

US Interagency Council on Homelessness
Full Council Meeting
The White House
Remarks by Philip Mangano
March 28, 2003

Council Activities Remarks

The work we are doing in this Council, in this Administration is to create a new standard of expectation based on performance outcomes. After 20 years of outcome free efforts, we are no longer satisfied with shuffling homeless people from one city to another. Or from one side of town to another. Or from one homeless program to another. We have a new standard – ending chronic homelessness.

We are looking for visible, measurable, quantifiable change on our streets, in our shelters, and, most importantly, in the lives of homeless people.

The new standard of expectation requires performance outcomes of ending homelessness. That's what the President has called for. That's what these Secretaries have called for.

Not just to serve people in place, but to move them to a place to live safely and securely.

As in the story of the Samaritan of old, this Administration is not content to pass by and leave the work for others. We are stopping for those who are most vulnerable on the side of the road, those with disabilities and long-term street and shelter homelessness, and offering a place to be.

We're doing it through remoralizing the country on this issue. Through new resources. Through policy academies. Through research. Through focus groups. Through regional federal interagency groups. Through city 10-year plans. Through Operation CHES. Through speeches. Through the media. Through the web. Through meetings with consumers.

A few weeks ago I took part in the first street census ever held in New York City. Yesterday the results were announced. 1780 on

the streets of Manhattan. Their commissioner, inspired by our work here in Washington, wants to reduce that number to zero.

All over the country the work we are doing is remoralizing people in their efforts.

Thanks to all of you, Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Administrators, Directors and staff, the President's message of ending chronic homelessness is permeating planning processes across the country.

And now this HHS report creates more impact and offers more hope and resources.

There's nothing foolish and naïve about our efforts. We intend to leave no chronic homeless person behind.