

**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:** 6/14/05  
**Department Name:** ADMHS  
**Department No.:** 043  
**Agenda Date:** 6/28/05  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:** 20 minutes  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** James L. Broderick , Ph.D, Director  
Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services;  
Kathy Gallagher, MPA, Director  
Department of Social Services (DSS);  
Edward Moses, Director  
Housing & Community Development;  
Elliot Schulman, M.D., Director  
Public Health Department

**STAFF** Heidi Garcia, MFT, Assistant Director of Mental Health Programs, ADMHS  
681-5229

**CONTACT:**

**SUBJECT:** County-wide Homeless Services Coordination

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**Recommendation(s):**

That the Board of Supervisors consider:

- A. Authorizing the hire of a consultant with expertise in local homeless services to develop a plan to provide an ongoing means of coordinating homeless services county-wide without additional General Fund costs.
- B. Direct that the Homeless Services Coordination Plan be presented to the Board within seven months.

**Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendations(s) are primarily aligned with Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

**Discussion:**

Annually, 3.5 million people experience homelessness in the United States. Many of the homeless are youth, families with children, veterans, and persons with mental illness and/or substance abuse problems. Homelessness results from a variety of individual and social problems such as poverty, lack of affordable housing and health care, family violence, and disability. In 2004, there were over 4,000 homeless persons in Santa Barbara County. Chronic homelessness costs Santa Barbara County over \$15 million each year.

Five County Departments (Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services, Housing & Community Development, Social Services, Public Health and Treasurer-Tax Collector) and at least fifteen (15) identifiable homeless service providers and advocacy groups as well as city and county law enforcement address the growing problem of homelessness in Santa Barbara County. However these agencies address varying needs and a broad range of individual goals within the homeless community. As such there is not a unifying entity that coordinates the service providers and stakeholder groups.

The Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services, Housing & Community Development, Social Services, and Public Health Departments are proposing to hire a Countywide Homeless Coordinator (contract position) for a finite six-month period to develop a means of ongoing coordination of homeless services. The coordinator will be housed in/administered by ADMHS, and to facilitate communication with all affected departments, will report through the “expanded” (including HCD, etc) Inter-Agency Policy Council at its monthly meeting. The consultant would be responsible for the following:

- Serve as the liaison with relevant County departments, stakeholder groups, homeless service providers and cities within the County
- Recommend a formal means for sustained coordination of County and community based homeless services countywide
- Provide a report and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding a proposed means of coordinating homeless services and the sustainability of an infrastructure to support coordinated efforts for the homeless in Santa Barbara County without increasing current General Fund contributions to homeless services.

The issue of services to homeless community members with an effort to reduce the homeless phenomenon has been growing in intensity for several years, as the homeless population grows larger. Many community groups, service providers and task forces have been initiated in an effort to address this county-wide concern. There is an outcry from the community for Santa Barbara County to take a role in coordinating all of these efforts for the sake of role definition of all the stakeholders, sustainability of a coordinated effort and ultimately, enhanced effectiveness. The Departments concur that these efforts will require at least a twenty hour per week focus given the complexity of the issues and the existing structure of the stakeholder groups. In addition, it will be important that the report and recommendations to your Board culminating from this process come from the independent vantage point of an external expert consultant.

#### **Mandates and Service Levels:**

A coordinated Homeless Services Program is not mandated.

#### **Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The proposed contract for a consultant allows for up to 520 hours of service for six months for a total contract maximum of \$47,248 in salary and benefits. Additional costs for this project would include administrative expenses of \$5,824, clerical support of \$4,940 (10 per week at \$19 per hour), and miscellaneous expenses of \$600, bringing the total cost of this proposed project to \$60,000. The indicated County departments would allocate support and administrative staff resources to support the contractor. The Social Services, Alcohol, Drug Mental Health, Housing & Community Development and Public Health departments would contribute equally to the cost of the project from within their existing budgets.

**Special Instructions:**

Clerk of the Board shall forward a copy of the Minute Order to Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services, Attn: Lorrie Francis, Departmental Assistant, Senior

**Concurrence:**

Bernice James, Treasurer-Tax Collector/Public Administrator