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Panel to discuss homelessness  
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To the editor:

Is it possible to end homelessness? A panel of experts will discuss this idea Monday, April 11, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Coloradoan Community Room, 1300 Riverside in Fort Collins.

Panelist Amber Callendar is executive director of Denver's Road Home, a nationally recognized model program recently featured on the PBS News-hour.

It costs Denver about \$40,000 a year to maintain the health and safety of a chronically homeless person, but the cost dropped to about \$17,000 once the person was housed. Denver's Road Home documented a 60 percent decrease in emergency services for people enrolled in the Housing First program.

The number of homeless people booked into Denver County Jail dropped 16 percent from 2006 to 2008 and the cost dropped \$3.1 million in the same period. Panhandling dropped 90 percent.

Panelist Bryce Hach is executive director of Homeward2020, Fort Collins' program to end homelessness in 10 years. In November, 150 people were identified as chronically homeless. Forty-two of those accounted for 70 percent of the hospitalizations for the homeless, 20 percent are veterans, and 66 said they had been violently attacked.

Panelist Glorie Magrum is executive director of House of Neighborly Service in Loveland. The 137 Homeless Connection day shelter and resource center has seen client numbers increase from 49 in 2007-08 to 115 in 2010-11 and the night shelter provided by churches from 45 in 2007-08 to 105 in 2010-11.

Please plan to attend this forum and find out how you can help.

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