Special Issue

County Efforts to Address Homelessness
Key Challenges – Emerging Issues

Homelessness persists in our region as a result of:
- Lack of affordable and supportive housing within county and cities.
- Lack of low barrier year round shelter beds.

What are the trends:
- Increasing rates of homelessness among families and unaccompanied youth
- High instances of violence, trauma, incarceration, and mental illness as well as co-occurring conditions and children with serious emotional disturbances among homeless sub populations.

Impacts on County Government include:
- Costly crisis services and other community impacts.
- County spends $16 M annually on services or impacts of homelessness.

*A coordinated, comprehensive county-wide strategic approach to reducing homelessness and addressing its impacts is needed - Staff working with other jurisdictions*
Context and History of County Efforts

- Board of Supervisors authorized the development Regional 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness in April 2005.

- Central Coast Collaborative on Homelessness (C3H) was created in 2014. County, Cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, Goleta, Cottage Health, Housing Authorities provided $300,000 in annual funding.

- Home for Good (NSBC United Way) assumed regional coordination and outreach responsibilities from C3H and became lead agency for the Coordinated Entry System in December 2017.

- County’s Community Services Department (Housing and Community Development Division) staff serve as the Santa Maria/Santa Barbara County Continuum of Care and Homeless Management Information System Lead Agency. 20 agencies currently collect client level data in HMIS.

- CSD/HCD funds 17 agencies through 7 federal, state and local funding sources to address homelessness annually.

- Homeless Action Plan Phase 1 was posted for public feedback in March 2019. Over 130 community members, stakeholders and consumers participated in the plan development.
Current Status – Point in Time Count

Trend Analysis

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>868</td>
<td>830</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>978</td>
<td>904</td>
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<td>967</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1,133</td>
<td>670</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current Status – Point in Time Count

Sleeping Location

- Streets: 37%
- Shelter: 36%
- Vehicles: 27%
Current Status – Unsheltered Point in Time Count

PIT Count by Supervisor Districts
Santa Barbara County

- 1st District: 135
- 2nd District: 240
- 3rd District: 100
- 4th District: 174
- 5th District: 484

Scale: 0 - 24 km (15 miles)
Current Status – Subpopulations Detail

- 118 veterans were experiencing homelessness.
- 423 persons were experiencing chronic homelessness.
- 93 unaccompanied youth and young adults were experiencing homelessness.
- 115 families were experiencing homelessness (115 families; 368 individuals).
- 576 were experiencing mental illness.
Collaborative Problem Solving

County Government
- Housing & Community Dev
- Public Health
- Sheriff
- Public Works
- District Attorney
- Public Defender
- Behavioral Wellness
- Social Services
- First 5
- Probation
- Public Guardian
- Planning & Development
- County Executive Office

Community Partners
- Cities
- Healthcare Providers
- Community Based Providers
- State and Fed Government
- Community Advocates
- Home For Good
- Philanthropic Foundations
- Faith Based Organizations
- Public Housing Authorities
- Housing Developers
Santa Barbara County
FY 18/19 Homelessness Investment

Preventing Homelessness: $ 100,000
Outreach to Unsheltered Individuals and Families: $ 2,100,000
Provide Health and Supportive Services: $ 2,300,000
Provide Shelter and Housing: $ 10,800,000
   ($4.4 Million Depot Street)
Create Coordinated System: $ 708,000

Total Effort FY 18/19: $ 16,008,000
New 18/19 funds to be utilized in future years or agreements underway

California Emergency Housing and Solutions Grant: $ 914,000

Continuum of Care increase: $ 262,000

Homeless Emergency Aid Program: $ 9,385,200

No Place Like Home $ 2,700,000

Total Estimated Funds: $13,261,200

Staff currently evaluating FY 19/20 State and Federal Homeless funding opportunities.
Key Efforts Underway

• Expansion of Be Well Homeless Mentally Ill Outreach and Treatment Teams
• Housing Development Funding Opportunities through No Place Like Home
• Increased State Investment to Address Homelessness (CESH, HEAP)
• 80 Permanent Supportive Housing Units Under Development dedicated to formerly homeless persons in Santa Maria
• Functioning Coordinated Entry System for persons seeking assistance
• Housing Element Program Changes (Accessory Dwelling Units, Bonus Density, Mixed Use Zoning, Transitional & Supportive Housing, etc.)
• Creation of Homelessness Interagency Policy Council
Lompoc Riverbed – What we learned...

Overview
• 70 clients served
• 34 placed in housing, detox, sheltered or reunified
• 30 exited from triage center
• 6 received services but chose not to stay
• Many are continuing to engage with county departments and continue to receive services
• City of Lompoc - 19 Community Based Organizations - 8 County departments

Lessons Learned
• Low barrier shelter and detox beds needed to address most vulnerable
• Intensive wrap around services and coordinated multidisciplinary teams with case managers needed to engage individuals over time
• Coordinated approach to services delivery across county departments needed to best serve individuals
• Coordinated data sharing systems needed across departments
Homeless Inter Agency Policy Council Role:

The HIAPC is a collaborative of County departments involved in homeless issues...

- Provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and County Executive Officer regarding strategies to impact homelessness in Santa Barbara County.

- Build coordinated and collaborative partnerships across all departments to maximize resources and collectively solve issues.

- Build collaboration with community partners (cities, CBO’s, healthcare) to coordinate resources and impact homelessness.
Homeless Inter Agency Policy Council Role, cont.:

• Provide forum to strategically secure and leverage funding from state and federal government and align funding with countywide initiatives and needs.

• Ensure effective responses to address the magnitude of needs for those experiencing homelessness and respond to the homeless action plan.

• Report on progress toward work plan goals and progress on countywide homeless initiatives.
Proposed Homeless Inter Agency Policy Council
FY 19/20 Work Plan

• Initiatives under County departments’ control and within existing budgets or grant funding being pursued

• Coordination with CBOs, cities and other partners will be ongoing

• Homeless Action Plan – Phase 1 – to be presented to Board on June 4, 2019
Proposed Homeless Inter Agency Policy Council
FY 19/20 Work Plan

1. **Increase access to safe and affordable housing:**
   - Expand beds available to homeless individuals by 15%.
   - Expand Safe Parking Program by 80 spots to address PIT identified demand.
   - Evaluate the feasibility of public properties for housing.

2. **Use best practices to deliver supportive services and meet individuals needs:**
   - Collaboratively identify the top 25 most vulnerable homeless individuals and devise comprehensive case plans to serve and house.
   - Develop training and implementation of trauma informed, housing-focused approaches and connect clients to mainstream services.
   - Establish pilot to collect data on homeless persons who become criminally justice involved.

3. **Fiscal Enhancements:**
   - Evaluate feasibility of dedicated revenue source for homelessness.
   - Review County contracts for homeless services and align funding for maximum impact.
   - Apply for new funding opportunities that meet county goals.
Proposed Homeless Inter Agency Policy Council
FY 19/20 Work Plan, continued

4. **Legislation:**
   - Review state and federal legislation to determine impact and opportunities for affordable/specialty housing development and enhanced housing placements and services.
     - Senior housing
     - Permanent supportive housing

5. **Improve Date Sharing:**
   - Fully implement coordinated entry system
   - Increased use of Homeless Management Information System for data collection by CBOs and County departments
   - Develop system to share information among agencies to streamline access to and move all to individuals to document ready status

6. **Build a Collaborative Action Plan:**
   - Complete Phase 2 Regional Action Plan
   - Engage elected officials and senior policy executives in the development of regional homeless strategy development.
   - Funding coordination
   - Needs identification & service delivery
Questions?