

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, February 24, 2014

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Supervisor Nate Miley, Chair
Supervisor Richard Valle

Location: Board of Supervisors' Chambers – Room 512 – 5th Floor
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. State of Emergency – Extreme Weather

Louis Chicoine, Executive Director, ABODE and Carol Johnson from St. Mary's Center presented a PowerPoint presentation on extreme weather conditions affecting vulnerable populations in Alameda County.

The current response to extreme cold weather conditions for the homeless population consists of shelters and warming centers, some mobile outreach and a limited motel vouchers.

The Abode Center and St. Mary's Center propose the following recommendations:

- Make the motel voucher program available county-wide
- Develop a protocol for declaring a local state of emergency when extreme weather conditions exist
- County support local city efforts, i.e. warming centers
- Convene an Extreme Weather Response Team
- Ask the Coroner's Office to track and report deaths related to extreme cold weather

David Modersbach, Health Care Program Administrator and Dr. Damon Francis, Director, Alameda Health Care for the Homeless presented a PowerPoint presentation on Extreme Weather Planning for unsheltered persons in the County.

Currently extreme weather resources in Alameda County include: monitoring, liaison, and outreach from the Public Health Department, EMS patrols alert for unsheltered persons at risk for hypothermia and shelter and/or warming stations in Berkeley, Oakland, Hayward, Fremont and Livermore.

In Philadelphia, PA there is a year-round comprehensive assessment completed on extreme weather deaths. As a result of the assessment, it was concluded that very few deaths were weather related among the homeless population.

The Alameda County Coroner's Office does not currently investigate any deaths related. The Coroner's Office has agreed in collaboration with the Public Health Department to review cold weather related deaths on a limited basis. Although cold weather conditions may exist, deaths may not be cold weather related.

Speakers

Jean Banks, Senior Advocate, for Homeless Bill of Rights, requested the Board of Supervisors support the Homeless Bill of Rights

Bill Collins, Oakland resident, requested that all deaths that occur on the streets to be investigated, as opposed to only those deaths that occur in extreme weather conditions.

Recommendation from Social Services Committee: The Social Services Agency will return to this Committee in April to discuss recommendations to support homeless individuals in extreme weather conditions.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

II. Homelessness in Alameda County

-Kristin Spanos, Assistant Agency Director, Linda Gardner, Director, Housing and Community Development, Andrea Ford, Assistant Agency Director, Workforce and Benefits Administration, Robert Ratner, Housing Services Director, Behavioral Health Care Services and Elaine de Coligny, Executive Director, EveryOne Home presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding Homelessness in Alameda County.

Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency convened a collaborative work group consisting of County partners to discuss better coordination in assisting homeless individuals and families. County program that currently assist the homeless population include:

Temporary/Permanent Homeless Assistance – Social Services Agency
Community Housing and Shelter Services (CHASS) Program – Social Services Agency
SSI Housing Trust – Social Services Agency/Behavioral Health Care Services
Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Community Development Agency
Neighborhood Stabilization Program – Community Development Agency
Shelter Plus Care Program – Community Development Agency
Rapid Rehousing Program – Community Development Agency
Emergency shelter/interim housing program – Behavioral Health Care Services Agency
Homelessness Prevention/ Rehousing Fund – Behavioral Health Care Services Agency

The working group made several recommendations to further assist homeless persons in the County, including:

- Create a common understanding of homeless populations, priorities and current county provided services
- Create a system for data sharing and identify indicators to understand the impact
- Advocate for systems reform and increased resources to prevent and end homelessness

County agencies are working with current shelters and providers to create and monitor performance standards with a commitment to end homelessness.

Recommendation from Social Services Committee: The Social Services Agency will return to this Committee in April to discuss recommendations to further assist homeless individuals.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

III. Youth Homelessness

Brian Blalock, Esq., Bay Area Legal Aid, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Homeless Youth Demonstration Project.

The Homeless Youth Demonstration Project is a three-year collaborative pilot project beginning in 2011, with DreamCatcher Homeless Youth Services, Alameda County Foster Youth Alliance, Bay Area Legal Aid and Alameda County Health Care, Social Services and Juvenile Probation departments.

The pilot project is working to prevent youth homelessness through prevention and a case planning model. The project provides immediate emergency shelter and direct referrals to government and other services.

Funding for the Homeless Youth Demonstration Project ends on June 30, 2014.

Recommendation from Social Services Committee: The Social Services Committee directed the Social Services Agency to follow up with the Homeless Youth Demonstration Project to discuss continuing the project after June 30, 2014.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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