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June 22, 2006

To: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

LOS ANGELES COUNTY HOMELESS PREVENTION INITIATIVE STATUS REPORT (BUDGET DELIBERATIONS OF JUNE 26, 2006)

On April 4, 2006, your Board approved the Los Angeles County Homeless Prevention Initiative (HPI) and instructed my Office to provide a status report on the implementation of the 11 key recommendations no later than June 26, 2006. The Chief Administrative Office (CAO)/Service Integration Branch (SIB) continues to facilitate implementation work groups for specific key recommendations with participation from the Community Development Commission (CDC), the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Health Services (DHS), Mental Health (DMH), Public Social Services (DPSS), Probation, and the Sheriff (County Team).

CAO staff has conducted several presentations of the HPI to councils of government (COGs), city managers and other city officials, and homeless and housing coalitions located throughout the County. In addition, several community based agencies and homeless and housing stakeholders from throughout the County have participated in the HPI implementation planning process.

The following is a status update on the implementation planning for the 11 key recommendations:

Homeless and Housing Program (HHP) Fund

The CAO and the County Team convened a stakeholder forum on June 1, 2006 to discuss the $80 million HHP Fund, a one-time allocation of County General Fund dollars. Over 125 stakeholders participated in the forum. Stakeholders were asked to provide input and ideas on four proposed funding categories: Capital Development, Supportive Services, Housing Subsidies, and Administration. At the conclusion of this event, it was agreed that further outreach regarding the HHP Fund is necessary. To this end, stakeholders from throughout the County have been requested to provide input on the suggested funding categories, as well as to provide additional suggested funding categories. Based upon this input, a revised conceptual allocation plan will be prepared and shared at several regional stakeholder meetings prior to being submitted to your Board for consideration at the September 19, 2006, supplemental budget deliberations.

Stabilization Centers

The CAO and the County Team have discussed opportunities and constraints to siting the five stabilization centers with various cities, as well as regional COGs and homeless coalitions. CAO/SIB and the Sheriff Department are also meeting with the VERA Institute of Justice to discuss best practices used by the City of New York for similar type facilities and programs. One or more implementation planning work groups will be convened in the near future that will include County departments and community stakeholders. An estimated timeline or timelines for implementation cannot be developed until specific sites are identified.

Skid Row Homeless Family Access Center (HFAC)

The CAO is meeting with the County departments that will be housed at the HFAC and community based agencies that work with Skid Row families to develop the programs and begin identifying occupants for the facility. In addition, staff is negotiating with Skid Row service agencies to provide temporary space for the Skid Row Families Engagement and Out-Reach team currently serving Skid Row families. The Team is composed of staff of DCFS, DPSS, DHS, and DMH.

Homeless Court Program

The CAO is meeting with representatives from the Superior Court, County Public Defender, CAO/Intergovernmental Relations Branch, and the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office to discuss implementation of the Homeless Court Program and the hiring of staff for the Program. The Superior Court is currently working on the scope of work for two clerks that they will hire under the HPI budget and CAO/SIB is working on a scope of work and solicitation process, e.g., RFQ, for the hiring of two Homeless

Court Coordinators also provided for in the HPI Homeless Court budget. CAO/SIB has also engaged community providers experienced in administering the Homeless Court Program for input on best practices. Although the Program is slated to be conducted at the Stabilization Centers, implementation of the Program could begin at a temporary site(s) before the Centers open.

Prototype Court

The HPI's only involvement with DMH's Prototype Court is annual monetary allocation of $200,000 to support the Court. Once this funding is available upon your approval of the FY 2006-07 County Budget and DMH is successful in launching its Court, DMH and the CAO will take the steps necessary to transfer these funds to DMH for support of the Prototype Court.

Housing Locators

The DMH has completed their duty statements for new Housing Locator positions which will be funded through the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Community Support and Services Plan, which your Board approved on May 30, 2006. The funding will be allocated as a part of the FY 2006-07 County Budget. Once the budget is approved, DMH will submit a request to the Department of Human Resources for approval to create new positions. DMH projects that it will take until October 2006 to complete the hiring process.

The DPSS has received and reviewed two proposals for Housing Locator services; one proposal was submitted only for Service Planning Area (SPA) 4 and the second proposed services for all 8 SPAs. One of two proposals was recommended for funding by the review Panel. DPSS is in negotiations with the recommended proposer as a possible provider of CalWORKs and General Relief housing locator services for all 8 SPAs. DPSS estimates to have a contract in place within the next two months.

County General Fund will be used to secure housing locator services through the DPSS contract for homeless families or individuals who are not eligible for DMH or DPSS funded services.

Housing Database

The CAO and CDC staffs are working in concert to develop a scope of work and contract to hire a consultant to develop and maintain the Housing Database. The target date for implementation of the Database is January 2007.

General Relief (GR) Housing Subsidy and Case Management Program

The DPSS is currently updating their LEADER Program to allow them to transfer the GR Grant portion of the subsidy directly to the respective landlord. In addition, DPSS is working to develop a case management curriculum and is recruiting staff to take the GR case manager positions. The target date for implementation of the Program is July 25, 2006.

DPSS County Jails and Hospitals Benefit Applications Pilot Programs

The DPSS is working with the Sheriff's Department to implement the "Homeless Release Project Pilot" through which benefit applications will be processed for jail inmates just prior to their release. Application staff units consisting of seven (7) Eligibility Workers (EWs), one (1) Eligibility Supervisor, and clerical support staff will be housed at the Inmate Reception Center, the Men's Central Jail, and the Century Regional Detention Facility. These application staff units will take applications for GR, CalWORKs, Food Stamps, SSI, and Medi-Cal. In addition, DPSS is working with DHS to implement a Homeless Release Project Pilot at LAC+USC Medical Center, Olive View Medical Center, Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, and Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center to take applications. Both pilots are targeted for July 2006 implementation.

Homeless and Service Enriched Housing Initiatives Coordinator

The CAO is developing a job description and recruitment bulletin for an open competitive exam to fill the Coordinator position. The exam should be posted shortly after the funding for the position is approved as a part of the FY 2006-07. It is estimated that the Coordinator will be hired before the end of the current calendar year.

If you have questions or require additional information please contact me, or your staff may contact Lari Sheehan at lsheehan@cao.co.la.ca.us or (213) 893-2477.

DEJ:LS
MDC:os

c: Leroy D. Baca, Sheriff
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Dr. Bruce A. Chernof, Director and Chief Medical Officer of Health Services
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