

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 4/4/05
Department Name: Housing and Community Dev.
Department No.: 055
Agenda Date: 4/19/05
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 30 Minutes
Continued Item: YES
If Yes, date from: 3/8/05

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Supervisor Susan Rose
Ed Moses, Director, Housing and Community Development

STAFF CONTACT: Patricia Gabel, Housing Finance Division Manager
568-3522

SUBJECT: Development of a 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Authorize the Housing and Community Development Department to develop a 10-year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness (10 – Year Plan), and;
- B. Authorize Housing and Community Development to hire a contracted employee to coordinate an intergovernmental committee, including representatives from the Cities of Santa Maria, Lompoc and Santa Barbara to develop a 10 – Year Plan.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 5.A High Quality of Life for All Residents, and; Goal No. 7. A Community that Fosters the Safety and Well-Being of Families and Children.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness formed of 20 federal agencies including United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Veterans Affairs, Departments of Labor, Agriculture and Commerce health & Human Services has conducted a national study that found that 10% of the homeless population (chronic homeless) utilizes 50% of the resources available to all homeless. The Bush administration recognized this drain of limited community resources and has set a goal to end chronic homelessness nationwide within 10 years. There has now been a national emphasis on the need for local jurisdictions to create and implement 10 – Year Plans:

- “Five years ago the notion of cities having 10-year plans to end homelessness was naïve and risky. No one thought it was possible. But the new research and new technologies have created such movement and innovation on this issue that it may now be naïve and risky not to have such a plan.”—*Executive Director Philip Mangano, US Interagency Council on Homelessness*

- “The U.S. Conference of Mayors supports the 10-year planning process and strongly encourages cities to create and implement... strategic plans to end chronic homelessness in 10 years.” –*Resolution passed unanimously by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, June 2003*
- NACo endorses the Bush Administration’s national goal of ending chronic homelessness in ten years...NACo encourages counties to develop 10 Year Plans incorporating the latest research...to prevent and end chronic homelessness.” –*Resolution adopted by the National Association of Counties, July 15, 2003*
- “We have to do more than just manage homelessness. Our objective [is] to prevent homelessness, and ultimately end it. [That is the] intent of this plan.” –*Mayor Richard Daley, on Chicago’s 10-Year Plan*
- “The National League of Cities (NLC) supports the Bush Administration’s goal to end chronic homelessness in the United States in 10 years and will help advance the planning process set forth by the Administration.” –*Resolution adopted by the National League of Cities, December 2003*

In an effort to implement the administration’s priority, HUD now awards higher scores in an already highly competitive field to those Continuum of Care that address chronic homelessness when rating grant applications for homeless housing and services providers. This year, the County’s Continuum of Care application received close to \$1.4 million dollars for various supportive homeless housing providers across the County. This annual funding is now in jeopardy because the County has not created a 10 – Year Plan. The Homelessness Subcommittee of your Board’s appointed Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) has recommended that the County create a 10 – Year Plan in recognition of the potential costs savings to area homeless services and the potential loss of critical homeless housing funding. Recognizing the importance of the recommendation, the Housing Advisory Committee’s Steering Committee recommended in December of 2004 that the County hire a contracted employee to create a committee to develop a 10-year plan to end chronic homelessness.

The following is a synopsis of issues related to the need for the Plan:

- **How much money is currently being spent on the homeless in Santa Barbara County?** Part of the creation of a 10 – Year Plan is to conduct the research to answer that very question. Here are just a few figures:
 - ✓ \$1,863,000 is spent each year for homeless individuals in crisis sent to the County’s Psychiatric Health Facility
 - ✓ \$7,212,400 is spent per year for a homeless person staying overnight at Cottage Hospital (based upon \$2,470 average cost per day for an average of 8 homeless persons per day)
 - ✓ \$950,000 is spent each year to keep the three homeless shelter doors open to the homeless
 - ✓ \$180,000 is spent to operate the North County Detox Center each year
 - ✓ \$82 per day for a homeless person staying in jail
- **Why can’t existing HCD staff provide this function without the addition of another staff member?** Two of the existing HCD staff are dedicated to homeless issues. One staff position is funded through Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services (ADMHS) and limited to specific housing goals established by that department. 75% of the other position is funded by a HUD Supportive Housing Program grant and dedicated to the extremely exacting and challenging tasks related to the development, implementation and management of a Countywide Homeless Management Information

System. The remaining 25% of this staff position is dedicated to the ongoing requirements of the annual HUD Continuum of Care application process necessary to ensure the ongoing receipt of homeless supportive housing programs (approximately \$1.4million in 2004).

HCD does not wish to add another staff position. A consultant who has the experience working with HUD and community stakeholders to create a 10 – Year Plan for approximately 200 jurisdictions who have already completed one could produce the document more efficiently and cost effectively. Our research also indicates that a consultant can provide the “neutral” facilitation required to assure collective buy – in and share of ownership of the Plan from all communities. The cost for the consultant may exceed \$35,000. It was only intended that the County’s contribution was only part of the overall budget for this process. The Cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Maria and Lompoc have been approached to provide matching funds.

- **We already have a volunteer Homeless Committees that meets monthly that is composed of county staff, police, faith based organizations and good Samaritans. Have you tapped into that resource?** The regional City/County Homeless Coalitions in Santa Barbara, Santa Maria and Lompoc have been actively involved in the 10 – Year Plan development process. HCD staff and HAC Homelessness Subcommittee members have presented background information to these groups and received commitments to participate from its members. HCD staff has been invited to return to each of these coalitions with action items and updates as necessary. The 10 – Year Plan is intended to build on these and other existing North and South County homelessness groups and organizations.
- **Have the Cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Maria and Lompoc been bought into this?** City staff are involved with the regional City/County Homeless Coalition meetings and participate in the annual County Homeless Program Funding Committees. The City of Santa Barbara passed a statement of support for the development of a Ten – Year Plan with a 7 – 0 vote on March 29, 2005. Letters from the Cities are attached confirming their interest and involvement.
- **Is there is a time limitation on the project?** There is no state or federal time limit dictated for the preparation of the 10 – Year Plan, however, our research indicates successful 10 – Year Plans around the nation have been completed in about six months. Additionally, a six month project period would most effectively fit into the HUD homeless programs funding cycle. Currently, the County continues to loose an increasing number of competitive points each year when applying for \$1.4million in HUD Continuum of Care (homeless) funds. A documented commitment to begin a 10 – Year Plan will assist with competitiveness in the June 2005 homeless funding application. More importantly, a completed Plan and the initiation of its implementation by the due date of the 2006 homeless funding application will be essential to its competitiveness at HUD.
- **How much money will be saved by the plan?** The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness formed of 20 federal agencies including HUD, Veterans Affairs, Departments of Labor, Agriculture and Commerce health & Human Services has conducted a national study that found that 10% of the homeless population (chronic homeless) utilizes 50% of the resources available to all homeless. If we used just the \$1.4 million that is spent by HUD on homeless transitional and permanent housing opportunities with operating and support services (no shelter dollars at all) as an example, \$350,000 could be saved.

- **What is the cost of the infrastructure that is going to be needed to accommodate the homeless population?** The 10 – Year Plan is to accommodate only the 10% of the homeless population that are considered chronically homeless. The up to 300 chronically homeless people in Santa Barbara County are mostly individuals with special needs such as mental illness and/or substance abuse. HCD utilizes approximately \$60,000 per unit to leverage other funds to provide housing opportunities. That amount is an average of group homes, individual apartments, single – room occupancy (SRO) and other types of housing. The cost of permanent supportive housing (on – site support services necessary to assist residents) to keep the chronically homeless off the streets (and out of the psychiatric facilities, emergency rooms and jails) would vary on the type and location of housing opportunities. These opportunities would be identified, prioritized and assigned an approximate cost in the 10 – Year Plan.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The President’s goal to end chronic homelessness within 10 years is not a mandate for Santa Barbara County to develop a 10 – Year plan. However, progress towards housing the chronically homeless will not likely be made without a commitment from experts in the homelessness field to work together to create housing opportunities for this population.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

No general fund money will be spent on the 10 – Year plan to End Chronic Homelessness. As noted, HCD intends to write a grant application in the amount of \$35,000 to the State of California for a Planning and Technical Assistance grant to pay for a contracted employee to facilitate the project. Furthermore, HCD has had preliminary discussions to collaborate while develop the 10 – Year Plan with other cities in Santa Barbara County and the possibilities of financial support from those cities for this project.

Special Instructions:

None

Concurrence:

Auditor Controller

Attachments:

- Attachment A – HAC Letter Requesting 10 – Year Plan
- Attachment B – Santa Barbara City Council Agenda Report
- Attachment C – Santa Barbara Support Letter
- Attachment D – Santa Maria Support Letter
- Attachment E – Lompoc Support Letter

Attachment A

**Housing and Community
Development Department**

Mailing Address:
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 105
Santa Barbara, CA 93101-2062

Telephone: (805) 568-3520
Telecopier: (805) 568-2289



Housing Advisory Committee
DeWayne Holmdahl
Chairperson

January 18, 2005

Edward Moses, Director
Housing and Community Development Department
105 E. Anapamu Street, Room 105
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Mr. Moses:

Attached you will find four policies impacting special needs housing and homelessness issues in County of Santa Barbara that were considered and recommend at the December 15, 2004 joint meeting of the Housing Advisory Committee Steering Committee and Subcommittees. These Policies were reviewed and voted for submittal to you at the January 6, 2005 HAC Steering Committee meeting. Please review, further research, and expand these policy recommendations as required for presentation and consideration by the Board of Supervisors.

We look forward to working collaboratively with you and your staff as you review and facilitate these recommendations.

Cordially,


DeWayne Holmdahl, Chairperson
Housing Advisory Committee

Attachment

Santa Barbara County Housing Advisory Committee
December 15, 2004 Joint Session Recommendations to the
Housing and Community Development Department Director

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING HOMELESSNESS:

The Housing Advisory Committee (HAC) recommends that the County of Santa Barbara designate a chairperson (staff position or consultant funded by the County) to put together a task force to develop a comprehensive plan for developing permanent supporting housing for the chronically homeless. The plan should include a process for monitoring performance of the Plan. The HAC further recommends that the task force follow a known model embraced by the federal government—specifically a Ten-Year Plan. The task force should be made up of volunteer representatives from social service agencies, financiers, business people, faith-based charities, and housing developers, and others, who will be charged with the task of research and drafting a plan for adoption by the County.

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING SPECIAL NEEDS HOUSING:

The HAC recommends that the County of Santa adopt the following definition: *Individuals with special needs are persons with barriers to obtaining appropriate affordable housing who may or may not need additional services in order to live in the least restrictive environment, primarily individuals and/or households earning 80 percent of Area Median Income (AMI) or less. A disability is a long-lasting physical, mental, developmental, medical, sensory or emotional impairment. These disabilities can make it challenging or impossible for a person to perform one or more of the basic activities of daily life, including walking, climbing stairs, dressing, bathing, learning or remembering and can prove an obstacle to leaving the home, working independently, or accessing existing affordable housing resources. This population also includes inadequately housed youths, including but not limited to emancipated youth and youth involved in the judicial system.*

The HAC Steering Committee recommends and directs HAC subcommittees to hold joint subcommittee meetings from time to time as appropriate to encourage subcommittees to explore collaborative solutions that address multiple and overlapping housing needs.

The HAC recommends that the County Planning and Development Department consider the following language when considering changes to the Zoning Ordinance requirements for Single Room Occupancy development per Housing Element Policy 3.1, Action 1: **SINGLE ROOM OCCUPANCY (SRO) UNIT**: *A single room rental dwelling including not more than 500 square feet of private living area, permitting shared or private kitchen and/or bathroom facilities.* The HAC Steering Committee further recommends that other jurisdictions in Santa Barbara County evaluate their current Single Room Occupancy definitions with respect to potential constraints to special needs and other affordable housing development and consider adopting the above definition. (HAC Steering Committee members representing the eight cities in the county can carry this recommendation back to their individual jurisdictions.)

Attachment B

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT



AGENDA DATE: March 29, 2005
TO: Mayor and Councilmembers
FROM: City Administrator's Office
SUBJECT: TEN YEAR PLAN TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Support development of a Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness; and
- B. Authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors encouraging the County of Santa Barbara to develop a Ten Year Plan utilizing the model planning process advocated by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

DISCUSSION:

The development of Ten Year Plans to End Chronic Homelessness (TYP) by local communities is being promoted by President Bush through the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. The TYP is intended to focus on getting chronically homeless persons into "permanent supportive housing" with a safe environment, private rooms, regular meals, and on-site support services. Nearly 200 cities and counties throughout the nation have completed or are developing TYPs. Attachment 1 provides detailed information on the model planning process promoted by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Locally, the County/City Homeless Advisory Committee endorses the need for a TYP and encourages the County of Santa Barbara to take a leadership role in sponsoring the project. On March 8, 2005, the County Board of Supervisors considered a recommendation from staff to authorize an application for federal funding to support this effort. Councilmember Schneider, as the City Council representative on the County/City Homeless Advisory Committee, submitted written comments that were presented to the full Board when the item was heard. The Board continued the item to mid-April, directed County staff to provide additional information and requested letters of support from the cities of Santa Maria, Lompoc and Santa Barbara.

REVIEWED BY: _____ Finance _____ Attorney

Agenda Item No. 18

660.04

The TYP model has proven effective in generating extensive, broad-based community participation in the education and problem identification phases of the planning process. This approach has also been very effective in addressing the city issues within a county and in generating support for adoption of the TYP by all the government agencies involved. It also has served to solidify the "community's charitable giving commitment" to the non-profit service organizations involved in implementation of the TYP.

Development of a TYP will support a number of other related activities or projects currently underway in the City including:

- Restorative Policing
- Milpas Action Task Force/Casa Esperanza
- Neighborhood Improvement Program
- West Carrillo SRO Project (Housing Authority/Work Training Program)
- Garden Street Project (Mental Health Association)


We are very impressed with the model planning process being promoted. The experiences of other communities that completed TYPs, particularly those in California, have been very encouraging. Developing a TYP in collaboration with the County, the non-profit sector and community-at-large, is an opportunity that should be embraced by the City.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:


The City should expect to receive a request from the County for partial funding of this planning process. In addition, there will be costs associated with the "City team" that will be involved in the work of the planning process. At this stage, we anticipate that the "City team" will include Council representation along with staff from Police, Fire, Community Development and the City Administrator's Office.

Although the extent of these costs is presently unclear, it is important to note that development, and then implementation of a TYP should have positive long-term budget/financial results. These should include reduced demands for services from Police and Fire and "smarter" investment of housing and human services program funds. In addition, completing a TYP will improve the County's and our City's ability to compete for federal funds to support services for the homeless.

- ATTACHMENTS:**
1. Step-by-Step Guide: United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
 2. Draft Letter to County Board of Supervisors

PREPARED BY: Don Olson, City Special Projects Manager 

SUBMITTED BY: James L. Armstrong, City Administrator 

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office 

Attachment C



City of Santa Barbara

Office of the Mayor

mblum@ci.santa-barbara.ca.us

April 1, 2005

Marty Blum

Mayor

Tel: 805.564.5321

Fax: 805.564.5475

City Hall

De La Guerra Plaza

PO Box 1990

Santa Barbara, CA

93102-1990

Susan Rose, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Barbara
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

RE: TEN-YEAR PLAN TO END CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the Santa Barbara City Council, I urge you to authorize initiation of the Ten-year Plan process following the model advocated by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. Leadership by the County is a fundamental component to the planning process since the County has led the responsibility for administration of health and welfare services, as well as for the criminal justice system.

The City of Santa Barbara is prepared to provide staff and limited financial resources to support development of the Ten-year Plan. We believe this effort has the potential to lead to substantial improvements to housing and related services for our community's homeless population.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marty Blum".

Marty Blum
Mayor

cc: Council Members
Jim Armstrong, City Administrator
Marcelo A. López, Assistant to the City Administrator
Don Olson, Special Projects Manager



Attachment D

CITY OF SANTA MARIA
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
Special Projects, Ext. 118

110 EAST COOK STREET, ROOM #2 • SANTA MARIA, CA 93454-5190 • 805-928-0951 • FAX 805-928-0535 • www.ci.santa-maria.ca.us

April 6, 2005

County of Santa Barbara
Housing and Community Development Department
105 East Anapamu Street, Room 105
Santa Barbara CA 93101-2062

Attention: Edward Moses, Director

SUBJECT: Countywide 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness

As you know, the City of Santa Maria has worked in partnership with the County of Santa Barbara Housing and Community Development Department staff on various housing and homeless issues of concern on a regional basis for many years. Since 1995 the City has been a participating jurisdiction in the County's HOME Consortium and has worked closely with County staff on many joint projects. Specifically with regard to homeless issues, the City participates on several countywide committees including the Homeless Coalition, the Continuum of Care Program Ranking Committee and the County Housing Advisory Committee and related subcommittees.

Several years ago President Bush declared a goal to end chronic homelessness within a decade. Subsequently, federal funding priority is being given to those jurisdictions that adopt plans to end chronic homelessness and develop projects, especially permanent housing, and services that address the special housing and service needs of chronically homeless persons. The City of Santa Maria strongly supports your department's recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to develop a Countywide 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. We look forward to actively participating in the planning and development process for this plan. The development and adoption of a local plan would benefit not only the local jurisdictions in the county but local non-profit homeless providers, such as Good Samaritan Services, Inc., as well. Such a plan would assist the City and non-profit agencies in being more competitive to apply for and acquire federal funding that would better address homeless issues within the County.


GINNIE STERLING
Special Projects Manager

cch://Letters/Letter to County 10 Yr Homeless Plan.doc

Attachment E



CITY OF
LOMPOC

April 6, 2005

Susan Rose, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Supervisor Rose:

The City of Lompoc has had years of experience working with County staff on homeless issues through committees such as the City/County Homeless Advisory Committee, the Continuum of Care Project Ranking Committee, and the County Housing Advisory Committee. We support Housing and Community Development's recommendation to the Board seeking authorization to begin the creation of a Countywide 10-Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness, and look forward to actively participating in the planning process.

Lompoc is well served by HUD funded programs such as Mark's House transitional housing facility and the Bridgehouse emergency shelter. These programs depend on HUD for a portion of their funding, and a local 10-year plan would strengthen their annual application for funding.

Please do not hesitate to call me at (805) 875-8271 if you need further information on the City's support for the County's 10-year plan to end chronic homelessness in Santa Barbara County.

Sincerely,

Dinah Lockhart
Community Development Program Manager