

Homelessness and Opioid Addiction – A Community Coming Together

Elizabeth B. Goolsby,
Director, VA Medical Center
Fayetteville, NC
February 23, 2017

Homelessness

- Formed by Mayor of Fayetteville and VA Medical Center Director in Spring 2014.
- **Goals**
 - No one will be unhoused for greater than 30 days unless by choice.
 - Identify the holes in the safety net.

Homelessness

- **Philosophy** – it is a community issue to address and shore up holes in the safety net. It is a journey that will require ongoing attention.
- **Methods**
 - Housing first
 - Case management
 - Emergency housing
 - Funding resources

Homelessness

- **Outcome**

- In October 2015, Fayetteville was the third city in the country to be declared, by Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to have achieved functional zero in homelessness for Veterans.

Opioid Abuse and Awareness Task Force

- Formed by Mayor of Fayetteville and VA Medical Center Director in Spring 2016
- **Goals**
 - Reduce number of opioid overdoses.
 - Educate providers who prescribe opioids and options.
 - Bring awareness to the general public on opioid addiction and treatment.
 - Promote treatment and recovery resources.

Opioid Abuse and Awareness Task Force

- **Philosophy** – it is a community issue to address and shore up holes in the safety net
- **Methods** – subcommittees on:
 - Case management/counseling options
 - Professional/public awareness
 - Diversion from the criminal justice system
 - Treatment resources
 - Emergency housing
 - Funding resources