



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 Name: Fifth District
Department No.: 011
For Agenda Of: April 10, 2012
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 30 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Board Member Supervisor Steve Lavagnino
Contact Info: Sandy Agalos, Administrative Assistant (805) 346-8400
SUBJECT: Santa Barbara County Veterans Stand Down

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence: Select Other

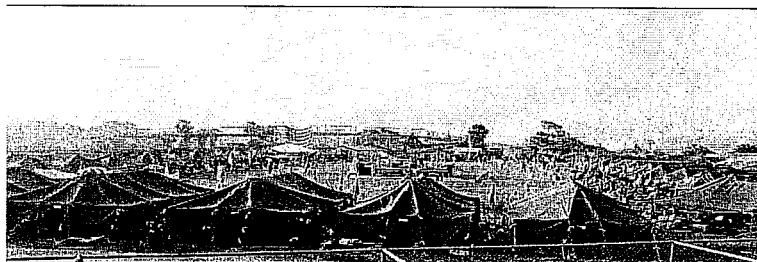
As to form: No

Recommended Actions:

Receive and file an informational report on the Santa Barbara County Veterans Stand Down.

Summary:

THE MAGIC OF STAND DOWN



Stand Down is a military term designating that a combat unit is temporarily moved out of the field and back to base camp for rest and rehabilitation. Homeless veterans are, in some ways, comparable to soldiers in a war zone – living exposed in the field, surviving by their wits with limited rations, and enduring extreme conditions. Life on the street is both dangerous and debilitating and for many veterans leads to a self-generating cycle of despair and isolation.

Stand Down was designed as an intervention to bring a wide range of essential services to homeless veterans.

To access needed resources, homeless veterans must spend inordinate amounts of time and energy going from one agency to another, often duplicating efforts and experiencing increased frustration and alienation from the very processes necessary to rectify his or her living conditions. Therefore, a more integrated service system is essential to allow homeless veterans timely access to existing programs, ideally in a nontraditional setting designed to be more “user friendly” to veterans who feel forgotten and distrust most or all authority.

The typical homeless veteran entering Stand Down for the first time can be described as angry, anxious, hopeless, suspicious, alienated, and often inebriated. The goal of the program is to quickly resolve these issues so that real growth and healing can begin.

Stand Down is an event which makes available at one site a variety of needed services for homeless veterans. The Stand Down Program was designed to inspire similar efforts in other localities to assist homeless veterans throughout the nation.



THE NEED FOR STAND DOWN

Homeless Military Veterans at the Federal Level—US Veterans Administration

An estimated one-third of the adult homeless population have donned a uniform and served in the military. VA estimates that roughly 67,495 Veterans are homeless on any given night, with perhaps twice that experiencing homelessness at some period over the course of a year. Many other Veterans are considered near homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is taking decisive action to end Veteran homelessness in five years. All Veterans at risk for homelessness or attempting to exit homelessness must have easy access to programs and services including Prevention, Housing Support, Treatment, Employment and Job Training.

Homeless Military Veterans at the State Level—California Department of Veterans Affairs

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) is the State’s point of contact for government agencies and community-based organizations for matters pertaining to homeless veterans. The CDVA staff communicates information, conducts outreach, and assists nonprofit community-based organizations assist homeless veterans. Of the estimated homeless veterans nationwide, an estimated 18,633 reside in California.

Homeless Military Veterans at the Local Level—County of Santa Barbara**Homeless Death Review Team**

The Santa Barbara County **Homeless Death Review Team** (HDRT) conducted a review of homeless deaths in Santa Barbara County from January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2010. On March 13, 2012, a report was made to the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors on Deaths Among Homeless Persons in Santa Barbara County. The HDRT reviewed 40 cases of deaths of homeless persons in 2009 and 39 cases in 2010.

HDRT Demographics of the Case Studies

Age, Gender, Race Ethnicity, Veteran Status

For the deaths selected for inclusion, data representing demographic information are summarized in Table 2. **Five (13%) of the decedents were veterans in 2010. Six (15%) of the decedents were veterans for 2009.**

Table 2: Demographic Data	Year of Death					
	2010		2009		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Total Deaths	39	100%	40	100%	79	100%
Age						
0-19	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
20-29	1	3%	0	0%	1	0%
30-39	5	13%	3	8%	8	8%
40-49	9	23%	10	25%	19	25%
50-59	13	33%	20	50%	33	50%
60-69	10	26%	5	13%	15	13%
70-79	1	3%	2	5%	3	5%
80-99	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Citizenship						
United States	30	77%	38	95%	68	86%
Mexico	5	13%	2	5%	7	9%
Unknown	4	10%	0	0%	4	5%
Average age at time of Death	Years	#	Years	#	Years	#
Females	56	5	48	6	51	11
Males	52	34	53	34	52	68
Total Population	52	39	52	40	52	79
Veteran	5	13%	6	15%	11	14%

The HDRT informational study highlighted the complicated healthcare needs of the people experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County. Some of the key highlights are:

An overwhelming number of the deaths involved individuals diagnosed with severe dependence on, and abuse of, alcohol and/or drugs and mental health conditions. Access to housing is paramount in promoting health and preventing deaths. "Safe shelter is essential to healthcare and support to maintain stable, affordable housing is crucial for our

homeless patients" (HDRT, 2010). A multiagency work group is currently making great progress in housing our most vulnerable patients utilizing data collected during the Common Ground Santa Barbara Vulnerable Index Survey of Feb/Mar 2011. To date, 25 persons previously experiencing homelessness in Santa Barbara County now have housing. This is clear progress due to the efforts of a wide range of organizations, entities, advocates and individuals focusing on ending homelessness.

Common Ground Santa Barbara Registry Week Final Data Results Briefing

Common Ground Santa Barbara Assesses the Population

...Of those who completed a survey, 932 were found deemed at risk of premature death. There were 680 surveys from males, 251 from females and one transgender person was surveyed. Of the cohort, 270 were living outside; 291 lived in shelters, 138 in a vehicle, 46 doubled-up, 35 in a single-room-occupancy, 117 in transitional housing. There were 22 people who reported living in some "other" situation—most likely a garage, abandoned building, or motel.

Santa Barbara Independent
By Isabelle T. Walker
May 12, 2011

Of the surveyed, 143 were veterans (15 percent). Of the vets, 98 (or 60.5 percent) reported having a mental health diagnosis. New research into homeless vets finds that if they have a mental-health diagnosis, their risk of dying is higher. Since so many Santa Barbara vets are mentally ill, the county health department's Dr. David Lennon gave the entire category of homeless vets extra weight in the scoring. A special family survey was designed, too; 134 families took it and were deemed at high risk. The surveys found that 75 percent of homeless families live in North county; 24 families (25 percent) live in shelters, 23 doubled up (17 percent), and three (2 percent) live on the street...

DEVELOPING SANTA BARBARA COUNTY STAND DOWN

The concept of having Stand Down in Santa Barbara County started with Supervisor Steve Lavagnino viewing the CBS News 60 Minutes presentation on the San Diego Stand Down. Soon after, in September 2011, a small group of community leaders met. By January 2012 the group had grown to over 70 individuals from more than 50 governmental, nonprofit, active duty military, veterans and private organizations. The committee members volunteer on 25 executive committees. The volunteers are pooling their resources and energy to extend a helping hand and offer hope and tangible assistance to homeless veterans.

The Committee has chosen to hold a one-day event on **Saturday, October 13, 2012**, at the Santa Maria Fairpark. The one-day event will serve men, women, and children and will provide shelter, medical, dental, clothing, showers, haircuts, food, counseling, legal assistance, employment training and other needed services.

The Fairpark was chosen because it will provide a safe enclosed area with onsite showers and rest rooms and large grassy areas for MASH tents and mobile dental, medical, and counseling units. The service providers, clothing distribution, and hair stylists will set up in the Park Plaza Building. Veterans Court will be held in a private building adjacent to the Park Plaza Building. The Fairpark also provides easy access for chow lines and picnic tables. The rental fee for the Fairpark is being waived one time only for the Stand Down event.

The regular monthly meetings are held at the Board of Supervisors' Hearing Room in Santa Maria. The Committee members have made significant progress in the planning and execution of the event.

Grants and Fundraising--The Committee is in the process of establishing a conservative preliminary budget to be determined by the size of the Stand Down. The Department of Social Services has taken on the duty of applying for a grant through the Department of Labor's Homeless Vet Reintegration Program. The Committee intends to apply for a grant through the California Department of Veterans Affairs. Several community foundations and private companies have indicated an interest in helping financially and with in-kind donations. There will be hard costs for infrastructure services that may include: sanitation, refuse disposal, food, paper goods, drinking water, office supplies, licenses and permits and advertising.

Registration--The American Legion will provide a team of front-line volunteers. The first table will determine if the participant has pre-registered and then can proceed to the picture ID area or to the refreshment table, then on to the service providers. Those who are not registered are directed to a registration station where forms are available for verification of veteran status. Veterans Administration staff will standby to verify veteran status. If a person is unable to be verified as a veteran, he/she will be provided with a list of agency referrals. **Every veteran will be required to wear a wristband while participating in the event.** Each veteran/veteran family will be escorted by an Airman from Vandenberg Air Force Base and accompanied to the different service providers.

Partners and Service Providers

Alcohol and Drug Programs
Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Services
American GI Forum
American Legion
American Red Cross
County Animal Control
California Conservation Corps
Cal Vet
Camp San Luis
Catholic Charities
Central Coast Vietnam Veterans 982
Community Health Clinics
Department of Child Support Services
Department of Rehabilitation
Department of Social Services
Direct Relief International
Employment Development Department
Family Assistance Network CalGuard
Gold Coast Senior Options & Dementia Care Assoc.
Good Samaritan Shelter
Grizzly Academy
Independent Living Resource Center
Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce
Marine Corps League Det. 1340
Merrill Gardens
One Stop
Options Family of Services
Orcutt American Legion Riders
PG&E
Pierre Claeysens Veterans Museum and Library
Public Defender's Office
Public Health Department
Salvation Army
Santa Barbara Business College
Santa Barbara County Superior court
Santa Barbara County CEO's Office
Santa Barbara Elks Lodge 613
Santa Barbara Foundation
Santa Maria Economic Development Comm.
Santa Maria Elks Lodge 1538
Santa Maria Fairpark
Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce
Sempra Energy
Transitions Mental Health
University of Phoenix
US Forest Service
VA Clinic, Santa Maria
Vandenberg Air Force Base
Veteran Services Commission
Veterans Services
VFW 2521
Welcome Home Troops Santa Maria
Workforce Investment Board
Workforce Resource Center
Youth Corps

(More Partners and Service Providers will be added as confirmations are received.)

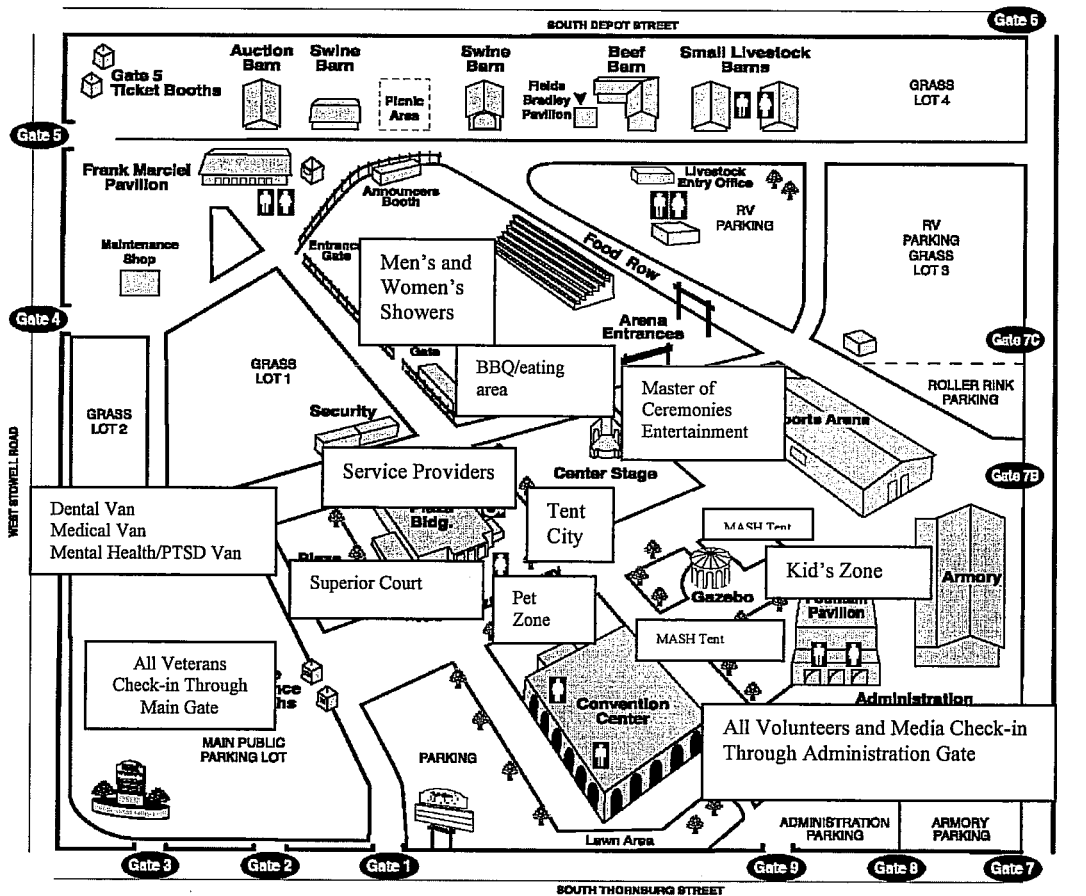
Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) Benefits--Veteran Administration staff will have a table in the main building and meet with veterans to discuss benefits to which they may be entitled.

Superior Court--Homeless Veteran Court is designed to adjudicate misdemeanors and sentence veterans to community service and recovery in lieu of jail time. The Homeless Court came into existence after the first Stand Down in 1988, when the participants rated their legal issues as a fundamental concern in an exit survey. The program began in 1989, and, for the first time in America, successfully brought the courtroom to the people. The Homeless Court program has moved beyond its birth place at Stand Down and has become a highly successful national program.

Legal Counseling--The Santa Barbara Bar Association and the Santa Barbara County Public Defender's Office will provide legal counseling in the main building.

Medical/Dental/Sight/Hearing--The VA will provide staff to perform medical exams on the day of the event. The Community Health Clinic (CHC) will provide onsite use of the CHC Dental van. CHC will also be on site to conduct hearing and vision screenings. The SB County Public Health Clinic staff will assist with planning prior to the event and will be on site with MDs. Community dentists and doctors will assist with dental and skin cancer screenings.

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY STAND DOWN
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2012
SANTA MARIA FAIRPARK**



Mental Health, Substance Abuse, PTSD, Intervention Counseling--The Vet Center Readjustment Counseling van will be on-site the day of the event with two counselors.

Child Support Services--Santa Barbara County Department of Child Support Services will provide staff at the event to assist veterans with child support issues.

Social Services--Santa Barbara County Department of Social Services (DSS) will provide staff at the event to assist veterans with benefits they may be eligible for at the county level of government. Many homeless veterans are not aware of benefits available to them through the DVA and through DSS. Dishonorably discharged veterans are denied many DVA benefits but do have access through the DSS to welfare benefits such as General Relief. DSS may refer homeless veterans to their office during normal weekly hours where they reserve a limited number of fast track slots for initiation of benefits.

Employment and Training--Representatives from groups and agencies will have tables inside the main building to distribute information and be available to speak with veterans directly regarding services their agency can offer to veterans. Groups that have already committed are: University of Phoenix, jobs and training, US Forest Service, Brandman University, and SB Business College.

Photo IDs--The California Department of Motor Vehicles will be on site assisting with California ID cards and other DMV-related documents. There will be a charge of \$7 for each CA ID card issued. The fee is waived for those age 62 or older.

Media--All media/press will be required to check-in through the media gate and will be issued a wristband. VAFB will document the event by video and interviews.

Food Coordinator--The meals will be donated by event supporters through community grants and prepared and served by volunteers.

Master of Ceremonies--The master of ceremonies will keep the program moving and help direct veterans to activities throughout the day. There will be announcements of services closing for lunch and reopening in the afternoon, gate closure at the end of the day, and closing ceremonies.

Grounds Committee--Fairpark staff will handle all infrastructure needs.

Entertainment--So far we have two classic rock bands that have volunteered to perform.

Toiletries, showers, and haircuts--Shampoo and soap will be donated by Direct Relief, International. The American Red Cross will organize a team of volunteers to gather the supplies and monitor both the women's and men's showers, the day of the event. The CC Vietnam Vets will recruit stylists and organize volunteers for men's and women's haircuts.

Comfort Kits--Direct Relief International will provide supplies, i.e. combs, shaving kits, soap, deodorant, shampoo, toothbrushes, and toothpaste.

Transportation--Transportation will be provided from and to Santa Barbara, Lompoc, Guadalupe, Santa Ynez Valley, Paso Robles, and San Luis Obispo.

Event Staff--The event will be monitored by security staff.

Clothing/towels--The Stand Down receives clothing at no charge from the VA including: boots, caps, coats, underwear, sweat shirts, duffel bags, jackets, gloves, hats, physical fitness pants, ponchos, men's and

Proposed Schedule of Activities Saturday, October 13, 2012

8 a.m. Gates Open for Veterans

- Pancake Breakfast provided by Santa Maria Elks Lodge 1538
- VA verifies person is a veteran
- Veterans turn in meds and cell phones
- ID wristbands are given to all veterans
- Veterans select clothing, shoes, toiletries, and receive a towel
- Veterans are directed to showers
- Veterans receive hair cuts
- Entertainment

10 a.m. Services Open

- Medical/Dental/Sight/Hearing screenings
- Vets meet with public defenders to discuss warrants
- All other services open

12 noon Lunch provided by Merrill Gardens

- Entertainment

1 p.m. Services continue

- Superior Court in Session

3 p.m. Services end for the day

- Court closes
- Gates close
- Showers close

4 p.m. Dinner provided by Chumash

- Entertainment

CLOSING CEREMONY

women's shirts, men's and women's slacks, sleeping bags, socks, and cotton undershirts. The SM Elks Lodge volunteers will organize the clothing and monitor the distribution the day of the event.

Volunteer Registration--Supervisor Lavagnino's office will be the clearing house for all volunteers. Every volunteer is required to be registered before they can obtain a wristband; only volunteers with wristbands will be granted entrance to the Fairpark the day of the event.

Chaplain Services--The Salvation Army will provide chaplain services and coffee and the American Red Cross will provide beverages all day at the event for the veterans and volunteers. VAFB will provide an additional chaplain.

Kids' Zone--City of Santa Maria, Parks and Recreation Department, will provide a bounce house and staff for the event.

Pet Zone--A safe place for veterans to leave their pets while they participate in Stand Down. Community veterinarians have volunteered to conduct well-pet checks, the Good Samaritan Shelter will supply animal crates. County Animal Services will help with any licensing issues.

The National Coalition for Homeless Veterans and the US Veterans Administration keep track of the STAND DOWN events across the nation.

More events will be added for 2012 as information is received.

Jan 21, 2012 C Washington, DC Office of Public Affairs
Jan 31, 2012 C Jacksonville NC Kelley Hamilton 910-347-2121
Feb 04, 2012 B Albany GA Elder Max Simmons 478-275-4899
Mar 17, 2012 C Gresham OR Faustina McDowell 503-888-9053
Mar 21, 2012 A Las Vegas NV Shalimar Cabrera 702-366-0456
Mar 31, 2012 C Cocoa FL Bill Vagianos 321-431-0364
Apr 11, 2012 C Winston Salem NC Teri Hairston 336-721-9378
Apr 13, 2012 C Detroit MI Theresa Paruszkiewicz 313-841-9641
Apr 20, 2012 C Hickory NC Larry M. McMullen 828-758-7892
Apr 21, 2012 C Kalispell MT Allen Erickson Sr. 406-756-7304
Apr 27, 2012 C Saint Cloud MN Scott Peterson
Apr 28, 2012 C Columbus GA A. Harrison 706-593-3393
May 10, 2012 C Fresno CA John Schuler 559-977-3697
May 12, 2012 C Tulsa OK Keith Bartsch 918-582-8877
May 18, 2012 C Raleigh NC John Youker 919-857-9428
May 18, 2012 C Tucson AZ Mark Jensen 520-792-1450 x5559
May 23, 2012 C Buffalo NY Mark Lahood 716-854-3494
Jun 15, 2012 B Shrewsbury MA Joe Boylan 508-791-3273
Jun 19, 2012 A Monterey County CA Marlene Baker
Jun 20, 2012 C Tuskegee AL Marashia S. McCormick
Jun 30, 2012 C West Palm Beach FL Nelsy Andros 561-968-1612
Jul 12, 2012 C Honolulu HI Noe Foster 808-753-7223
Jul 13, 2012 A San Diego CA Darcy Lovgren Pavich 619-497-0142

Aug 01, 2012 B Minneapolis MN Nathaniel Saltz 651-224-0290
Aug 03, 2012 B Jacksonville FL Travis Sims 904-630-3680
Aug 14, 2012 A Montgomery AL Marashia S. McCormick
Aug 17, 2012 A Costa Mesa CA Deanne Tate 714-547-0615
Aug 18, 2012 C Fairbanks AK Nancy Smoyer 907-479-7940
Aug 23, 2012 A Marysville CA Michael Nichols 530-749-1036
Sep 07, 2012 B Warrenton OR Gary Barber or Patrick Preston
Sep 14, 2012 A Roseburg OR Rick Freund 541-643-0254
Sep 18, 2012 A Fresno CA John Schuler 559-977-3697
Sep 18, 2012 A Roseville CA Chaplain Terry Morgan
Sep 21, 2012 A Compton CA Ivan Mason 310-348-7600
Sep 27, 2012 C Nashua NH Andrea Reed 603-882-3616
Oct 05, 2012 B Libby MT Allen Erickson Sr. 406-756-7304
Oct 11, 2012 C Bakersfield CA Deborah Johnson 661-695-3626
Oct 11, 2012 C Bloomington IN Maryjane McNabb
Oct 13, 2012 C Santa Maria CA Sandy Agalos 805-346-8400
Oct 16, 2012 A Dixon CA Patrick Stasio 707-344-3743
Oct 17, 2012 A Detroit MI Norm 'Gunny' Wilcox 248-808-0929
Oct 25, 2012 A Anderson CA James Richards 530-356-0342
Oct 26, 2012 C Saint Cloud MN Scott Peterson
Oct 26, 2012 C Greenville NC Sheila M. Parson, PhD
Nov 09, 2012 C Flint MI Loma Harris 810-336-8612
Nov 29, 2012 C Fresno CA John Schuler 559-977-3697

To donate or volunteer at the Stand Down register at Supervisor Steve Lavagnino's home page: www.countyofsb.org/bos/lavagnino/standdown.aspx or call (805) 346-8400.

We are still in need of volunteers and supplies to facilitate this project: Towels, combs, brushes, spray bottles, paper towels, toothpaste, men's and women's white t-shirts, men and women's white socks, food items, room dividers, canopy shelters, office supplies, bath towels, and small denomination phone cards and food gift cards.

RESOURCES

- Veterans Village of San Diego www.VVSD.net
- National Coalition for Homeless Veterans www.nchv.org
- If you are a Veteran who is homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, you can contact the National VA Call Center at 1-877-424-3838, or contact VA online through the Homeless Veterans Chat service.
- Annually, the CDVA makes discretionary funds available through grants for Stand Down events to provide services such as medical, dental and vision screenings; State, USDVA, Unemployment and Social Security benefits; California ID cards, legal services from the Homeless Courts system, counseling and clothing. To view the 2010 Stand Down Schedule, visit: <http://www.cdva.ca.gov/Resources/StandDown.aspx>.
- Through a cooperative partnership, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Veterans Affairs Supported Housing (HUDVASH) Program, provides long-term case management, supportive services and permanent housing support. To be eligible for this program, Veterans must be VA Health Care eligible, homeless, and must participate in case management services in order to obtain and sustain permanent independent community housing.
- For a county list of community-based organizations or government agencies that may provide assistance to homeless Veterans, visit: <http://www.cdva.ca.gov/Resources/HomelessHelping.aspx>
- The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has also founded a National Call Center for Homeless Veterans to ensure homeless Veterans or Veterans at-risk for homelessness have free, 24/7 access to trained counselors. To be connected with a trained VA staff member call 1-877-4AID VET (877-424-3838).
- NETWORK OF CARE: Network of Care for Service Members, Veterans & their families is a one-stop shop for virtually all services, information, support, advocacy, and much more. For more information visit: <http://networkofcare.org/index2.cfm?productid=17&stateid=6networkofcare>

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Staffing Impacts: NA

Special Instructions:

Request the Clerk of the Board to send a copy of the Board of Supervisor's Minute Order to the Fifth District Office, attention Sandy Agalos.

Authored by:

Sandy Agalos