

Healing
Homelessness
(And Addiction)

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My Prompt

- Sunshine grocery downtown
- Chatted with security guard
- They catch shoplifters almost every day
- Usually alcoholics
- This shows government addiction policy needs work

We Need More Than Signs



Related Problems

- Emotional trauma → mental illness → addiction
- Poverty → despair → crime → no job → no home
- Financial poverty → poor education → low wages
- Poverty, addiction → disinterested politicians → no social supports → more crime → more jails
- Greed → income inequality → social problems
- Addressing any issue helps all of them
- Reducing crime saves a lot of tax money
- Addiction and homelessness are related

My Friend's Experience

- Decades of alcoholism while poor
- Arrests for disorderly conduct, failure to leave, ...
- No openings for inpatient treatment, they're full
- Always space in the jail, esp. for poor, minorities
- Government values punishment over healing
- Politicians & media appeal more to judgmental extremists than to compassionate progressives
- Radicalization & division hide government corruption

Housing The Homeless

- Saves the government money
- "The remainder of the \$14,000 per tenant annually ... chronically homeless person racks up every year to society - a stunning \$39,458 in combined medical, judicial and other costs."
- See "Study Reveals It Costs Less to Give the Homeless Housing Than to Leave Them on the Street" <https://www.mic.com/articles/86251/study-reveals-it-costs-less-to-give-the-homeless-housing-than-to-leave-them-on-the-street>

Community Based Recovery

- The Other Side Academy provides community based healing
- 2 & ½ years of effort for each student!
- Phenomenal success rate, self-funded
- Average student had 25 arrests, 90% were homeless
- See www.TheOtherSideAcademy.com & "Braking Destructive Patterns and Lifestyles - The Other Side Academy" on youtube
- Kudos to Terry Liggins for the references

Harm Reduction

- Almost taboo in Sioux Falls
- People are afraid of “enabling”
- Wet shelters provide alcohol but reduce consumption rates
- Wet shelters reduce alcoholics begging for “lunch money”
- Prescription heroin reduces crime, addiction, disease

The Link

- City government is making progress
- Provides detox and referral services
- Helps for a few days but addicts need years

Current City Resources

- Glory House, Union Gospel Mission, Banquet
- Saint Francis House, Bishop Dudley House
- Children's Home Shelter for Family Safety
- Jail, hospitals, The Link, The Arch, Safe Home, ...
- Most programs are too short and do not implement harm reduction
- Street panhandlers show there are unmet needs
- Alcoholics shoplifting show the same problem
- Accept people as they are or expect failure

City Initiative

- Currently studying local homelessness
- Kudos to city council for caring

Recommendations

- Save money by investing in homeless people and addiction treatment
- Utilize community based healing that provides years of support
- This is supposedly “one nation under God”
- Accept more, condemn less
- Practice the compassion of Jesus

Enjoy Winter And Puppies

