



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Names: County Executive
Office / Public Health
Department No.: 012 / 041
For Agenda Of: 19 October 2010
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 20 Minutes
Continued Item: Yes
If Yes, date from: 1 June 2010
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Takashi M. Wada, MD, MPH, Director and Health Officer
Director(s) Public Health Department
Michael D. Harris, Emergency Operations Chief
County Executive Office
Contact Info: Michele Mickiewicz, Public Health Department, 681-5446
Michael D. Harris, 560-1081

**SUBJECT: Receive a Staff Update Regarding Homeless Warming Center Activities for the
Upcoming 2010-2011 Winter Season**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors conduct a public hearing on 19 October 2010 to receive a staff report on homeless warming center activities and protocols for the Santa Barbara County Operational Area 2010-2011 winter season.

Summary Text:

On 1 June 2010 staff provided an overview of homeless warming centers and the local volunteer efforts that provided these services this past winter and spring. The Board of Supervisors directed staff to work with cities in Santa Barbara County to explore additional funding for homeless warming centers for the upcoming 2010-2011 winter season and to examine the proposed warming center protocols. Staff was directed to return to the Board with a follow-up report and any additional information.

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Subsequent to that, during 2010-2011 County budget hearings, the Board allocated approximately \$51,781 in response to a request from the local non-profit Bringing Our Communities Home. The Board directed the funding be used to provide homeless warming centers throughout the Santa Barbara Operational Area.

Background:

County staff has met with representatives from five of the eight local cities. These city representatives have been asked for financial assistance to support the homeless Warming Center effort. County staff has also met with leadership from Bringing Our Communities Home (BOCH) and has received a work plan and budget in order to prepare a contract for county funding allocated for the Warming Center effort. The Unitarian Society of Santa Barbara has agreed to act as the fiscal agent for BOCH for the Warming Center effort.

With a recent change in executive leadership, Bringing Our Communities Home has identified two interim co-executives. These two individuals (one from a south coast operation and one from a north county operation), have met with various community representatives and assigned staff to lead the BOCH efforts for homeless Warming Center operations for the 2010-11 winter season. Attached are two documents that further explain the program as proposed.

Warming Center Initiation Criteria

At its 2 February 2010 meeting, the Board directed staff to work with BOCH and the cities to address this new program. As part of that discussion, the Board discussed the initiation criteria for activating Warming Centers as being “equal to or less than 35 degrees (F) or a projection of two or more consecutive days of rain”. BOCH is proposing the same criteria with the addition of a temperature of less than 40 degrees and a greater than 50% prediction of rain.

Attached is the “Inclement Weather Homeless Sheltering Protocol” developed by staff. The protocol indicates that when funding is available for Warming Centers, the Warming Center Coordinator checks the National Weather Service to determine if conditions warrant an opening of a Warming Center in an area (for example, the conditions may be met in one portion of the Operational Area and not in others). When weather conditions are met, the Warming Center Coordinator mobilizes to staff Warming Center(s). The Warming Center Coordinator will notify homeless system stakeholders including the appropriate dispatch center so that law enforcement, paramedics or other emergency staff are aware of warming center activations. Should the warming center(s) become full, the need and ability to open additional warming centers is assessed by the Warming Center Coordinator. Should all warming centers become full and no additional resources are available, the duty officer for OES is notified. S/he will then speak with city staff to evaluate response options and obtain assistance.

Should funding not be available (for example, funds are fully expended from the Board’s original award and other fundraising efforts) then normal homeless shelter operations exist. OES is contacted should homeless shelters become completely filled; including the overflow capacity.

Funding Provided by Cities:

As directed by the Board, staff has engaged the cities. The Chair of the Board sent a letter requesting city staffs to meet with County staff. Five of the eight cities participated in the meeting (Carpinteria, Santa Barbara City, Goleta, Buellton and Santa Maria). The cities reported their support of homeless services through their respective funding sources such as Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). The cities were supportive of the County’s efforts; however, they were not able to provide additional funding above what their jurisdictions already were providing for homeless services. Looking forward, the cities encouraged the local non-profits leading this effort to apply for available funding through such sources as CDBG or County Human Services.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Current FY Cost:</u>	<u>Annualized On-going Cost:</u>	<u>Total One-Time Project Cost</u>
General Fund	\$ 51,781.00		\$ 51,781.00
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Other:			
Total	\$ 51,781.00	\$ -	\$ 51,781.00

Narrative: As stated, the Board has directed \$51,781 to Bringing Our Communities Home for the purposes of operating homeless warming centers during the 2010-2011 winter season. BOCH reports that they are engaged in other fund raising activities to ensure full seasonal services.

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

Attachments:

1. Inclement Weather Homeless Sheltering Protocol
2. Memorandum From BOCH

Authored by:

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