



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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May 9, 2017

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

From: Sachi A. Hamai
Chief Executive Officer

HOMELESS INITIATIVE QUARTERLY REPORT #5

On February 9, 2016, the Board of Supervisors (Board) approved the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative (HI) recommendations, including 47 Strategies to combat homelessness, and instructed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to report back to the Board on a quarterly basis regarding the implementation status and outcomes of each Strategy. The last quarterly report was provided to the Board on February 9, 2017. This is the fifth HI quarterly report to the Board which addresses the implementation status of the 47 approved Strategies with highlights and impact stories, status of Board directives and motions, and other key HI activities.

Status Update on HI Strategies

Of the 47 HI Strategies approved by the Board, 29 have been fully or partially implemented, 12 are targeted to be implemented by July 2017, three by September 2017 and three have implementation dates that are yet to be determined, as reflected in Attachment I. Implementation status and next steps for the 47 HI Strategies can be found in Attachment II.

Strategy Implementation Highlights

County departments and their community partners have made substantial progress in implementing the HI Strategies approved by the Board; implementation highlights to date include:

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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- **A1: Homeless Prevention Program for Families**
179 families have retained permanent housing; 413 families are currently being assisted with homeless prevention services.
- **A2: Discharge Planning Guidelines**
The Discharge Planning Guidelines were finalized in April 2017 after being vetted by impacted departments.
- **B1: Provide Subsidized Housing to Homeless Disabled Individuals Pursuing SSI**
Through March 31, 2017, 124 individuals have been housed and 370 are searching for housing.
- **B3: Partner with Cities to Expand Rapid Re-Housing**
594 households have been housed; 1,014 households are enrolled in various stages of engagement leading to rapid-rehousing. Additionally, the County has executed a partnership agreement with the City of West Covina and is currently working on contracts with the cities of Alhambra, Pasadena, Santa Monica, and West Hollywood to expand rapid re-housing for individuals.
- **B4: Facilitate Utilization of Federal Housing Subsidies**
There were 342 landlord requests to participate in the Homeless Incentive Program (HIP), with 297 vacant units secured for voucher holders, and an additional 27 vacant units being processed. There were 254 homeless households successfully housed, with an additional nine households in the final stages of placement.
- **B7: Interim/Bridge Housing for those Exiting Institutions**
During this reporting period 196 individuals were placed into bridge housing.
- **C1: Enhance the CalWORKs Subsidized Employment Program for Homeless Families**
As of March 31, 2017, 160 referrals for subsidized employment for homeless families were made to contracted-Community-Based Organizations. Of these, 42 parents have been placed in a subsidized job, of whom two have secured unsubsidized employment.
- **C2: Increase Employment Opportunities for Homeless Adults by Supporting Social Enterprise**
29 Social Enterprises have been certified as eligible to receive contracting preferences through the Social Enterprise Preference Program.
- **C4/C5/C6: Establish a Countywide SSI and Veterans Advocacy Program for Individuals, Veterans and Inmates**
On March 8, 2017, the Board approved seven vendors for the Countywide Benefits Advocacy Program.

- ***D2: Jail in Reach***
From January through March 2017, 1,000 clients have been engaged through Jail in Reach with 840 completing the VI-SPDAT, 117 declining to participate, 73 determined not to be homeless, and 35 not served due to other circumstances, e.g., were on their way to prison or State hospital, already released, transferred to another facility, already accepted to a community program, or did not finish the assessment due to hostile behavior.
- ***E4: First Responders Training***
The First Responders Training curriculum, initiated on December 7, 2016, has held 13 classes and trained approximately 415 deputies and sergeants.
- ***E8: Enhance the Emergency Shelter System***
The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), in partnership with public and private service providers, began implementing the low threshold guidelines to increase access and utilization of shelters. From July 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017, 602 households exited the shelter system into permanent housing.
- ***E14: Enhanced Services for Transition Age Youth***
Through the successful implementation of the Youth Coordinated Entry System, 1,194 youth have been assessed using the Next Step Tool, of which 452 youth have been housed.

The impact of the HI is illustrated in Attachment III, which includes stories of formerly homeless families and individuals who have been successfully assisted.

Board Directives and Motions

In addition to approving the 47 Homeless Initiative Strategies on February 9, 2017, the Board has directed the CEO to complete various homeless-related activities. The following are updates on some of those directives:

- **Motion 47-A, Directive #5: Pilot to Incentivize the Use of Prefabricated Construction**
On April 11, 2016, the CEO provided the Board with a report recommending that the County issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to develop homeless housing on County-owned property with an option that proposals be innovative in utilizing pre-fabricated/shipping container construction. The pilot is proposed to be included in HI Strategy F6: Using Public Land for Homeless Housing. The CEO's Asset Management division is in the final stages of compiling a list of suitable County-owned properties that could be used for homeless housing. Details of the RFP, including the list of properties, are expected to be provided to the Board by the summer of 2017.

- **Motion 47-A, Directive #8: Permanent Supportive Housing for Homeless Individuals Diverted from the Criminal Justice System**

On February 9, 2016, the Board adopted Motion 47-A, Directive #8, requesting a report back on a recommended Strategy for the construction of no less than 1,000 units of permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals diverted from the criminal justice system. On February 6, 2017, the CEO provided a report to the Board which indicated that the collaborative analysis does not support a recommendation to pursue a financing program for diversion housing that would ultimately be dependent on a General Fund subsidy.

After addressing the financing component of the motion, the CEO has focused on identifying underutilized or vacant properties that could support the construction of permanent supportive housing for the homeless population, including the diversion population. As noted above, the CEO's Asset Management division is in the final stages of compiling a list of suitable County-owned properties that could be used for housing for a range of homeless populations (e.g. youth, family, veteran, diversion, and medically recuperating) and will be reviewed with the applicable Board offices this summer. After receiving direction from each Board office, prospective sites that lend themselves to private development will be packaged into competitive solicitations for housing developer consideration. It is anticipated that some of these sites could be used for permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals diverted from the criminal justice system.

- **Measure H Revenue Planning Process**

On December 6, 2016, the Board adopted an ordinance placing Measure H on the March 7, 2017 countywide ballot. The voters of Los Angeles County approved Measure H with 69.34% of the vote, which establishes a quarter cent countywide special sales tax for a period of ten (10) years. Per the approved ordinance, the generated revenue will be utilized solely to prevent and combat homelessness by funding 17 current HI Strategies and four new Strategies as listed in Attachment IV.

On February 7, 2017, the Board directed the CEO to conduct a Measure H Revenue Planning Process, as described in Attachment V, to develop funding requests for each of the Strategies eligible for Measure H funding, and report back to the Board on June 13, 2017. The report back is to include final Measure H funding recommendations for FY 2017-18 and preliminary funding recommendations for FY 2018-19 and FY 2019-20.

As of the release of this memorandum, the HI has convened four Measure H Planning Group meetings, a community webinar, and a feedback session with the Lived Experience Advisory Group, and has secured nearly 100 pages of public comment from 244 individuals and organizations. The last meeting of the Planning Group is scheduled for May 10, 2017, where recommendations on the allocation of Measure H funds are anticipated to be finalized for Board consideration on June 13, 2017.

Other Key Homeless Initiative Activities

- **1st Annual Homeless Initiative Conference**

On February 8, 2017, the HI hosted the first annual Homeless Initiative Conference to share lessons learned from year one, explore challenges and opportunities for year two, and plan for the second phase of the HI.

With the theme of "Fulfilling the Promise of Combating Homelessness Together," nearly 500 stakeholders attended, including elected officials, County departments, cities, homeless service providers, business sector, faith-based organizations, academics, foundations, and formerly homeless residents. Featured speakers included members of the Board of Supervisors and city mayors from each supervisorial district who emphasized multi-jurisdictional collaboration to combat homelessness. The Conference also included breakout sessions focusing on both current and emerging key issues that are critical to the success of the HI. A summary Conference Report can be found in Attachment VI. The second annual Homeless Initiative Conference is scheduled for February 8, 2018.

In conjunction with the Conference, community and public partners who are part of the HI submitted appreciation notes that acknowledge and celebrate those agencies and individuals who contributed to combatting homelessness during the first year. These notes in Attachment VII express how the authors have witnessed or been touched by the homeless programs, services, and individual acts of kindness that made a difference for an agency, department, community, family, and/or individual.

- **Interfaith Summit on Homelessness**

The HI and LA Voice are organizing Los Angeles County's first Interfaith Summit on Homelessness, "Pursuing the Promise of Combating Homelessness Together," which will be held on June 7, 2017, at the California Endowment. A planning group comprised of County department representatives and interfaith leaders from across the county is spearheading the conference.

The goals of the Interfaith Summit on Homelessness are for the faith community to:

- Be inspired and united in a common vision to combat homelessness in Los Angeles County, with a deepened sense of collaboration with the County and other partners;
- Gain clarity on the County's key strategies to end homelessness, the thinking that guided the development of these Strategies, and the vision for improved coordination and support; and
- Leave empowered with the information, materials and relationships needed to discern the role congregations want to play in combatting homelessness.

Each Supervisor
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The next HI quarterly report will be submitted on August 9, 2017. Please let me know if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Phil Ansell, Director of the Homeless Initiative, at (213) 974-1752, or at pansell@ceo.lacounty.gov.

SAH:JJ:FAD
PA:JR:ef

Attachments

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
 County Counsel
 District Attorney
 Sheriff
 Alternate Public Defender
 Animal Care and Control
 Arts Commission
 Beaches and Harbors
 Child Support Services
 Children and Family Services
 Community Development Commission
 Consumer and Business Affairs
 Fire Department
 Health Services
 Human Resources

 LAHSA
 Mental Health
 Military and Veterans Affairs
 Parks and Recreation
 Probation
 Public Health
 Public Library
 Public Social Services
 Public Works
 Regional Planning
 Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
 Superior Court
 Workforce Development,
 Aging and Community Services