



**Sacramento
Housing &
Redevelopment
Agency**

REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

915 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814-2671

www.CityofSacramento.org

STAFF REPORT

September 26, 2006

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Title: Adoption of the Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness

Location/Council District: Citywide

Recommendation: Adopt a **City Resolution** approving the Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.

Contact: Cindy Cavanaugh, Sacramento Housing And Redevelopment Agency (SHRA), Assistant Director, 440-1302; Ann Edwards-Buckley, Director, Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Mental Health Division (DMH), 875-9904; Toni Moore, Deputy Director, Department of Human Assistance (DHA), 875-1762

Presenters: Jeanne Reeves, President, River City Bank; Richard Harris, Executive Director, Central City Concern; Anne Moore, Executive Director, SHRA, 440-1302; Bruce Wagstaff, Director, DHA; Lynn Frank, Director, DHHS; Sister Libby Fernandez, Executive Director, Loaves and Fishes; Ryan Loofburrow, past Co-Chair, Sacramento Cities and Counties Board on Homelessness; consumer representative.

Department: Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

Description/Analysis

Issue: The Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness presents the strategic and implementation framework to resolve the problem of disabled individuals experiencing homelessness for a year or more or with multiple episodes within a short period of time. The planning effort was led by Mayor Heather Fargo and County Supervisor Roger Dickinson and drew upon the leadership and expertise of community and business leaders; local departments and agencies; local and national agencies working with families and individuals who are homeless, as well as homeless and formerly homeless individuals. On December 6, 2005, both the City Council and Board of Supervisors were presented a conceptual plan and the overall response was positive.

Adoption of Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness

Since then, implementation detail has been developed for five key components of the Plan: Central Intake and Outreach, Housing First provided through leased housing and through development of permanent supportive housing, Prevention, Leadership, and Evaluation/Reporting. For each key component, this Plan develops program elements; designates lead entities; identifies anticipated resources, including new ways to align existing resources; identifies funding gaps and outlines potential challenges to implementation.

Committee/Commission Action: At its meeting on September 6, 2006, the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Commission adopted a motion recommending approval of the attached resolution. The votes were as follows:

AYES: Burns, Coriano, Fowler, Hoag, Piatkowski, Shah, Simon.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: Burruss, Gore, Stivers.

Policy Considerations: Sacramento's Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness reflects best practice models from New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Portland, and other cities that have successfully implemented Housing First strategies for reducing chronic homelessness. The driving principle behind Housing First is to get individuals off of the streets and out of shelters as quickly as possible into permanent supportive housing. Once housed, flexible support services are provided to stabilize the individuals and help them work toward self-sufficiency.

As the Plan is implemented, the collaborative process will continue through a strong public/private leadership structure that includes the establishment of a Policy Board and Interagency Council. The Policy Board will consist of high-level public and private sector leaders and will provide strategic direction, oversight, and advocacy for the Plan. The Interagency Council will plan and coordinate service delivery and recommend policies and strategies to the Policy Board. The Mayor of the City of Sacramento and the Chair of the Board of Supervisors, or their designees, will jointly appoint the initial membership of the Policy Board. Once established, the Policy Board will appoint replacement members as well as members of the Interagency Council. The Interagency Council will include representatives from the homeless service sector and stakeholder interests, and will reflect the ethnic and cultural diversity of Sacramento County.

Environmental Considerations: Adoption of the Plan is exempt from environmental review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15262 and NEPA regulations at 24 CFR Section 58.34(a)(1), development of plans and strategies for possible future action.

Adoption of Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness

Rationale for Recommendation: The Plan is the result of a significant collaborative effort of the appointed Leadership Committee, an open-member technical working group, and the Community Services Planning Council providing research and project management. Research methodology was extensive using such techniques as the point-in-time count and survey to understand the population; review of existing continuum of care programs and funding; review of nationwide best practices through invited speakers, attendance at conferences, and site visits to other cities; and focus group input from homeless individuals, the faith community, law enforcement, business, and neighborhood associations. Since December, the Plan has been presented to numerous community, church, and advisory groups. Of particular note, the Criminal Justice Cabinet voted on August 10, 2006, to support the efforts to develop a Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness and endorsed the centerpiece Housing First strategy as an effective approach to stabilization of this population. Finally, the Plan acknowledges that many of the current methods and practices within the continuum are not effective in resolving homelessness for this population and further recognizes that, without change, the economic and human costs are simply too high.

Financial Considerations: There are no specific financial requests at this time; however, funding gaps are identified within the Plan. The most notable funding gap is for supportive services within the housing component. For example, under the Units through Leasing strategy, to fully utilize funds identified for leasing, an annual funding gap for services of about \$450,000 has been identified (phased in from mid-2007 to mid-2008).

When evaluating resource allocation, the Plan takes several approaches. The first is to realign existing resources or programs for this population. Examples include prioritizing the 2006 McKinney-Vento Samaritan Initiative funding and recapturing Shelter Plus Care for Units through Leasing, augmenting the existing Mental Health Services Act funding with Downtown redevelopment funds for this same purpose, and prioritizing permanent supportive housing in local affordable financing programs. The second approach is to use appropriate existing resources not currently used for this population. Examples include recommending the use of Community Development Block Grant funding for ongoing support to the recommended Leadership group. Because this component is so critical to building success, the 2007 Action Plans for the City and County will make these recommendations. The third tier recognizes that the new Leadership group and staffing will aggressively seek out new private and non-local governmental resources to support Plan efforts. Finally, the Plan recognizes that new local resources may be needed to fully implement the strategies. For example, Department of Human Assistance (DHA) is exploring potential resources to support a full-time staff to implement central intake and evaluation components of the Plan. Resource requests will be brought forward accordingly as they are more fully developed in 2007.

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M/WBE Considerations: The items discussed in this report have no M/WBE impact; therefore, M/WBE considerations do not apply.

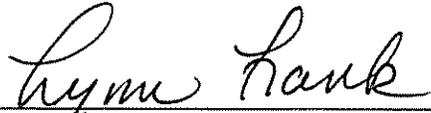
Respectfully Submitted by:



ANNE M. MOORE
Executive Director, SHRA



BRUCE WAGSTAFF
Director, DHA



LYNN FRANK
Director, DHHS

Recommendation Approved:

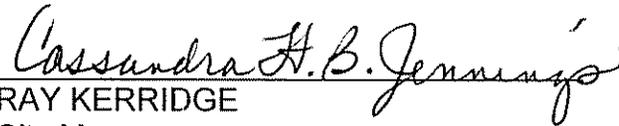

for RAY KERRIDGE
City Manager

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RESOLUTION NO. 2006 -

Adopted by the Sacramento City Council

on date of

APPROVING THE TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS (“PLAN”) AND DIRECTING STAFF TO BEGIN ITS IMPLEMENTATION

BACKGROUND

- A. Housing is a basic human right.
- B. We envision a community in which every Sacramentan has safe, decent, affordable and accessible housing.
- C. An estimated 11,100 Sacramentans experience homelessness each year and, of those, an estimated 1600 Sacramentans are chronically homeless.
- D. A person who is “chronically homeless” is an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition who has either been continuously homeless for a year or more, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years.
- E. The cost of to our community of chronic homelessness is high because chronically homeless individuals cycle repeatedly through expensive systems of community care including shelters, hospital emergency rooms, jails and detox and mental health facilities.
- F. When chronically homeless persons are provided with supportive services as well as housing, they can achieve and maintain housing stability.
- G. We wish to end the human suffering caused by chronic homelessness.
- H. The community has the leadership and vision to solve this problem.

BASED ON THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE BACKGROUND, THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Approve the Ten-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.