

# Bartlett Regional Hospital

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[www.bartletthospital.org](http://www.bartletthospital.org)

August 6, 2018

Dear Mr. Watt,

As the initiative to build phase two of housing first gets underway, I would like to clarify Bartlett Regional Hospital's position.

I believe that the Housing First program, phase 1, has been a great thing for the CBJ. It has reduced the vagrancy downtown, and the use of the sleep off facility and Bartlett's emergency department, by the residents of Housing First, has been reduced dramatically. These are both tremendous for the community and the system as a whole. The overall use of sleep off has gone from an average occupancy of 75% prior to under 25% after the program's start up. ED visits from these residents have fallen by 60%.

The financial implications are not as intuitive.

**Sleep off:** 95% of the cost of running sleep off is staffing. We operate with a minimum core staff whether we are full, or empty. Therefore, actual savings are minimal. There is no income to Bartlett Regional Hospital from the sleep off program other than the CBJ grant of Alcohol and Tobacco tax monies.

**Emergency Room:** A similar situation exists in the emergency room. The reduced usage by sleep off residents does not reach the economies of scale that would allow us to downsize staff. We actually lose some revenue since some of these visits would be covered by Medicaid or Medicare. The positive impacts on the ED are a slight reduction in cost of supplies that might be used and some decongestion of the waiting room.

While the Housing First program is wonderful for the community, it cannot be funded by savings from the hospital, because they don't exist.

Sincerely,



Chuck Bill, CEO  
Bartlett Regional Hospital