

COMMUNITY FORUM ON HOMELESSNESS

The City of Pensacola will host a Community Forum on Homelessness on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 from 4 to 6 pm in Council Chamber at City Hall, 222 W. Main Street. The Community Forum will be conducted by Dr. Robert Marbut, who has been working with other Florida communities to make dramatic and consequential change in how they deliver services to address the growing number of homeless families and individuals in our state.

First as a volunteer, then later as a San Antonio City Councilperson/Mayor-Pro-Tem and a homeless service agency President/CEO, Dr. Robert Marbut has worked on homeless issues for more than three decades.

In 2007, frustrated by the lack of real improvement, and as part of the concept development phase for the Haven for Hope Campus, Dr. Marbut conducted a nationwide best practices study of homeless services. After personally visiting 237 homeless service facilities in 12 states and the District of Columbia, he developed *The Seven Guiding Principles of Homeless Transformation*. Since then, Dr. Marbut has visited a total of 636 operations in 21 states, plus Washington, D.C. and Mexico City.

Dr. Marbut was a White House Fellow to President George H.W. Bush and former chief of staff to San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros. He earned a Ph.D. from The University of Texas at Austin Department of Government.

Marbut Consulting was established in 1984. Originally, Marbut Consulting focused on public policy and marketing. Since 2005, Dr. Marbut has focused solely on homeless services consulting. Dr. Marbut has helped dozens of communities address issues of homelessness. His most comprehensive work was the start-from-scratch to opening of Haven for Hope in San Antonio.

Nationally-renowned Haven for Hope is the largest and most comprehensive “transformational campus” in the United States. The total campus sits on 37 acres with 15 major buildings and almost half a million square feet under roof. More than 80 faith-based, non-profit and government service partners work together to holistically and proactively help nearly 2,300 residents daily.

A key to Dr. Marbut’s success is the ability to work with a wide range of parties and interests to develop logical and well-planned initiatives that are doable in the real world. Marbut Consulting has helped communities to dramatically reduce their homeless street populations while improving street graduation rates. While traditional shelters may have graduation rates of 5 to 9 percent, transformative communities around the country have graduation success rates of 51 to 84 percent.