HOMELESS IN MIAMI BEACH

101 QUICK “REFERENCE GUIDE” – by Favela Miami

**Before anything else: not all homeless are bums and thieves:** It is important to understand the difference in order to solve the problem. The majority of them are not criminals. Some of them have SS income or Disability income, and even a job. Their earnings are just to low to pay for housing. Those individuals usually don’t panhandel, and some only panhandel after spending all the earnings (usually on the 2nd half of the month).

**\* CRIMINALS:** Just like people “with homes”, some homeless are just criminals. With or without home, a criminal is a criminal and all of them should be treated andd deale with the same way.

Believe it or not: this is the minority. Most homeless are NOT criminals.

Most drug dealers we see on Ocean Dr., and some other kinds of criminals, hide among this polulation, therefore giving the homeless a “bad name”.

\* Some homeless steal for food. This is called survival. It is NOT OK. It just is how it is. Given the opportunity they will work for their food.

\* Almost all of them have several arrests, most for Trespassing. Trespassing is when they are sleeping somewhere in private or public property, other than a shelter, and it is considered illegal, therefore they get arrested. They spend the night in jail, the judge let them go the next day. Since we ALL must sleep, they will eventually get arrested again, get another record in their file (which complicate their lives when they go for a job intereview), more of OUR tax moneys are spended on this, and the judge let them go the next day again, and so forth… Let the sink in a bit.

**\* TYPES:** We have 2 types of homeless here: Permanent & Transient

Transient tend to stay from 2 weeks to a year. Regardless where they come from, once they “cross the bridge”, they become Miami Beach’s issue.

**\* OTHER CITIES & STATES “DUMP” THEM HERE:** I have personally encountered with several unrelated groups of homeless that all got here overnight. They all stated they were living under a particular bridge in Miami and Miami PD evicted them late at night and instructed them to cross the bridge to Miami Beach.

I have also met with several homeless from Chicago, Ohio & NY that told me they were forced into a bus by their local PD, without knowing what was happening or where they were going. Some 24 hr later they dropped late at night in Miami Beach. Once they experience the “life on the beach”, 99% chose to stay. The remaining 1% find a way back to their State.

**\* MENTALLY ILLNESS:** The majority of Homeless has some form of mental illness. Mental illness is the third largest cause of homelessness for single adults. Mental illness refers to a wide range of mental health conditions — disorders that affect your mood, thinking and behavior.

\* Examples of mental illness include depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, eating disorders and addictive behaviors. Some are very visible: they talk/yell to themselves and/or behave violently.

Some are not visible unless trigged by a word, or became more noticeble after a longer conversation (E.i: a homeless I personally know, seriously thinks he will be discovered by a TV reality show. PS: he is a very nice and educated guy).

A mentally ill person is incapable of making a rational decision.

1st is necessary to get the mentally ill homeless person into treatment, subsequently get them to accept services to help them out of the streets.

**\* JOB:** Several homeless would like to have a job but no one gives them the opportunity.

**\* DRUGS AND/OR ALCOHOL ADDICTIONS:** I would say that ¾ of the homeless have some sort of addiction. When a person 1st become homeless, they don’t necessary have an adiction, but aquire them in order to cope with the streets. Once addicted, it is very hard to get them to rehab. Some became homeless due to an addiction. Either way, today the medical industry recognize adictions as illnesses that need medical attention and treatment. Getting housing 1st is a must in order for those programs to work.

\* Kicking an addiction is hard. Kicking it being homeless is even harder. Part of most addictions are related to depression. It is very hard not to be depressed when you don’t have a home, when you are vunerable, when you have to squat to poop. Let that sink in a bit.

**\* VETERANS:** We have a big number of veterans on the streets. Though research indicates that veterans who served in Vietnam and the post-Vietnam era are at greatest risk of homelessness, veterans returning from the recent conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq often have severe disabilities, including traumatic brain injuries (TBIs) and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) that are known to be correlated with homelessness. And as the military evolves, so too, do the challenges. Homeless women veterans, for instance, are far more common now than in any other time in the past. They served our Country. They served us. Now most people look at them as if they are garbage… Let that sink in a bit.

**\* YOUTH:** It’s not always easy to identify youth on the streets through typical counts of un-sheltered people experiencing homelessness. Homeless youth are less likely to spend time in the same places as homeless people who are in an older age range. They are often less willing to disclose that they’re experiencing homelessness or may not even identify as homeless. They may work harder to try to blend in with peers who aren’t homeless. They also go to school but may not identify themselves. There is an increasing number of homeless teens couch-surfing.

**\* TRAUMATIZING EVENT:** like the loss of their entire family due to accident, have suffered severe illness affecting their income and loss of their assets, loss of a job and not being able to find a new one in time while living from paycheck to paycheck. Most of them fall into alcoholism and/or drug addiction to "ease the mental pain" in order to be able to cope.

**WHAT IS THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH DOING?**

\* The City has a Homeless & Community Services Division. They do outreach every weekday. They have several options and programs (see their Referral Form below).

\* The MBPD also has 5 officers and 1 Lieutenant that specialize in homelessness. They also do outreach every weekday, unless when on Alfa/Bravo schedule.

\* Bi-yearly, the Miami Dade County Homeless Trust conducts a census on every city, so each city knows how many homeless are living in each city. The CMB has an average of 180 homeless residing here. Residing means they sleep here. Census are conducted late night.

**MOST COMMON SERVICES OFFERED BY THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH:**

\* ID replacement \* SS benefits \* Shelter placement \* Permanent housing

\* Substance Abuse Treatment \* Mental Health Treatment \* Help w job

\* Relocation: The City gives them a bus pass to their cities, (after confirming with a relative or friend, that they will be picked up & housed upon arrival at destination) food and drives them to bus terminal

\* Legal Services

\* Marchman Act: when a person using substances my harm themselves or others, or when too intoxicated and unable to make a decision about helping themselves, PD take them to a rehab. Their stay is not forced, but if they leave the treatment, an arrest order will be in order, for 30 days in prison. This will not count as criminal record

\* Baker Act: Forced hospital admission when a person is dangerous to himself or others, due to mental illness

\*\* NOTE: Some services are paid by the taxpayers, others by non-profits, others by The County’s Homeless Trust. The MB office has approx. a $1.7M budget.

**WHAT IS FAVELA MIAMI DOING?**

Favela Miami is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that works as a “bridge” between the Homeless individuals, the City & County’ services.

\* We facilitate communication between the Homeless and the several agencies that are able to service them, including our City’s Homeless office and our Police Dept. They can interact in a more relaxed environment thru our events, therefore achieving better and faster success.

\* We do outreach and help Homeless individuals to accept shelter and/or rehab (for substance abuse), or relocate back with their families, and/or accept mental services help. We also direct them to free legal services if needed.

\* We employ Homeless individuals that are living in shelters.

\* We help Homeless individuals that are living in shelter to find fulltime, permanent jobs.

\* We facilitate free Resumes.

\* We prepare them for interviews, and provide shower, shaving, haircut, clean work clothes & accessories.

\* We help them find permanent housing either thru governmental programs, or by obtaining Section 8 vouchers, or by when they are placed in permanent jobs and are ready financially.

\* We help families to find their loved ones on the street (some Homeless are schizophrenics and have left home, not knowing who they are, and find themselves wondering on the streets).

**WHAT TO DO IF I SEE A HOMELESS THAT NEEDS ASSISTANCE**

**OR IS CAUSING TROUBLE?**

1) **For Assistance during business hours** (7:30am to 4pm): call the City’s Homeless Services Division: 305-604-4663

**\* NOTE**: before contacting anyone, ASK the Homeless person if him/her wants assistance. If they refuse help, there is nothing anyone can do…

2) **Off Hours Assistance or if a homeless is Causing Trouble or if he/she is a danger to themselves or others**: Call the Police non-emergency line: 305-673-7901 Unless is an Emergency, then dial 911

3) **Text Valerie**: 786-546-2422 (short text only, to the point).

FYI: BELOW IS THE REFERRAL FORM FROM THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, HOMELESS SERVICES DIVISION

Homeless Services Division

771 17th Street

Miami Beach, FL 33139

Tel: (305) 604-4663

Fax: (305) 604-4094



**Referral Form**

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| **Name:**  **Date of Birth:**  **SS #:**  **Sex: 🞏** male **🞏** female **🞏** transgender  **Contact Information:**  **Telephone #\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**  **Email \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** | **HMIS #:  *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***  **Race:**  🞏 White 🞏 Black, AA 🞏 Other *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*  **Ethnicity:**  🞏 Hispanic 🞏 Non-Hispanic |

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| **Shelter/ Housing Services:** | |
| * + Camillus House   + Chapman Partnership 1   + Chapman Partnership 2   + Lotus House | * + Salvation Army – Miami Beach Bed   + Salvation Army – Homeless Trust Bed   + Miami Rescue Mission – Miami Beach Bed   + Miami Rescue Mission – Homeless Trust Bed |

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| **Treatment Services:** |
| * + Miami Rescue Mission –Treatment   + Central Intake Unit – Substance Abuse |

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| **Medical Services:** | |
| * + Camillus Health Concern Clinic   + Douglas Gardens Community Mental Health Ctr.   + Miami Beach Community Health Center | * + Borinquen Health   + Jackson Memorial Hospital Triage:   🞏 Crisis 🞏 Detox 🞏 Medical Attention |

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| **Legal Services:** | |
| * + Legal Services of Greater Miami   + Catholic Charities Legal Services Inc.   + Camillus House | * + Social Security Administration   + US Citizenship & Immigration   + Other |

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| **Food/Meal Services:** | | **Job Employment Services:** |
| * + St. Patrick’ Church – *Sat 11 – 12pm*   + St. Joseph Church – *Sat 11 – 12pm*   + Temple Beth Shalom - *1st Tues 3:45pm* | * + Food Stamp Office | * + Hope in Miami Dade, Inc.   + CareerSource South Florida,   Miami Beach Center |

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| **Other Services:** |
| Community Action Agency |
| **Other:** |
| **Other/Comments:** |
| NOTE TO RECIPIENT AGENCY: This referral has been issued by the Office of Homeless Services in order to help the above-mentioned client. We greatly appreciate  your assistance in addressing the client’s needs. The agency must immediately notify the City of Miami Beach of any legal claims that are filed by the client. If you  suspect this document may have been altered or tampered with, please contact us at (305) 604-4663. |

**Staff Signature: Date:**

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| **Beckham Hall** | 2735 NW 10th Ave, Miami, FL 33127 (305) 634-2294 |
| **Better Way of Miami, Inc.** | 800 NW 28th. St., Miami, FL.33127(305) 634-3409 |
| **Camillus Health Clinic** | 336 NW 5th Street, Miami, FL 33128 (305) 374-1065 |
| **Camillus House Shelter** | 726 NE 1st Ave, Miami, FL 33132 (305) 374-1065 |
| **Carrfour Supportive Housing** | 222 71st Street, Miami Beach, FL 33141 (305) 756-722 |
| **Catholic Charities Legal Services Inc.** | 150 SE 2nd Ave. #200, Miami, Florida (305) 373-073 |
| **Central Intake Unit** | 2500 NW 22 Ave. Miami, Florida 33142 (305) 638-6540 |
| **Citrus Health Network, Inc.** | 4175 W 20th Avenue, Hialeah, FL 33012-5875 (305) 825-0300 |
| **Community Action Agency** | 833 6th Street, Miami Beach, FL 33139 (305) 672 1705 |
| **Comprehensive Health Center** | 650 NW 120th St. North Miami, FL 33168 (305) 688-0811 |
| **Douglas Gardens Community Mental Health Center** | 701 Lincoln Road, Miami Beach, FL (305) 531-5341 |
| **Chapman Partnership 1** | 1550 N. Miami Avenue, Miami, FL 33136 (305) 329-3000 |
| **Chapman Partnership 2** | 28205 SW 125th Ave., Homestead, Fl. 33033 (305) 416- 7146 |
| **Jackson Memorial Hospital:** | 1600 NW 10th Avenue, Miami, Fl 33136  Hotline (305) 324-4357 Crisis (305) 355-7377 |
| **Jewish Community Services – Job Placements** | 1436 Pennsylvania Ave, Miami Beach, FL 33139 (305) 672-466 |
| **Legal Services of Greater Miami** | 3000 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33137 (305) 576-0080 |
| **Lutheran Services – Housing Services** | 16201 SW 95th Avenue, Suite 300, Miami, FL 33157  (305) 969-8700 |
| **Miami Beach Community Health Center (MBCHC)** | 710 Alton Road, Miami Beach, Fl. 33139 (305) 538-8835 |
| **Miami Beach Hispanic Community Center** | 1701 Normandy Dr., Miami Beach, Fl 33141 (305) 867-051 |
| **Miami Rescue Mission** | 2020 NW 1st Ave., Miami, FL 33127 (305) 571-2211 |
| **Mother Teresa – Missionaries of Charity** | 724 NW 17th Street, Miami, FL 33136 (305) 326-0032 |
| **New Horizon** | 1313 NW 36th Street, Miami, FL 33142 (305) 635-0366 |
| **One Stop Career Center / MBHCC** | 833 6th Street, 2. Floor Miami Beach, FL 33139 (305) 532-350 |
| **Riverside House, Substance Abuse** | 968 Northwest 2nd Street, Miami, Florida 33128 (305) 545-8292 |
| **Salvation Army** | 1907 NW 38th Street, Miami, FL 33142 (305) 637-6720 |
| **St. Joseph’s Church**  *(Food Saturday only 09:00 am – 12:00 pm)* | 8670 Byron Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33141 (305) 866-6567 |
| **St. Patrick’s Church** *(Food Saturday only 09:00 am -12:00 pm)* | 3716 Garden Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33140 (305) 531-124 |
| **Temple Beth Shalom**  *( First Tuesday of every month at 3:00 pm)* | 4144 Chase Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33140 (305) 538-7231 |
| **Transition Inc.** | 1550 NW 3rd Ave. Miami, FL 33128 (305) 374-1987 |
| **US Citizenship & Immigration** | 7880 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, Florida 33138 1-800-375-283 |
| **US Social Security Administration** | 1801 Alton Road Suite 200, Miami Beach, FL 33139  (305) 538-704 or *1-800-772-213* |
| **Volunteers of America – Supportive Housing** | 1492 W. Flagler Street Miami, FL 33135 (305) 644-0335 |
| **Miami Beach Community Development Corp. (MBCDC)** | 542 Jefferson Ave., Miami Beach, Fl. 33139 (305)535-8002 |