

# County of Santa Clara

## Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System

### Mental Health Services



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DATE: August 18, 2011

TO: Supervisor Mike Wasserman, Chairperson  
Supervisor Liz Kniss, Vice Chair  
Housing, Land Use, Environment, & Transportation Committee (HLUET)

FROM:

SUBJECT: Report on Homeless-related Issues

#### **RECOMMENDED ACTION**

Accept report on Homeless-related Issues.

#### **FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

There is no fiscal impact to the County General Fund; this is an informational item only.

#### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

At the April 19, 2011 HLUET meeting, a report on Homeless-related issues was requested for the June 16, 2011 meeting. That meeting was canceled so the report is being presented at the August 18, 2011 meeting.

## **Child Impact Statement**

This report would have no/neutral impact on children and youth.

## **BACKGROUND**

At the April 19, 2011 HLULET Committee meeting, a report on the following issues was requested:

### **The number of affordable housing units created since the establishment of the Office of Affordable Housing**

Since 2003, the Office of Affordable Housing has helped create 1,819 units of affordable housing, 685 of which are restricted to housing extremely low income or other individuals with special needs. The County investment of \$24,868,000 helped to leverage \$430,021,431. Please refer to "Summary of Expenditures" attached.

### **A summary of the recent Homeless Census and Survey**

The most current census of the homeless, performed January 25-26, 2011, found that 7,107 were homeless (either in the streets, in shelters, in vehicles, or in encampments) and of these 2,882 were defined as chronically homeless. It is estimated that 18,433 unduplicated individuals are likely to be homeless in the County during the year. Also, 1,014 homeless individuals were surveyed, the results of which can be seen in the attached "Homeless Census and Survey 2011 Final Report", "Homeless Census and Survey 2011 Executive Summary" and "Homeless Census and Survey 2011 Fact Sheet" and in the attached "Homeless Population by Jurisdiction".

### **The statistics on those sheltered during the Cold Weather Shelter Program**

During the most recent season of the Cold Weather Shelter Program, 3,064 unduplicated individuals were served from November 29, 2010 to March 31, 2011 at San José's Boccardo Regional Reception Center and the Sunnyvale and Gilroy National Guard Armories. As can be seen from the following figures, this number (3,064) overall is slightly larger than last year, although the numbers vary significantly depending on the facility. The Boccardo Regional Reception Center provided emergency shelter to 975 unduplicated clients in the FY10-11 season as opposed to 1,128 in the FY09-10 season. The Gilroy Armory served 639 unduplicated clients in FY10-11 as opposed to 677 in FY09-10. The Sunnyvale Armory served 1,450 unduplicated clients in FY10-11 and 1,271 in FY09-10. The total number of shelter/service days provided during the FY10-11 Cold Weather Shelter Program season were 58,590, while 57,244 were provided in FY09-10. EHC program expenditures claimed to the County for December, 2010 - June, 2011 totaled \$716,476. These costs included all expenses

associated with the management and operation of the three Cold Weather Shelter Program facilities, including rent paid to the National Guard, minor repairs to the facilities, staff costs, utilities, insurance, supplies, etc.

**The value of the supportive services provided for clients in the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Direct Referral Program that is housing chronically homeless individuals and families**

In October 2010, staff from 21 Case Management Programs in all regions of the County began housing and providing supportive services to chronically homeless individuals and families under the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Direct Referral Program, which was established as part of the Housing Authority's Moving To Work Plan. The "Direct Referral Program" is a collaboration between the Santa Clara County Collaborative on Affordable Housing and Homeless Issues, the Mental Health Department, and the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara. From October 1, 2010 through July 15, 2011, 193 chronically homeless individuals were housed. The estimated value of supportive services provided to the clients during the same time period is \$394,598. Supportive services included case/care management, basic needs assistance, health care referrals, housing search assistance, transit passes, emergency food assistance, outpatient mental health care, etc.

**CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION**

The committee would not receive an update on the requested Homeless-related issues.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- Homeless Census and Survey 2011 Fact Sheet
- Homeless Census and Survey 2011 Executive Summary
- Homeless Census and Survey 2011 Final Report
- 2011 Homeless Population by Jurisdiction
- Affordable Housing Expenditures