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December 19, 2005

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director
Department of Public Social Services

David Sanders, Director
Department of Children and Family Services

Marvin Southard, Director
Department of Mental Health

Thomas Garthwaite, Director
Department of Health Services

SUBJECT: REPORT ON SKID ROW OUTREACH STRATEGIES (BOARD MOTION 27E – OCTOBER 25, 2005)

On October 25, 2005, your Board instructed us to take further actions to enhance County services to homeless families in the skid row area. Your motion also instructed us to provide monthly reports on our activities. This memo provides our first report. The specific actions in the motion were:

- Visit each shelter and mission on skid row each business day to provide information and take applications for DPSS benefits and services.
- Enhance the Skid Row Outreach team with a DPSS Homeless Case Manager.
- Ensure that every child encountered is assessed by DCFS.
- Ensure that eligible families will have access to CalWORKs, mental health services and substance abuse services.
- Establish a protocol to address the needs of homeless families on skid row while receiving CalWORKs benefits from another County.

In response to these instructions, we have taken the following actions:

- DPSS Eligibility Workers (EWs) have been outstationed in the skid row area at the Midnight Mission, Weingart Access Center and Union Rescue Mission to facilitate access to benefits and services for homeless families. The EWs also conduct daily visits to skid row area shelters and missions to identify and connect families to homeless services and benefits.

- A DPSS Homeless Case Manager joined the Skid Row Outreach Team (SROT) with the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), DMH and DCFS.

    - DPSS staff on the SROT is responsible for providing initial case management assessments, including screenings for domestic violence and substance abuse and ensuring that those families potentially eligible to CalWORKs are taken to the outstationed EWs.

    - DCFS staff on the SROT is responsible for conducting screenings for intervention and/or appropriate referrals to the child abuse hotline as needed.

    - DMH staff on the SROT is responsible for conducting mental health screenings and providing appropriate mental health treatment referrals for families that would benefit from such service.

- DPSS has reinforced to staff, existing State policy that homeless families receiving CalWORKs benefits from another county are to be evaluated for eligibility to homeless services and benefits. If eligible, DPSS will issue the Temporary Homeless Assistance benefits and contact the other county to have the Inter-County Transfer case expedited.

- On November 3, 2005, a meeting between the County departments and the Los Angeles Central Providers Collaborative was held at the Union Rescue Mission. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss how best to maximize collaboration between the County departments and the providers in the delivery of services to families with children on skid row. Representatives from approximately ten skid row agencies attended along with representatives from DPSS, DCFS, DHS, DMH and LAHSA. As a result of this meeting, the following action items were developed:

    1. LAHSA to convene a meeting of agencies with outreach teams on skid row to identify the size, focus, frequency and outcomes of the outreach teams.

       Status: On December 5, 2005, a meeting was held at LAHSA with skid row outreach agencies and the four County departments. As a result of this meeting, LAHSA is sending out a survey form to all outreach teams to gather details on their activities. A follow-up meeting will be held with outreach teams to discuss how to better coordinate outreach activities.

2. DPSS to convene a meeting with case managers from shelters and missions on skid row to provide information on available services in each County department and distribute contact information and handouts on existing services for the providers to use.

   Status: On December 9, 2005, the meeting, coordinated by Chrysalis and DPSS, was held at the Central City Community Outreach Center. All four County departments provided presentations to the case managers and informational sheets were distributed with contact numbers for the County staff in the skid row area. It was emphasized that the DPSS Homeless Case Managers would coordinate with shelter case managers when a homeless CalWORKs family was in their shelter.

3. DCFS and DPSS to convene a meeting with the SROT, the DPSS Eligibility Workers, and representatives from the Union Rescue Mission, Midnight Mission, Los Angeles Mission, People in Progress, Volunteers of America, and Sunrise to discuss the role of DCFS staff on the Skid Row Outreach Team and in the evenings.

   Status: This meeting was held on December 14, 2005 at the Union Rescue Mission.

4. DCFS to provide training to shelter case managers at the Community Roundtable Meeting.

   Status: Training will be scheduled early next year.

5. DHS to explore an on-line or hard copy Resource Guide for skid row family services for use by public and community agencies.

   Status: DHS is evaluating the information to be included in the guide.

Attached is the November 2005 monthly report to summarize the contacts made by the SROT and the outstationed DPSS EWs.

BY:DS:MS:TG:le

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

MONTHLY REPORT ON SKID ROW OUTREACH STRATEGIES
November 2005

	This month	Since 1/18/05
Referrals		
A. Family Referrals		
1. Walk-ins at Weingart Access Center	19	118
2. Walk-ins at Midnight Mission/referred by other shelters and missions	33	63
3. Walk-ins at Union Rescue Mission	0	0
4. Contacted by Skid Row Outreach Team	18	380
a. Taken/referred to the Weingart/Union Rescue/Midnight Mission	4	32
b. Not taken/referred to the Weingart/Union Rescue//Midnight Mission	14	348
Total (A.1+2+3+4)	70	561
B. Families Receiving or Referred to CalWORKs		
1. Number of families receiving CalWORKs	61	293
2. Number of families referred to CalWORKs	9	29
3. Number of families who declined a CalWORKs referral	0	239
Total (B.1+2+3)	70	561
C. Reason Families Declined a CalWORKs Referral (from B.3)		
1. Immigration status		
2. Receiving aid in another State		
3. Concerned about DCFS involvement		
4. Child Custody issues		
5. Refused to state		
6. Other (give reason)		
Total (C.1+2+3+4+5+6)		
Assistance		
D. Families Referred To CalWORKs (from B.2)		
1. Approved and issued CalWORKs	7	13
2. Denied CalWORKs (i.e., excess income, working full-time)	2	11
3. Not processed (client walked out)	0	5
Total (D.1+2+3)	9	29
E. Homeless Services (from B.1 and D.1)		
1. Approved and issued homeless services (Homeless Assistance)	21	146
2. Denied homeless services (not homeless, exhausted benefits)	21	109
a. Referred for emergency shelter/voucher	18	81
b. Staying with friends/relatives or other housing arrangement	3	28
3. Declined DPSS Homeless Services	26	45
Total (E.1+2+3)	68	306
F. Reason for Declining Homeless Services (from E.3)		
1. Already participating in a homeless program with a shelter/missio		
2. Other arrangement		
Total (F.1+2)		
Services – Families who were referred to/are receiving services		
G. Welfare-to-Work (from B.1 and D.1)		
1. In GAIN/Employed	20	160
2. GAIN Exempt (disabled, child under one, caring for disabled relative, adult not aided, etc)	45	135
3. Time Limited	3	11
H. Department of Mental Health (DMH) Services		
1. Evaluation for the CalWORKs Families Project	0	75
2. Clinical Assessment/Referral to Downtown Mental Health	8	62
3. Crisis Intervention	0	0
4. Psychiatric Mobile Response Team (PMRT) evaluation	0	0
I. Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS)		
1. Screened for DCFS services	70	561
2. Referred to Child Protective Services/Hotline	0	1
3. Referred to Family Support Services (i.e., family intervention/counseling/etc.)	0	4

New data to be tracked Effective 12-5-05

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