



Northeast Kansas City Housing Solutions Summit Event Report

Prepared by

Dr. Anne R. Williamson
Community Analytics, LLC
Kansas City, MO 64131
Email: arw@communityanalytics.info
(816) 868-2276

May 2021



COMMUNITY ANALYTICS, LLC

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Organizing for Success	5
Session 1: March 18	6
Session 2: March 19	6
Session 3: March 20	7
Building Empathy and Empowering Appropriate Responses	8
Challenges	10
Community Asset Mapping: Preliminary Results	11
Grassroots Solutions	19
Chronic Homelessness	19
Family Homelessness	20
Youth Homelessness	21
Human Trafficking	22
Neighborhoods, Activists, and Organizers	23
Social Services	24
Further Insights and Suggestions	25
Northeast Kansas City Moving Forward	26
Appendix 1: Event Leadership Team	28
Appendix 2: Northeast Kansas City Housing Solutions Summit Agenda	29

List of Tables

Table 1. Northeast Community Asset Organizations	12
Table 2. Housing Category Asset Organizations	13
Table 3. Employment Category Asset Organizations	14
Table 4. Income Category Asset Organizations	14
Table 5. Food Category Asset Organizations	14
Table 6. Mental Health Category Asset Organizations.....	15
Table 7. Health Care Category Asset Organizations	15
Table 8. Child Care Category Asset Organizations.....	16
Table 9. Adult Education Category Asset Organizations	16
Table 10. Life Skills Category Asset Organizations	16
Table 11. Transportation Category Asset Organizations.....	16
Table 12. Community Connections/Social Support Category Asset Organizations	17
Table 13. Legal Category Asset Organizations.....	17
Table 14. Safety Category Asset Organizations	17

INTRODUCTION

The Northeast Kansas City Housing Solutions Summit (Housing Solutions Summit) held March 18-21, 2021 brought together a wide array of stakeholders in a solutions-focused event aimed at creating a foundation for effective, creative grassroots action in addressing houselessness¹ and associated issues in this historic area. Participants included elected officials, government professionals, representatives of nonprofit service provider organizations, neighborhood association representatives, and other individuals who live and/or work in the Northeast.

The Housing Solutions Summit was hosted by Kansas City University (KCU) and the Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness (GKCCEH). The event's leadership team and speakers worked from space provided on the lovely KCU campus. Stakeholder participation was primarily virtual, and the university also graciously provided significant technical support that made the virtual event possible. Satellite locations for virtual participation were also made available thanks to the Kansas City Public Library and the Northeast Chamber of Commerce.

A number of donors made the Housing Solutions Summit possible by covering the costs of facilitation, speakers, note takers, and refreshments at KCU and the satellite locations. GKCCEH served as fiscal agent for donated funds. The event leadership team gratefully acknowledges the donors who made this event possible:

¹ We use the terms houseless, houselessness, and unhoused person throughout this report. The term houseless or unhoused person respects the individual dignity of those who have the experience of being without housing. Further, the Mayor's Houseless Task Force formally adopted the term houseless in place of homeless; this was an important act by the Task Force indicating respect for persons experiencing a lack of housing. Thus, we use these related terms as words that respect the individual regardless of housing status, as well as because they are consistent with our City's work to address the issue of houselessness.

- Truman Medical Center
- St. Louis-Kansas City Carpenters Regional Council
- Northeast Chamber of Commerce
- Missouri State Senator Barbara Anne Washington
- Missouri State Representative Ingrid Burnett

Information about the Housing Solutions Summit and invitations were disseminated throughout GKCCEH's network. Information and invitations were also disseminated in Northeast neighborhoods and through local business networks.

Northeast Kansas City is an important part of our City's history, present, and future. Historic homes and a diverse population make the Northeast a special place to live, work, and worship. The Northeast has experienced gentrification in recent years. While improved neighborhood appearance and property values are welcomed by many, the Northeast continues to also be home to a large number of people experiencing houselessness. Human trafficking is also a fact of life in the Northeast. The challenge that must be met is fostering continued improvement in the housing stock and businesses in the Northeast while also addressing the needs of those who are unhoused and those who are experiencing human trafficking. It's a tall order, but Kansas Citians have long been known as people with a "Can do!" attitude.

ORGANIZING FOR SUCCESS

The Housing Solutions Summit was organized across several themes designed to inform discussion and the search for solutions. The event leadership team also carefully set the stage for respectful, productive discussion by asking Marqueia Watson, MSW, GKCCEH's Executive Director, to provide guidance in the use of person-center language in civil discourse at the beginning of each day of the event.

SESSION 1: MARCH 18

The Housing Solutions Summit began with an evening session on March 18 (6:00-8:00 pm). Participants were welcomed by Representative Ingrid Burnett, who is not only a member of the Missouri House of Representatives, but also a Northeast Kansas City resident. As described above, Marqueia Watson, MSW, followed the welcome with guidance on the use of person-centered language and civility.

As with each session of this event, the program was designed to inform and provide ample opportunity for dialogue. Session 1 included government officials and neighborhood leaders as the primary groups convened, although other participants were welcome. Participants heard from Christine and Cee Cee, two women with substantial experience of houselessness. Both speakers are now stably housed and were able to share not only the experience of being unhoused, but also the extraordinarily difficult process of becoming housed. One speaker is a human trafficking survivor, while the other is a survivor of domestic violence who is the mother of five children.

These speakers were followed by Wick Thomas, a Northeast resident and activist, who spoke from the neighborhood perspective. Wick's comments were followed by Marqueia Watson, MSW, GKCCEH Executive Director, and Amber Bauer, GKCCEH Program Director. They presented data perspectives on houselessness, including highlights showing the disproportionate number of minority individuals represented in the unhoused population data.

The information-based part of the program was followed by participant discussion facilitated by Dr. Anne Williamson, Principal of Community Analytics, LLC, a Kansas City, Missouri-based organization.

SESSION 2: MARCH 19

Opening segments for Session 2 once again included a welcome from Representative Burnett, guidance on the importance of person-centered language and civility by Marqueia Watson, MSW, the neighborhood perspective offered by Wick Thomas, and data perspectives on houselessness by Marqueia Watson, MSW, and Amber Bauer. A Session 2 overview and

introductions were also offered by Dr. Anne Williamson. The overview was provided to inform participants about how the day would proceed to focus on community asset mapping activities.

Session 2 participants primarily included nonprofit representatives, community activists and organizers, and service providers. Other participants were welcome. Dr. Williamson provided a participants with a learning opportunity about community asset mapping prior to the breakout sessions aimed at identification of community asset organizations.

Community asset mapping is an approach to community development introduced by John Kretzmann and John McKnight in the early 1990s.² The purpose of community asset mapping is to provide a tool that helps communities build on their existing resources to achieve community development goals. This involves the identification of community asset organizations and the resources or services they provide. Systematic community asset identification facilitates action by providing a cohesive picture of strengths and potential gaps in the resources and services on hand. Once these strengths and potential gaps are identified, more coordinated action can take place in addressing a community's priority issues.

SESSION 3: MARCH 20

Session 3 reached a wide range of participants, including members of the general public. The session opened with a welcome from Representative Burnett, guidance on the importance of person-centered language and civility by Marqueia Watson, MSW, the neighborhood perspective offered by Wick Thomas, and data perspectives on houselessness by Marqueia Watson, MSW, and Amber Bauer. An overview of the final day's session was provided by Dr. Anne Williamson.

Christine and Cee Cee returned for the final day of the Housing Solutions Summit and once again shared their experiences with being unhoused and described the many challenges they overcame to reach housing stability. These women's generosity of spirit in sharing their

² Kretzmann, John P. and John L. McKnight. *Building Communities from the inside Out: A Path toward Finding and Mobilizing a Community's Assets*. Chicago, IL: ACTA Publications, 1993.

experiences provided participants with much-needed perspective for working together to identify solutions for unhoused residents in Northeast Kansas City. Dr. Williamson provided participants with a summary of progress made during the event's previous sessions.

Solutions-focused breakout sessions followed. Breakout sessions were organized by themes:

- Chronic Homelessness (Amber Bauer)
- Family Homelessness (Aaron Crossley, LMSW)
- Youth Homelessness (Rep. Burnett; Wick Thomas)
- Human Trafficking (Scott Wagner)
- Neighborhoods/Activists/Organizers (Patricia Hernandez; Marqueia Watson, MSW)
- Social Services (Robbie Phillips, LPC; Dr. Anne Williamson)

Each breakout session was facilitated by members of the event's leadership team. Note takers helped each group capture a record of thoughts and solutions.

Each breakout group designated a reporter who shared solutions with participants at large. Session 3 concluded with comments by Rep. Burnett and Dr. Williamson about how the Northeast Kansas City Housing Solutions Summit will support effective grassroots action in addressing houselessness.

BUILDING EMPATHY AND EMPOWERING APPROPRIATE RESPONSES

Building empathy and empowering appropriate responses were key components of the Housing Solution Summit. The event team recognized the importance of building empathy for those experiencing houselessness and empowering housed residents to engage in appropriate responses early in the planning process. Each session in the three-day event opened with guidance on the use of person-centered language and the importance of civility in discourse surrounding the issue of houselessness.

A key result of the Summit was the way in which participants engaged with this critical policy issue. Civility and respect for all was present throughout each session. Housed Northeast

residents engaged in constructive ways around the issue of houselessness in ways not seen in the past. This result is an important part of the foundation laid by the Summit that must be nurtured and maintained over time if we are to successfully address houselessness in the Northeast community.

CHALLENGES

Housing Solutions Summit participants identified a number of challenges in addressing houselessness in the Northeast during the three-day event. Discussion of these challenges was civil and constructive.

A primary challenge presented by several Summit participants was that of housed neighbors feeling “caught in the middle.” Many expressed a desire to be helpful but felt they did not know how. Others spoke about the dilemma of deciding how to use their limited resources to help. Still others spoke about the negative impact of having unhoused neighbors, including experiences such as threats and individuals defecating in the streets.

Secluded areas within the Northeast were noted as imposing challenges, as were homicides. Other participants expressed concern about human trafficking and the plight of sex workers. Participants also noted that the stigma of being unhoused made it difficult to address the issue.

Another major challenge identified by participants was that of “siloed” programs and organizations involved in addressing the needs of unhoused residents. They indicated that it will not be possible to effectively address houselessness in the Northeast without stronger collaboration.

COMMUNITY ASSET MAPPING: PRELIMINARY RESULTS

The Northeast Kansas City Housing Solutions Summit included community asset mapping activities as part of Session 2, held March 19, 2021. Participants broke out into facilitated virtual groups to identify resources and services offered in the Northeast community that can be part of solutions for houselessness. Resources and services provided in the Northeast were defined as community assets, regardless of whether the organization or individual providing them has a physical location in the Northeast.

Breakout session note takers helped participants by recording the names of organizations and individuals offering resources or services in the Northeast in a shared Google Drive document. Recorded information also included (when possible) a contact name, email address, and telephone number for each identified asset.

The Housing Solutions Summit's community asset mapping activities went beyond the simple identification of asset organizations and individuals by using a set of resource/service categories adapted from the Arizona Self-Sufficiency Matrix.³ Thirteen categories or domains of wellbeing were drawn from the matrix and used to organize community asset information for the Northeast. Readers should be aware that some organizations identified as community assets in specific categories may not directly provide a resource or service within that category, but instead provide a connection or access point for those resources or services.

A number of participants shared that the Summit's community asset mapping activities revealed the existence of organizations they did not know existed. Many indicated they were grateful for the networking opportunity these activities provided.

³ The Arizona Self-Sufficiency Matrix contains 18 categories or "domains" related to individual or family wellbeing.

Housing Solutions Summit participants identified 35 community asset organizations. The identified organizations provide a wide array of resources and services. An alphabetical list of community assets is provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Northeast Community Asset Organizations

Agape Pamojo
Artists Helping the Homeless
Benilde Hall
Bishop Sullivan Center
Care Beyond the Boulevard
Children & Youth Special Healthcare Needs
Christine's Place
Healing House
Independence Boulevard Christian Church
Jerusalem Farm
Kansas City Anti-Violence Project
Kansas City Public Library
City of Kansas City, MO Housing & Neighborhoods Division
Legal Aid of Western Missouri
LISC KC
Lykins Neighborhood Association
Mattie Rhodes Center
Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ
The Northeast News
New House KC
Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
NorthEastminster Presbyterian Church
One By One Ministries
Our Spot KC

ReDiscover
reStart
Salvation Army
Samuel U. Rogers Health Center
Sheffield Neighborhood Association
Sheffield Family Life Center
Synergy Services
Team Jesus
Truman Medical Center
Volunteer KC
Whatsoever Community Center

Tables 2 through 14 provide lists of community asset organizations arranged by resource/ service categories.

Table 2. Housing Category Asset Organizations

Bishop Sullivan Center
Children & Youth Special Healthcare Needs
Healing House
Kansas City Anti-Violence Project
City of Kansas City Housing & Neighborhoods Division
Mattie Rhodes Center
New House KC
One By One Ministries
Our Spot KC
ReDiscover
reStart
Salvation Army
Samuel U. Rogers Health Center

Synergy Services
Truman Medical Center
Whatsoever Community Center

Table 3. Employment Category Asset Organizations

Benilde Hall
Bishop Sullivan Center
Christine’s Place
Healing House
Lykins Neighborhood Association
Mattie Rhodes Center
NorthEastminster Presbyterian Church
ReDiscover
Truman Medical Center

Table 4. Income Category Asset Organizations

Christine's Place
Legal Aid of Western Missouri

Table 5. Food Category Asset Organizations

Benilde Hall
Bishop Sullivan Center
Christine’s Place
Healing House
Independence Boulevard Christian Church
Mattie Rhodes Center

Metropolitan Spiritual Church of Christ
Salvation Army
Volunteer KC

Table 6. Mental Health Category Asset Organizations

Benilde Hall
Christine's Place
Healing House
Legal Aid of Western Missouri
Mattie Rhodes Center
ReDiscover
Truman Medical Center

Table 7. Health Care Category Asset Organizations

Artists Helping the Homeless
Benilde Hall
Care Beyond the Boulevard
Christine's Place
Independence Boulevard Christian Church
Legal Aid of Western Missouri
ReDiscover
Salvation Army
Samuel U. Rogers Health Center
Truman Medical Center

Table 8. Child Care Category Asset Organizations

Mattie Rhodes Center
ReDiscover
Salvation Army

Table 9. Adult Education Category Asset Organizations

Healing House
Kansas City Public Library
Mattie Rhodes Center
Salvation Army
Samuel U. Rogers Health Center

Table 10. Life Skills Category Asset Organizations

Agape Pamajo
Healing House
Kansas City Public Library
Mattie Rhodes Center
Our Spot KC
ReDiscover
Salvation Army
Samuel U. Rogers Health Center

Table 11. Transportation Category Asset Organizations

Artists Helping the Homeless
Salvation Army
Samuel U. Rogers Health Center

Table 12. Community Connections/Social Support Category Asset Organizations

Healing House
Kansas City Public Library
Mattie Rhodes Center
Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
Salvation Army
Sheffield Neighborhood Association

Table 13. Legal Category Asset Organizations

Healing House
Legal Aid of Western Missouri
Salvation Army

Table 14. Safety Category Asset Organizations

Christine’s Place
Kansas City Anti-Violence Project
Legal Aid of Western Missouri
Northeast Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
Salvation Army
Sheffield Neighborhood Association

The results of the Housing Solutions Summit community asset mapping activities reported here should be viewed as preliminary. These results provide a strong foundation for an in-depth community asset mapping process focused on expanding the pool of identified community asset organizations, getting a deeper understanding of the services and resources provided by

each community asset organization, and an assessment of community strengths and potential gaps in assets available to address houselessness in Northeast Kansas City.

GRASSROOTS SOLUTIONS

The Summit included a strong focus on identifying grassroots solutions developed through diverse and inclusive participation. The final day of the event included solutions-focused breakout sessions. Each breakout session was assigned a facilitator and note taker. Breakout sessions were organized by theme as shown below. Facilitator names are provided with each group.

- Chronic Homelessness (Amber Bauer)
- Family Homelessness (Aaron Crossley, LMSW)
- Youth Homelessness (Rep. Burnett; Wick Thomas)
- Human Trafficking (Scott Wagner)
- Neighborhoods/Activists/Organizers (Patricia Hernandez; Marqueia Watson, MSW)
- Social Services (Robbie Phillips, LPC; Dr. Anne Williamson)

All participants reconvened following the breakout session, and a representative from each group reported out the results of their group's discussion. Several groups provided suggestions for measuring success along with their solutions. Grassroots solutions are arranged by breakout group theme below. Suggestions for measuring success are also described below for the groups where these suggestions were made.

CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Focus on Actual Needs. Focusing on the needs of people experiencing houselessness was a primary theme in this group. Too often, well-intentioned efforts do not have the desired impact because assumptions are made about what unhoused persons need. It is important to understand the actual need before determining ways to help.

Outreach. The group also identified the need for outreach that helps people experiencing houselessness to identify their situation, goals, obstacles, and solutions. This includes mental

health outreach and providing access to mental health services. The group also recommended establishing a non-police, community-based emergency outreach system that would connect unhoused individuals with resources.

Trust. Another important issue discussed in this group was the need to build trust. The group highlighted the need to build and maintain trust among unhoused residents, organizations serving unhoused residents, and the community at large.

Access to Services and Resources. The group suggested setting up neighborhood resources for food, including community gardens. They further suggested that efforts are made to ensure that all resources and services required to address the needs of persons experiencing houselessness are accessible.

Measuring Success. The Chronic Homelessness breakout group suggested three ways to measure success in addressing the needs of unhoused residents:

- Design and implement a means for measuring the level of trust or relationship built between unhoused Northeast residents and the programs and organizations serving them.
- Measure the success of unhoused citizens in the Northeast served by programs and organizations over time.
- Reflect on the community's actions and care plan for addressing houselessness and determine whether they are replicable for the purpose of serving unhoused residents in other communities.

FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

Building Empathy. This group expressed the need to build empathy among housed residents for their unhoused neighbors. The use of person-centered language was seen as an important step in that direction. Participants highlighted the need to get residents, neighborhood associations, the Chamber of Commerce, business leaders, and community leaders together to envision how they can be a part of the solution. A participant with Truman Medical Center

indicated TMC's willingness to help build empathy and provide education on issues such as mental health and substance abuse.

Outreach. The group also discussed going out and meeting unhoused neighbors and engaging in productive conversations. This links closely with the group's discussion about the need to build empathy. Another suggestion was to conduct a survey of Northeast residents to determine who would like to be more involved in future efforts to address houselessness, including (but not limited to) organized projects.

Communication. The group identified the need to have frequent communication about projects addressing houselessness in the Northeast. They also highlighted the need for more conversations about houselessness.

YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Opportunities for Increased Collaboration. Participants noted that members of the Northeast community are beginning to engage in more collaboration. They suggest doing more to build collaboration. The group saw this as a means to both identify resources and any lack of resources for specific items or issues. One participant stated, "Collaboration means people are connected to resources, and we can see where they lack resources." The group also expressed that existing resources could be better allocated by increased collaboration.

Sharing Information. The group identified a need for a resource center or other means of sharing information about how to find and connect with resources. The group also suggested a resource guide with details about available resources and contact information.

A group member noted that, "We have housing stock and people who need housing, so getting people into housing would be good for the community." This links with another group member's comment that groups should share information about available housing with others in the community. This would address the issue of some groups facing shortages of housing when working to place individuals in homes; information shared by others who know about available housing opportunities would help to close this gap.

Prevention. The group determined a need for more resources devoted to preventing houselessness.

Outreach. The group identified the need for non-police points of contact. They also noted that it is important to increase awareness about non-police points of contact and where to go to find resources. The group also suggested creating a method to connect individuals in need with support networks.

Perception Gap. The group described a “perception gap.” Discussion included recognition that there is a disconnect between the community’s perception and the actual resources available for addressing houselessness.

Keep the Momentum Going. Participants praised the Northeast Kansas City Housing Solutions Summit for bringing them together and indicated a desire to see more events like this and other opportunities to build networks for addressing houselessness. They suggested a follow-up summit in two months—perhaps a short one—where the participants could assess what worked and what did not work. Another participant shared, “Nobody wants this work to stop at just this summit. Make it a launch pad for future collaboration.”

Another participant indicated that this work should continue. They suggested that this should happen by having Summit participants continuing the work as a whole group. This participant also called for more collaboration, possibly including more summits.

Measuring Success. The group suggested several methods for measuring success:

- Participation should be measured, and participants should be asked whether an event was useful.
- Measure communication with the goal of having more and better communication.
- Measure housing placements.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Address Demand. This group suggested continued work to reduce demand for sex work. Among the ways to reduce demand identified were reverse sting operations targeting “johns”

focused on Independence and 35-39th Prospect, highway patrol in Oak Grove and St. Joe, and taking down license numbers with warning letters sent to those whose license numbers have been recorded. The group also suggested training on identifying the signs of sex trafficking.

Services. The group recognized that there are organizations addressing the needs of trafficked women in the Northeast, including Christine's Place, Veronica's Voice, and the Mattie Rhodes Center. In addition, Healing House has opened a new, 200-bed location on St. John for people recovering from addiction and substance abuse. One participant stated that an increase in the city's minimum wage would reduce sex work. Another participant suggested the need for a place similar to a domestic violence shelter, but specifically dedicated being a place of healing for those who have been victims of sex trafficking.

Federal Funding. A suggestion was made to seek federal funds through collaboration to fight sex trafficking and provide a place for survivors to heal. The group recognized that seeking federal funds is a complicated process that would require a skilled staff to do the grant writing.

NEIGHBORHOODS, ACTIVISTS, AND ORGANIZERS

Resources. This group began by sharing information about existing housing and utility resources. This included:

- Kansas City Regional Housing Alliance, which is reported to be administering more than \$500 million in rental assistance in Missouri and Kansas (StaceyKCagent@gmail.com)
- The Missouri SAFR program administered by the Missouri Housing Development Commission (MHDC) and funded by federal COVID-19 relief funds (mohousingresources.com)
- The Emergency Rental Assistance Landing Page
- The City of Kansas City, Missouri Rent & Utility Assistance program

Neighborhood Education. Stephanie Boyer, Executive Director of reStart, indicated that her organization's Street Outreach team will be happy to help residents learn how to approach unhoused residents, learn about available resources to address the needs of those who are

unhoused, and how to get the Street Outreach team involved. Contact information was provided (sboyer@restartinc.org or jroberts@restartinc.org).

Education for Individuals Exiting Houselessness. The need for education in life skills essential for keeping housing, once attained, was described. Life skills such as housekeeping and other activities were suggested. Further, the group suggested that job skills training should be offered, including interviewing skills.

Increase Affordable Housing. A realtor within the group spoke about the need for creation of more affordable housing opportunities within the Northeast. The need for more investors in the Northeast was also presented.

Advocacy Resources. The Salvation Army's need for more resources to advocate for area residents was discussed. It was noted that some landlords in the Northeast are not taking care of their properties, and tenants are too frightened of being evicted to ask landlords for what is required.

Printed Resource Guide. The group suggested a printed pamphlet that could be made available at the Kansas City Public Library with a list of resources available within walking distance. Information on how to connect with a source of "wraparound services" would be helpful.

Measuring Success. The group suggested that quantifiable measures be developed and shared in a scorecard format.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Neighbor Guides. The group highlighted the need for neighbors to have a guide to resources and help, while also suggesting that the term "resource guide" be avoided. They suggested that such a guide be more relatable and avoid the "resource guide" stereotype.

Resources Outside 911. The group expressed the importance of having resources available for use by neighborhood residents outside of calling 911.

High School Internships. The group suggested making connections between high school interns and the Northeast community. This was seen as a way of building a sense of ownership in the Northeast.

Measuring Success. The group suggested several ways to measure success, including:

- Higher wages earned by Northeast residents
- Disability applications approved faster and with widened access
- Presence of a strong, engaged volunteer base
- Kansas City Public Schools regaining accreditation

FURTHER INSIGHTS AND SUGGESTIONS

The Summit's focus on respect for individuals and discourse conducted with civility created a space in which housed residents could connect with housed residents and recognize that many who are unhoused are not criminals nor are they bad actors. This leads the event team to suggest that opportunities for recreational engagement between housed and unhoused Northeast residents be created. Such engagement could include community gardens, picnics, concerts, games, beautification activities, classes, and other activities that would bring people together regardless of housing status. Such gatherings would allow residents to mingle safely, since bad actors are likely to avoid those events.

Finding ways to bring housed and unhoused Northeast residents together through recreation will discourage segregation by housing status. Overcoming segregation by status will facilitate success through a more organic community development process.

NORTHEAST KANSAS CITY MOVING FORWARD

Northeast Kansas City has much to offer, and it is poised to move forward with housing solutions based on grassroots solutions. Further, grassroots solutions are most likely to be effective, because they come from those who live and work in the community. Thus, those involved are truly invested in outcomes.

Grassroots solutions include careful consideration of the experiences of those who are or who have been unhoused. Failing to include these voices as solutions are developed, implemented, and evaluated will constrain the possibilities for success in any effort to address houselessness.

The Northeast Kansas City Housing Solutions Summit brought together participants from all walks of life and of different races, ethnicities, education levels, and income. It included members of the LGBTQ+ community and people of different ages. This makes the set of community assets and solutions for addressing houselessness especially powerful, because they came from a grassroots, inclusive effort to come together around a common goal.

Many participants provided very positive feedback at the close of the Summit. They were especially pleased with the direction the gathering is taking the Northeast, and they appreciated the community asset data and other information gathered during the event.

This report was written to provide a foundation for future effort. Many who live, work, or worship in the Northeast are ready to continue the work that began with this Summit.

Recommendations for continuing this work include:

- Engaging in continuous communication among all who want to work to create and maintain housing solutions

- The launch of Neighbors Helping Neighbors learning sessions where housed and unhoused residents may dialogue about critical issues such as what to do and what not to do when seeking to help unhoused neighbors
- Creation of shared recreational opportunities such as a community garden, picnics, concerts, games, beautification activities, classes, and other activities that bring people together regardless of housing status
- The creation and dissemination of a one-page “What to Do and What Not to Do” document on the topic of houselessness
- Preparation of a full community assessment that includes a “deep dive” into community asset organizations serving the Northeast, including an analysis of strengths and potential gaps
- Building collaborative capacity through workshops and other learning experiences so that the Northeast’s resources can be most effectively deployed
- Conducting a strategic planning process specifically for the Northeast and focused on grassroots action
- Fundraising for the purpose of community asset mapping, building collaborative capacity, and strategic planning

The Northeast is poised to become a beacon of hope for neighborhoods throughout Kansas City and beyond. Why? Because the Northeast is willing to come together across sectors, demographic groups, and overcome all barriers to effective community action in addressing houselessness, one of the most critical social problems of our time.

Moving forward will mean continuing to work to build empathy for unhoused residents. It will also mean building an effective, organic community development effort that empowers all who live, work, and worship in the Northeast with knowledge about resources, services, and appropriate responses to the needs of those experiencing houselessness and the community at large.

APPENDIX 1: EVENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Representative Ingrid Burnett

Patricia Hernandez, Northeast Resident Leader

Wick Thomas, Northeast Resident Leader

Amber Bauer, Program Director

Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness (GKCCEH)

Aaron Crossley, LMSW

Project Coordinator, Behavioral Health

Truman Medical Center Behavioral Health

Robbie Phillips, MA LPC

Senior Director, Behavioral Health

Truman Medical Center Behavioral Health

Scott Wagner, Director

Northeast Alliance Together (NEAT)

Marqueia Watson, MSW

Executive Director

Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness (GKCCEH)

Dr. Anne R. Williamson

Principal

Community Analytics, LLC

Members of the event leadership team are grateful to Shane Batschelett of Kansas City University for providing expert IT services throughout the Northeast Kansas City Housing Solutions Summit.

APPENDIX 2: NORTHEAST KANSAS CITY HOUSING SOLUTIONS SUMMIT AGENDA



Northeast Kansas City Housing Solutions Summit

Kansas City University

March 18-20, 2021

AGENDA

Session 1: March 18, 6:00-8:00 pm

Government Officials and Neighborhood Leaders Convene

Session 1 Agenda

6:00-6:10 pm	Welcome Representative Ingrid Burnett
6:10-6:15 pm	The Importance of Person-Centered Language and Civility Marqueia Watson, MSW
6:15-6:45 pm	The Lived Experience of Houselessness Christine Cee Cee
6:45-6:55 pm	Lived Experience Q&A
6:55-7:05 pm	The Neighborhood Perspective Wick Thomas

7:05-7:20 pm	Data Perspectives on Houselessness Marqueia Watson, MSW Amber Bauer
7:20-7:50 pm	Facilitated Discussion Dr. Anne Williamson
7:50-8:00 pm	What's Next in the Housing Solutions Summit? Rep. Ingrid Burnett and Dr. Anne Williamson

Session 2: March 19, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Nonprofits/Activists/Organizers/Service Providers Convene

Session 2 Agenda

9:00-9:10 am	Welcome Representative Ingrid Burnett
9:10-9:20 am	The Importance of Person-Centered Language and Civility Marqueia Watson, MSW
9:20-9:35 am	Overview and Introductions Dr. Anne Williamson
9:35-9:45 am	The Neighborhood Perspective Wick Thomas
9:45-10:00 am	Data Perspectives on Houselessness Marqueia Watson, MSW Amber Bauer
10:00-10:15 am	Using Community Asset Mapping for Effective Collaboration Dr. Anne Williamson
10:15-10:45: am	Facilitated Break-Out Sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing providers (Dr. Anne Williamson; Rep. Burnett) • Other service providers (Amber Bauer; Robbie Phillips, LPC) • Neighborhood groups/activists/organizers (Patricia Hernandez; Wick Thomas)

- Faith-based groups and philanthropic organizations (Aaron Crossley, LMSW; Marqueia Watson, MSW)

10:45-10:55 am	Comfort Break
10:55-11:25 am	Break-Out Session Reports Break-Out Session Representatives and Dr. Anne Williamson
11:25-11:35	Community Assets: Strengths and Gaps Dr. Anne Williamson
11:35 am-12:00 pm	What's Next in the Housing Solutions Summit? Dr. Anne Williamson

Session 3: March 20, 9:00 am-12:00 pm

All Conveners: Public Invited

Session 3 Agenda

9:00-9:10 am	Welcome Representative Ingrid Burnett
9:10-9:20 am	The Importance of Person-Centered Language and Civility Marqueia Watson, MSW
9:20-9:30 am	Overview Dr. Anne Williamson
9:30-10:00 am	The Lived Experience of Houselessness Christine Cee Cee
10:10-10:20	The Neighborhood Perspective Wick Thomas
10:20-10:35 am	Data Perspectives on Houselessness Marqueia Watson, MSW Amber Bauer
10:35-10:45 am	Comfort Break

10:35-10:50 am Northeast Housing Solutions Summit Progress to Date
Dr. Anne Williamson

10:50-11:20 am Solution-Focused Break-Out Sessions

- Chronic Homelessness (Amber Bauer)
- Family Homelessness (Aaron Crossley, LMSW)
- Youth Homelessness (Rep. Burnett; Wick Thomas)
- Human Trafficking (Scott Wagner)
- Neighborhoods/Activists/Organizers (Patricia Hernandez; Marqueia Watson, MSW)
- Social Services (Robbie Phillips, LPC; Dr. Anne Williamson)

11:20-11:45 am Break-Out Session Reports
Break-Out Session Representatives and Dr. Anne Williamson

11:45 am-12:00 pm Northeast Kansas City Moving Forward to Address Houselessness
Representative Ingrid Burnett and Dr. Anne Williamson