

Meeting Date: 4/7/2015

Report Type: Staff/Discussion

Report ID: 2015-00307

Title: Update on Homeless Services and Programs

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Contact: Emily Halcon, Homeless Services Coordinator, (916) 808-7896, Office of the City Manager

Presenter: Emily Halcon, Office of the City Manager; Ryan Loofbourrow, Sacramento Steps Forward; Eduardo Amenyero, Sacramento County Department of Human Assistance; Sarah Thomas, SHRA; Uma Zykofsky, Sacramento County Behavioral Health Services

Department: City Manager

Division: Executive Office

Dept ID: 02001011

Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

City Attorney Review

Approved as to Form
Gustavo Martinez
4/2/2015 2:13:26 PM

Approvals/Acknowledgements

Department Director or Designee: Fran Halbakken - 4/1/2015 4:23:31 PM

Description/Analysis

Issue Detail: Homelessness is an issue that impacts communities without regard to geographic or political boundaries and for which there is no single answer or approach. The City of Sacramento has committed significant resources through establishment of the Common Cents program to provide outreach, assessment and interim housing for some of the most vulnerable homeless individuals living in the City. However, the City's efforts alone cannot alleviate this societal issue. In the Sacramento region, Sacramento Steps Forward (SSF) is the non-profit agency responsible for leading the strategic planning and implementation of efforts related to preventing and ending homelessness in the Sacramento region. This report provides a comprehensive review of the programs and policies overseen by SSF, and the ways in which the City, Sacramento County, and SHRA support and compliment these efforts. Additionally, this report provides an overview of the recently drafted SSF Strategic Action Plan which uses data to inform policy and program design and lays the framework for new initiatives to continue to address homelessness in the region.

Policy Considerations: All activities overseen by SSF align with the federal directive that funding for addressing homelessness follow a "Housing First" approach, which offers permanent housing as quickly as possible for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. In Housing First programs, supportive services are offered (but not required as a condition of tenancy) to help people keep their housing and avoid returning to homelessness. This evidence based approach is consistent with the strategies and funding priorities of the other public agencies working to end homelessness in Sacramento. Partnering with other agencies to leverage resources and improve livability is consistent with the City Council's past actions and current direction.

Economic Impacts: None.

Environmental Considerations: None.

Sustainability: None.

Commission/Committee Action: None.

Rationale for Recommendation: On November 25, 2014, the City Council approved funding for the Common Cents program through SSF as a way to pilot a new coordinated entry process and procedure for persons experiencing homelessness in Sacramento. Since that time, there have been additional discussions at City Council about the impacts of homelessness in the City, and SSF has been developing a Strategic Action Plan to guide future investments and efforts. This report provides a comprehensive overview of existing programs and policies offered through SSF, the City, Sacramento County and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency (SHRA) that work to address the needs of homeless individuals and families in our region and presents a framework for new and innovative ways that SSF plans to expand on this work.

As a collaborative, SSF, the City, Sacramento County and SHRA have a variety of programs and approaches that provide resources and supports to many persons experiencing homelessness in the region. However, there remains an unmet need and SSF has drafted a Strategic Action Plan to identify these gaps and to create policies and programs to help address them. The Strategic Action Plan aims to understand the broader impacts of homelessness on other systems of care – for example, the criminal justice system and the health care industry – and to consider actions that can lessen these impacts. This report allows the City Council to provide input on the policies and

programs of SSF in the context of the regional approach and in light of resources and efforts made by our other partners, Sacramento County and SHRA.

Financial Considerations: None.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not applicable.