individuals.
- C. Reducing Police, Emergency Room, EMS and Public Works costs.

SPECIFIC SOLUTION: Work closely with the Pine Street Inn, to develop a similar network of transitional homeless housing as they offer. They have been successful in integrating this housing in various, diverse neighborhoods, and the City should utilize these best practices as a model. The City should integrate this housing into various neighborhoods in able to allow the residents to integrated to return to a normalized life.

2. To provide a protected campus-style setting for those homeless that are mentally ill and/or addicted, removed from current dangers and vulnerabilities on the streets of Boston. Benefits of this approach include:

1. Ensuring that service providers can guarantee that those served receive the confidentiality, safety, and dignity they need to move forward with their lives.
2. Reversing the current spike in the number of overdoses and related deaths.

3. Alleviating the current overcrowding of local emergency rooms and drain on Emergency Service Providers.
4. Increasing the availability of treatment services.
5. Creating potential for transition to long-term housing alternatives.
6. Providing an environment that will support the efforts of the homeless to overcome their current crises & addictions.
7. Reducing police and security costs currently required to ensure the safety of the community.
8. Establishing a less conducive environment for drug dealers and others looking to prey upon the homeless.

**SPECIFIC SOLUTION:** Design and build a state-of-the-art Addiction Recovery Health Campus in the Boston area. This campus should be a prototype for additional campuses in other areas of the Commonwealth so that those seeking recovery can have access to services near where they live.

Specific suggestions for this campus include the Shattuck Hospital area in Boston and Long Island, in Boston Harbor. A Cost and Feasibility Study should be undertaken to determine the scope and cost of each of these locations.