



South Coast Homeless Advisory Committee • Santa Barbara County

Committee Co-Chairs

County of Santa

Barbara
Supervisor, 3rd
District

Doreen Farr

City of Santa

Barbara
Councilmember
Grant House

City of Goleta
Councilmember
Margaret Connell

City of Carpinteria
Councilmember

Kathleen
Reddington

Members

Emily R. Allen

Ralph Barbosa

Geoffery Bard

Rob Fredericks

Rolf Geyling

Fr. Jon-Stephen

Hedges

David Hopkins

Lynn Karlson

Petra Lowen

Wayne Mellinger

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara 93101

Wednesday May 9, 2012

RE: Homeless Support Systems Merger

Dear Supervisors,

The South Coast Homeless Advisory Committee (SCHAC) supports the proposed restructuring of Bring Our Community Home, the Ten-Year Plan To End Chronic Homelessness in Santa Barbara County with Common Ground Santa Barbara, and the Homeless Advisory Committees.

The goal of this proposed new model is to have fewer people living without homes. With better coordination and communication, this new structure will more effectively implement solutions.

This new structure promises to empower those who have experienced, or are currently experiencing homelessness. And we encourage that their representation is fully included in this new structure.

Moreover, our recommendation is that this new structure recognizes the importance of cultural competence. By this we mean an understanding and appreciation of the diversity of people experiencing homelessness, including families, people living in vehicles, veterans, people with physical and psychiatric disabilities, elderly and children.

We urge you to take the necessary steps to make changes to existing ordinances or create new ones to codify this new structure; and to find matching funds in the coming fiscal cycle for the County's share to establish the centralized infrastructure and dedicated staffing for this effort.

Sincerely,

The South Coast Homeless Advisory Policy Committee