

# 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:** April 3, 2006  
**Department Name:** CEO  
**Department No.:** 012  
**Agenda Date:** April 11, 2006  
**Placement:** Admin  
**Estimate Time:** 1 ½ Hours on April 18, 2006  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Michael F. Brown  
County Executive Officer

**STAFF CONTACT:** Jim Laponis,  
Deputy County Executive Officer – Ext. 568-3404

**SUBJECT:** Report on Homelessness Services in the County of Santa Barbara

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## **Recommendation:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Set April 18, 2006, as the date to consider recommendations regarding the “Report on Homelessness Services in the County of Santa Barbara” as follows:

- A. Receive and file the “Report on Homelessness Services in the County of Santa Barbara” (copy attached).
- B. Authorize staff to contract with the author of the Report, Roger E. Heroux, for one year at an amount not to exceed \$65,000, to provide Homeless Coordinator services and commence addressing the recommendations contained in the Report in a manner that protects the General Fund. (Funding would come from the existing budgets of the departments most impacted by homelessness: Sheriff’s and the departments of the Inter-Agency Policy Council (IAPC): Public Health, Social Services, Probation, Housing and Community Development, and Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services. No additional funding allocations would be required.)

## **Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:**

The recommendations are primarily aligned with Goal No. 1. An Efficient Government Able to Respond Effectively to the Needs of the Community; and Goal No. 2. A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit.

## **Executive Summary and Discussion:**

### **BACKGROUND**

On June 28, 2005, the Board of Supervisors authorized the hiring of a consultant to create a plan to provide ongoing means of coordinating homeless services county-wide without using additional General Fund dollars. The attached "Report on Homelessness Services in the County of Santa Barbara" comprehensively addresses the issue of homelessness Countywide and outlines the role that Santa Barbara County could take in coordinating community groups and service providers to maximize resources and streamline efforts.

### **Homelessness Report**

The Homelessness Report (copy attached) estimates that \$36 million is spent annually by various stakeholders to support services to the homeless population Countywide. It concludes that while there are many valuable homeless services and service providers, efforts would be greatly enhanced with central coordination and communication. The Report includes information about why people become homeless, how many there are in the County (over 6,000), who they are, the services that are provided them and by whom, resources available and costs involved. It also contains 17 findings and recommendations (pgs. 38-43). Below are key Report recommendations which are addressed by the recommended Board actions:

- The County should consider establishing an Office of Homeless Services. It should be staffed by a Homeless Coordinator to be the facilitator, ombudsperson & liaison between all the stakeholders. The Homeless Coordinator should report to the Interagency Policy Council (IAPC). Note: The IAPC consists of directors of the departments of Public Health, Social Services, Probation, Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services, Housing and Community Development, Child Support Services as well as a Deputy CEO; it meets monthly to identify and coordinate common issues.
- The Leadership Council (of the 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness) should serve in an advisory capacity to the Homeless Coordinator to implement the recommendations. A charter should be developed delineating the roles and responsibilities of the Council, IAPC and the Coordinator.

The recommended Board actions would begin implementation of the above recommendations, which provide coordinated opportunities for homeless persons throughout the County and begin addressing their long term needs. The Homelessness Coordinator would work with the 10 Year Plan Leadership Council, the IAPC and community stakeholders toward addressing the remaining report recommendations in alliance with the 10 Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness.

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

The "Report on Homelessness Services in the County of Santa Barbara" is not mandated and does not by itself impact services. Implementation of the recommendations contained in the Report would enhance the coordination of services for the homeless population county-wide.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

The \$65,000 to fund the recommended Homeless Coordinator contract position for one year would come from the indicated departmental budget allocations with no additional impacts to the General Fund. One of the job requirements of the Homeless Coordinator (and one of the recommendations in the “Report”) would be to identify grant opportunities allowing the program to be self-sustaining while protecting the General Fund. There are no facilities impacts.

**Concurrence:**

Inter-Agency Policy Council (IAPC) member department directors.  
Sheriff

**Attachments:**

1. “Report on Homelessness Services in the County of Santa Barbara”

cc:

Jim Anderson, Sheriff  
Dr. James Broderick, Director Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Services  
Dr. Elliot Schulman, Director Public Health  
Scott Duepree, Chief Probation Officer  
Kathy Gallagher, Director Social Services  
Edward Moses, Director Housing and Community Development  
Carrie Topliffe, Director Child Support Services