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Kansas City Star, The (MO)

August 25, 2004

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Group backs more services for homeless

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The homeless in downtown Kansas City need more than a new multipurpose center, a group of providers told a task force Tuesday.

"It is still key, but if you really want to change the face of the homeless downtown, it will take more than building one building - it will take a more comprehensive approach,"

Cynthia Larcom, director of the Homeless Services Coalition of Greater Kansas City, said at a meeting of the Downtown Community Task Force.

The task force has been working on the idea of building a homeless day service center in Kemp Park, at 10th and Harrison streets. A study by University of Kansas architecture students said the park site could be home to a two-story, 90,000-square-foot building at a cost of about \$16.4 million

This summer, 25 to 35 providers met to draw up recommendations for the task force. The task force decided Tuesday to seek money to complete a business plan based on the recommendations.

The recommendations:

Build a multipurpose homeless service center.

Create a new location for Truman Medical Centers' Homeless Support Project/Assertive Community Outreach, which will have to be relocated because of the new downtown arena. The team includes outreach, case management and treatment for homeless adults with serious mental illness and substance abuse disorders.

Expand medical services and clinics.

Provide more facilities to treat intoxicated homeless people instead of jailing them.

Expand housing options.

Increase the number of street outreach workers and the collaboration among them.

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