

Mediated Minds Conference, University of Cincinnati, Blue Ash April 19, 2019

Breaking the cycle of criminalizing the homeless

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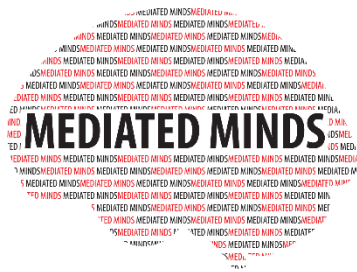
Abstract — In this presentation, I will explain the root causes of homelessness, discuss the repercussions of citations those without a home and give solutions how we can help instead of hinder them. I will discuss a creative way how I was able to get communities throughout the tri-state in helping to eliminate citations for those who are without support. I will explore some cities throughout the United States who has some kind of stipulations for those who are doing their best in trying to survive, and fulfill life basic necessities.

I. INTRODUCTION

Rather than, imprisoning them more housing resources should be funded. Across that United States, small houses are becoming a new trend, this could be community projects that would allow more house for both individuals and families to get them off the streets and into a place they could call home. In the eyes of the law living inside of abandon, homes are considered trespassing instead those homes should be renovated by groups of homeless themselves. Not only would this help many others experiencing homelessness themselves, for example, this could provide them with a job. Other states should adopt what Rhode Island did, after they realized the harsh impact of criminalizing the homeless this state legislation passed the Homeless Person's Bill of Rights in 2012 as claimed by, Lowenstein; from the rapid increase in numbers (14). In 2013 a year later Illinois and Connecticut precede its own law that resembles Rhode Island (14). No one chooses to be homeless and it could happen to anyone, with nowhere else to go and no available shelters what other options are they left with? Jail should never be an option unless; they are breaking the law not exercising the freedom of speech or their rights to move freely.

II. FINDINGS

Many people overlook that causes of homeless instead they look and make judgements with the aftermath. When in fact some are still being affected from the 2008 recession when I found to be very surprising. What is mind boggling to know there are 187 cities across the United States that has some kind of stipulation against the homeless and if they break the law depending on what states it is there are harsh consequences. For an



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example in Atlanta Georgia those who break the law can be fined up to \$1,000 or imprisoned for 30 days. Once they receive a citation and are not able to pay it the chances of them receiving a warrant for their arrest are very high. Even in California their fines are up to \$300 if they break the law for panhandling and trying to fulfill basic needs. There are not real solutions to stopping homeless people from being criminalized, I was able to come up with resolutions to stop the continued cycled.

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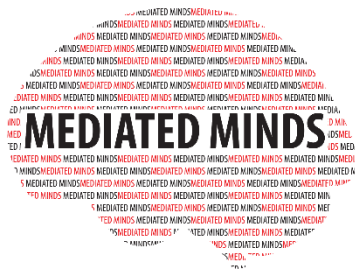
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