



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: CEO
Department No.: 012
For Agenda Of: October 4, 2011
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Tme: 30 minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Chandra L. Wallar, County Executive Officer, 568-3400
Director(s)
Contact Info: Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the CEO, 568-3400

SUBJECT: Response to Santa Barbara Civil Grand Jury Titled, *“Homeless Mentally Ill Indigent Recidivism – This is not good for the County”*

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- A. Consider and adopt responses in Attachment A as the Board of Supervisors responses to the Grand Jury report entitled “Homeless Mentally Ill Indigent Recidivism – This is not good for the County” and
- B. Authorize the Chair to sign the letter included as Attachment A forwarding the responses to the Presiding Judge and Foreperson of the Grand Jury

Summary Text:

On May 26, 2011 the Civil Grand Jury released a report entitled “Homeless Mentally Ill Indigent Recidivism – This is not good for the County.” The Board’s deadline for responding to this Grand Jury report was extended by the Grand Jury to October 10, 2011. (Attachment E) The Board of Supervisors is named as a responder to Findings 1a-c, 3a and d, 4 and 6a-b as well as Recommendations 1, 2a-d, 3a and c, 4, and 6a-c. Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health (ADMHS) and the Sheriff’s Department were also asked to respond to Findings and Recommendations. Their responses can be found as Attachments C and D.

It is recommended that the Board:

- Agree with Finding 1a-c, 3a and d, 4 and 6a-b;

- Determine that Recommendations 2a-c and 6c have already been implemented
- Determine that Recommendation 1 requires further analysis, and
- Determine that Recommendations 2d, 3a and c, 4 and 6a will not be implemented because they are not reasonable, and
- Determine that recommendation 6b has not been implemented but will be in the next six months.

The specific recommendations are provided in the letter to the Presiding Judge. (Attachment A) The full report from the Civil Grand Jury can be found at Attachment B.

Background:

The multi-agency and jurisdictional response to homeless persons with serious mental illness is challenged to match a complex array of individual needs with institutional resources. One segment of the homeless population, uninsured individuals with serious mental illness, perhaps substance abusing, which move through our County jail system, are particularly at risk. As indicated in the Grand Jury report, seriously mentally ill and often substance abusing homeless individuals that cycle in and out of jail have a real cost in human suffering. Ongoing repetition of the same cycle also causes increased financial costs if not addressed in a systematic and coordinated manner by County departments responsible for delivering services.

The Grand Jury report focuses on the need for delivery of a seamless system of care from booking at the Sheriff's Department County Jail through post-release community services commonly, but not exclusively, provided by ADMHS. Particular attention is paid in the Grand Jury's report to:

- Assessing the availability, qualifications and training of County and contractor staff providing assessment, treatment and post-release treatment planning;
- Assessing the coordination of mental health service, including prescription management, during and after incarceration, and
- Examining community-based, judicial and funding solutions.

The Board, through the County Executive Office, will continue to hold departments accountable for program performance outcomes that demonstrate highly effective results for the entire community. Additionally, limited resources can be a powerful incentive to identify, assess and recommend new and proven strategies to break the cycle of homelessness and incarceration and work to restore the mentally ill and substance abusing individual. This Grand Jury report provides a valuable reminder of risks faced by some community members and the programmatic commitments made by the Board to respond to those risks. Through continuous improvements the County can meet the challenges identified in the report.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted:

Current responses would not require immediate financial or facility commitments.

Attachments:

- A- Response to the Grand Jury report "Homeless Mentally Ill Indigent Recidivism – This is not good for the County"

- B- Grand Jury Report – “Homeless Mentally Ill Indigent Recidivism – This is not good for the County”
- C- Sheriff’s Department response to “Homeless Mentally Ill Indigent Recidivism – This is not good for the County”
- D- Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Department response to “Homeless Mentally Ill Indigent Recidivism – This is not good for the County”
- E- Grand Jury response extension memo

Authored by:

Dennis Bozanich, Assistant to the County Executive Officer

CC:

Sheriff Bill Brown

Ann Detrick - Director, Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Department