

Malibu's Homeless Could Soon Call Norwalk, Home!

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P.S.S. Correspondent

Metropolitan State Hospital in Norwalk becomes the vital resource in addressing homelessness [unhoused] in Malibu. Particularly for individuals experiencing severe mental illness.

While the homeless [unhoused] situation in Malibu, California, has shown a significant positive trend in recent years with a marked decline in the 'unhoused' population. In a April, 2025 report, 'The People Concern Malibu Outreach Team' indicates 49 individuals remain 'ON-STREETS'. This is down from 68, in April, 2024.

This could mark the lowest number recorded since the City began tracking in 2016 and is the fourth consecutive year of decreases. It remains challenging to get precise, real-time numbers.

In 2024, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimated that roughly 771,480 people experienced homelessness in the United States. Approximately 187,000 (24%) were in California.

Various reports provide a connection between homelessness and mental illness in California. A staggering 82% of the homeless population experiences mental health challenges.

Metropolitan State Hospital, located at 11401 Bloomfield Ave., Norwalk, California, opened in 1916 as the Norwalk State Hospital, it's one of California's oldest state hospitals for mental illness. Described as a significant public psychiatric hospital specializing in the care of individuals with severe mental health concerns.

While it's official capacity is reported to be 826 beds with an additional 219 projected to be added by Los Angeles County. Down from the original 392 acres at it's peak. It sits on 162 acres of state property.

California's Governor Gavin Newsom elected on November 6, 2018, has been a key advocate and facilitator of the plan to use unused portions of Metropolitan State Hospital. Specifically for housing, treatment for individuals experiencing homelessness and those with severe mental health challenges.

On July 17, 2024, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the release of up to \$3.3 billion in competitive grant funding from Proposition 1, which provides funding for behavioral health treatment facilities and housing. Particularly on people who are most seriously ill, vulnerable, or homeless. The ballot measure was approved by voters during the Mar. 5, 2024 primary election.

Metropolitan State Hospital, Norwalk, now shares a similar mission with The Veterans Hospital (VA) in West Los Angeles. Officially known as the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center. Although situated on a larger parcel, approximately 400 acres. The medical facility also provides a comprehensive range of mental health and supportive services. It's recently expanded housing is limited to veterans.

On September 6, 2024, United States District Judge for the Central District of California, David O. Carter, ordered the VA to build a substantial number of additional housing units for homeless veterans on the campus. This includes 750 units of temporary housing within 18 months and a plan for 1,800 units of permanent housing within six years (in addition to units already planned). Judge Carter was nominated [appointed] by then President William (Bill) J. Clinton on June 25, 1998.

In June of 2018, The City of Malibu Consultant MIG, Inc. Prepared a '*Homelessness Strategic Plan*.' The plan includes increased efforts to prevent and alleviate homelessness within the city. The increasing presence of people experiencing homelessness has led to public health and safety concerns. The City of Malibu has provided funding to support these efforts.

The City's Public Safety Commission is expected to review the homeless services report at City Hall during their regular meeting on June 4, 2025 at 5:00 p.m.

Section 5 - New Business

Item 5.D. - Homeless Services Monthly Report

Recommended Action: Discuss recent homeless services activities and receive and file the monthly report for April 2025 from 'The People Concern.'

Errors, Omissions, Request for
Corrections & Comments are Welcome -
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