

# ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS IN CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

Annual Presentation to the Family and  
Human Services Committee of the  
Contra Costa Board of Supervisors

11/13/19



# Today's Presentation



Overview of Local  
Homeless Population



Outcomes and  
Accomplishments



Right-sizing the  
System of Care



Opportunities  
Ahead



# 2,295

Individuals experienced  
homelessness on  
January 29, 2019



CONTRA COSTA  
HEALTH SERVICES

## 2019 Point in Time

Annual snapshot of Homelessness  
in Contra Costa County



# 3%

61 more persons  
counted in 2019 than  
in 2018.

# Total Persons Served in 2018



- PREVENTION
- 1,091 PERSONS



CRISIS RESPONSE SERVICES

- 6,924 PERSONS
- =
- 5,846 HH
- (10% are families)



- SUPPORTIVE HOUSING
- 899 PERSONS

# Comparing PIT and Service Data

## Point in Time Count

- Reflects one-third of population served annually
- 3% increase between 2018 and 2019
- Geographic distribution reflects service locations and unsheltered populations

## Annual Service Data

- Higher percentage of families and youth
- 7% increase in persons accessing services between 2017 and 2018
- City where lost housing remains consistent
- Can better capture persons at-risk of homelessness

# Sub- Population Trends



Increase in adults with disabling conditions



Increase in single adults



Increase in older adults 62+



Decrease in transition-age youth 18-24



Decrease in families

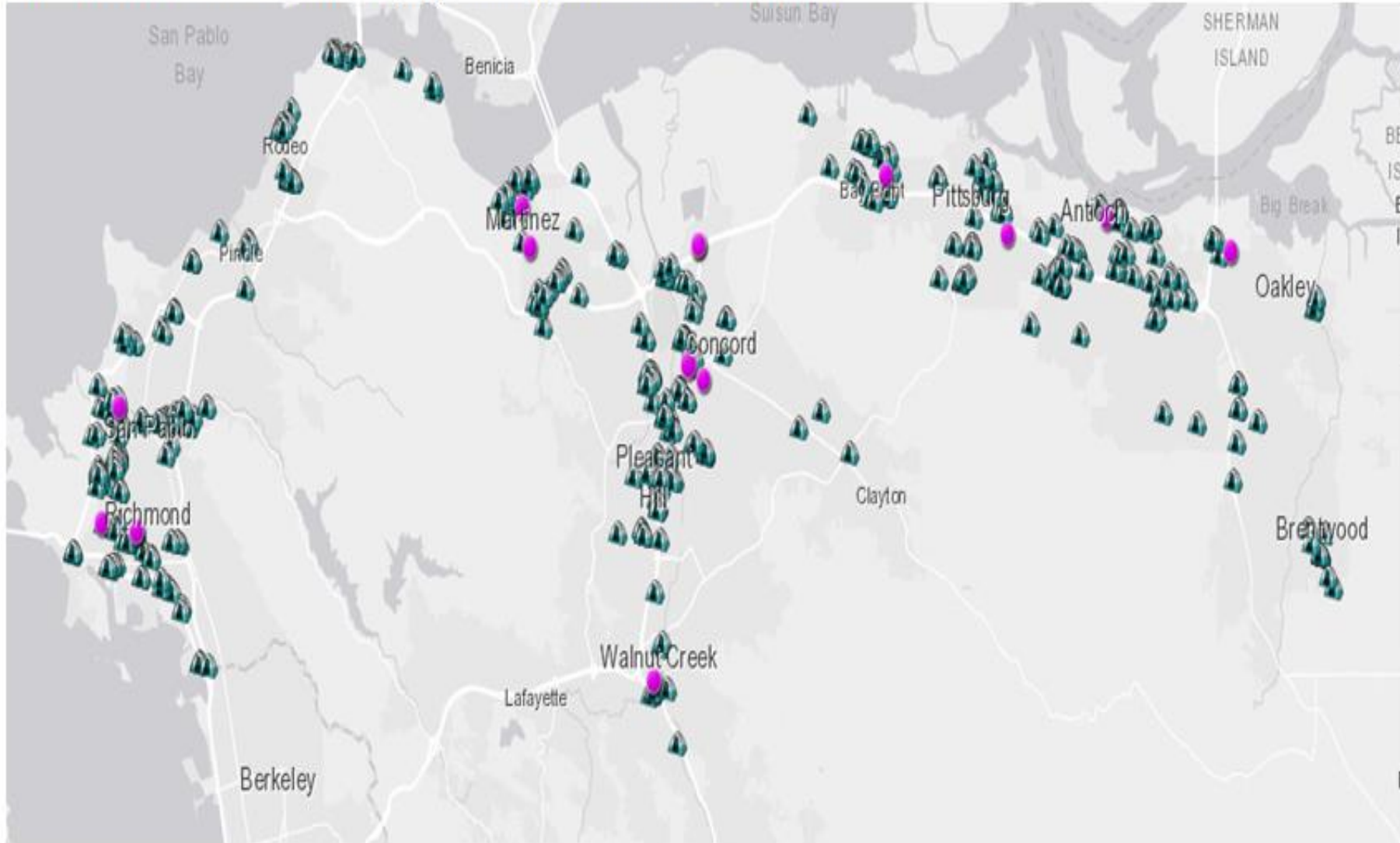


Decrease in veterans



# Geographic Distribution

*2019 Point In Time Count Map of Encampments and Service Sites*



\* Green symbols are encampment areas; pink symbols are service sites

Where Lost Housing:

East County

Central

West

Where Unsheltered Slept  
Night of PIT:

Central County

West

East

# Outcomes and Accomplishments

- 1,450 Households Exited to PH in CY 2018
- 97% retention rate in PSH
- 32% increase in HUD funding over last three years
- 60 additional beds/cots added to crisis response system FY 18/19
- 40+Mainstream Housing Choice

Vouchers  
**+36**

Based on 2018 average monthly in-flow and out-flow, the system of care would gain an additional 36 individuals per year



*I will never give up.*  
~Kellie



# Accomplishments



2019 Challenge Award Recipient  
CORE Creek Team



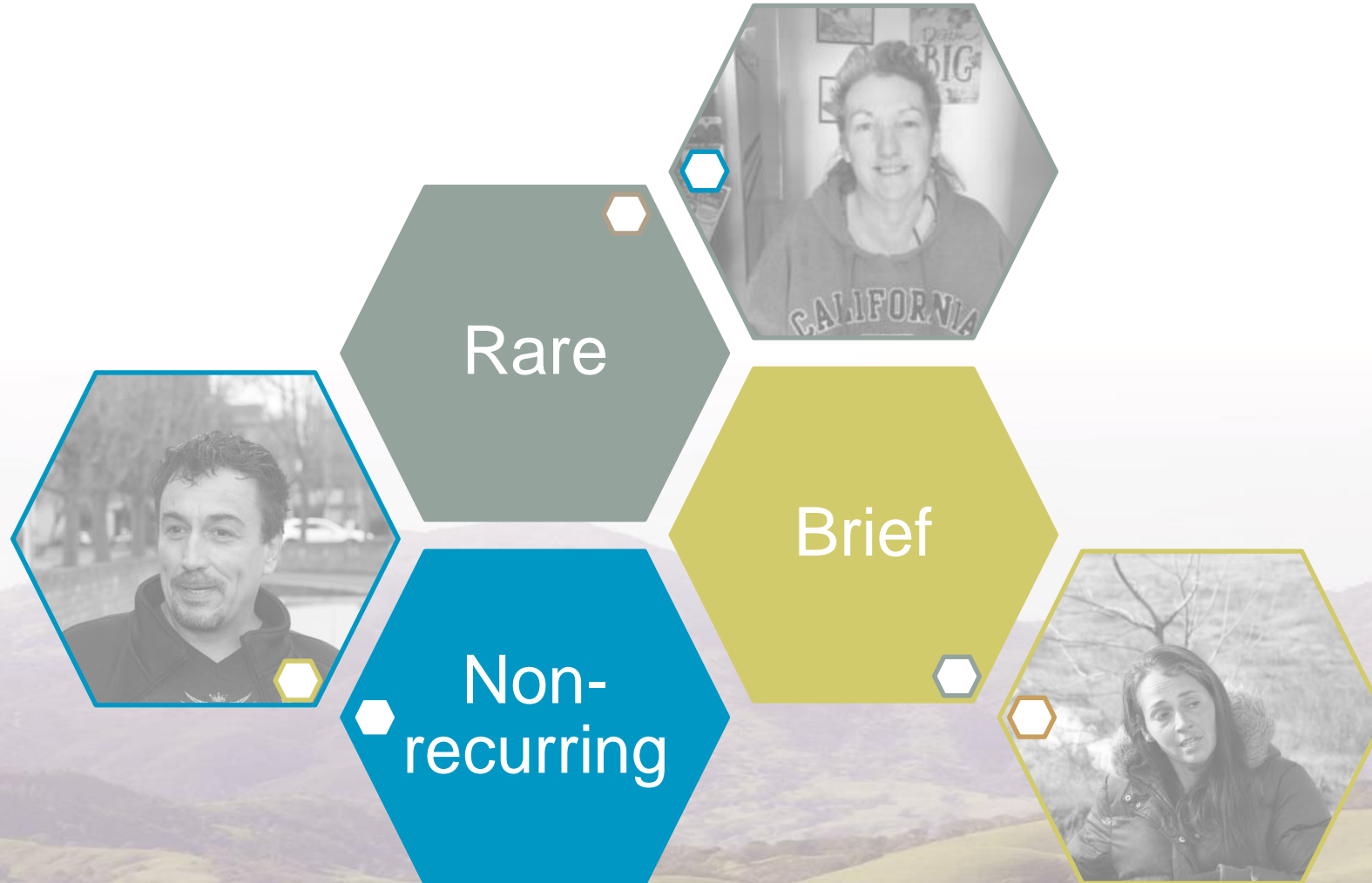
53 tons of trash from  
encampments  
diverted from  
Contra Costa  
waterways

  
CONTRA COSTA  
HEALTH HOUSING & HOMELESS  
A Division of Contra Costa Health Services



# Right-sizing the System of Care

Committed to making homelessness an uncommon occurrence in Contra Costa County.





# CONTRA COSTA HOMELESS SERVICE SYSTEM

## EMERGENCY SHELTER

573 BEDS - 94% UTILIZATION RATE  
Individual, Family, Youth and Veteran Beds  
Serve 1700 people/year  
Average LOS - 4 months  
58% of exits --> Permanent Housing

ES



### AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS

The top reasons for homelessness for people homeless for the first time include:

1. Low income
2. Job loss
3. Asked to leave

**START HERE** 211 - Basic needs information & referral



### UNSHELTERED/LITERALLY HOMELESS

About 5,800 households experience literal homelessness in Contra Costa in a year.

51% (2,978 HH) experience unsheltered homelessness

The top reasons for homelessness among people who have previous homeless episodes include:

1. Low income
2. Job loss
3. Substance Use

## PREVENTION & RAPID RESOLUTION

In 2018: 90% of HH who exited prevention went to a permanent housing destination (455 HH).

## COORDINATED ENTRY (CE) FRONT DOOR

ACCESS POINTS 211 OR PROVIDER STAFF FROM:  
211 Phone; CARE Centers; CORE Team

CE

## OUTREACH

CORE Team

**DENIED SHELTER ENTRY OR EXITED**  
Under the influence of drugs/alcohol  
Other non-compliance

## ALTERNATIVE TO SHELTER OPTIONS

Warming Centers  
Capacity: 70 cots/night

## Meeting the Need

5,800 HH experience literal homelessness annually

26% leave to permanent housing (1450 HH)

There are PH resources to meet about 50% of the need/year\*

The average length of time homeless increased from 15 to 17 months in one year (2017-2018).

28% are chronically homeless.

\*Assumes common rate of 25% self-resolve

## PSH CAPACITY

About 36 PSH units open/year, which houses about 5% of the chronic population on the current chronic by name list (800 HH).  
Average wait time for those referred is 10 months.

## PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING - 494 BEDS

Family Units, Youth, Individual Units, Veterans, Chronic

PH

PH

## RAPID RE-HOUSING

Family Units, Individual Units  
DV Units, Vets  
Projected to serve 656 HH annually  
Avg Financial Assistance: \$6,000/HH

PH

PH

## RRH CAPACITY

Meets 47% of the need of people waiting in CE (1,400 HH)

## CE WAIT TIME

1,400 people assessed for CE; avg wait-time: 11+ mos.  
Of those assessed on the current queue:  
40%: High Vulnerability  
48%: Medium Vulnerability  
12%: Low/No Vulnerability

## TRANSITIONAL HOUSING 136 BEDS

84% utilization rate  
Family Units, Youth, DV, Individual Units, Veteran  
97 people exited/yr; 70% went to permanent housing destinations

TH

## BRIDGE HOUSING

New bridge and transitional housing-rapid re-housing (TH/RRH) beds coming on-line in the next year

**REGULATED AFFORDABLE HOUSING & NATURALLY OCCURRING AFFORDABLE HOUSING**  
3.7% rental vacancy rate

## MARKET RATE HOUSING

About 1/3 of people served in all programs, including HP and RRH, transitioned to market rate or other affordable housing as a permanent destination

**17% WHO EXIT PH**  
return to homelessness within 2 years

## LEGEND

Populations:		Housing Types:		Acronyms:	
Family	Veteran	PH Permanent Housing	ES Emergency Shelter	HH: Households	
Individual	DV Domestic Violence Provider	TH Transitional Housing	CE Coordinated Entry	LOS: Length of Stay	
Youth				LOT: Length of Time	
				PH: Permanent housing destination	

Data Sources: 2019 System Performance Measure Report, 2018 Point in Time Count, and HMIS reports run between 10/17-9/18.  
Coordinated Entry data reflected is in real-time and reflects the current state between 1/2018-8/2019.  
Note on vulnerability of score scale: High vulnerability = 10-20 scores; medium vulnerability = 5-9 scores; low-no vulnerability = 0-4 scores



# Key Findings

There are PH resources to meet only 50% of the need/ year.

2900 more PH interventions are needed to meet the need in a year

5800 HH experience literal homelessness annually.  
**58% are living unsheltered.**

Avg length of time homeless increased from 15 months to 17 months in one year.  
**28% are chronically homeless**

17% who exit PH return within 2 years

# Building and Maximizing Resources



## Add Shelter Beds

Providing temporary shelter for every unsheltered person requires 400 more shelter beds.



## Scale Rapid Resolution Services

Increase efforts to route the 400+ individuals/mo that enter the system of care to alternate safe housing destinations.



## Increase Permanent Supportive Housing

In order to offer every chronically homeless person housing, we would need approximately 1700 more PSH units.



## Reduce Inflow

Whenever possible, re-direct individuals to other stable housing resources outside the homeless system of care



## Reduce Length of time Homeless

Reduce wait times for persons in the community queue for resources and increase bed turnover rates at shelters.



## Enhance Prioritization Strategies

Maximize use of all housing resources based on highest vulnerability and length of time homeless.

# What's Ahead – FY 2019 and 2020

## Funding Opportunities

- Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention (HHAP)
- Housing for a Healthy CA
- No Place Like Home
- CESH Rounds 1&2 Request for Proposal



# Building Capacity

## Technical Assistance

- Rapid Rehousing Integration into Coordinated Entry
- Dynamic Prioritization
- Housing First for Affordable Housing Developers
- Racial and Health Equity Assessment
- Updated System Performance Measures

## Staffing

- Research, Data, Evaluation Manager
- Systems Strategy and Planning
- Coordinated Entry Specialist

# Programs and Services

- Expanded Homelessness Diversion Services (Rapid Resolution Services)
- Cap. Improvement & Expansion Central County CARE Center
- Added \$650K in Housing Security Funds



# Programs and Services



- CORE teams for youth
- Rapid Rehousing for TAY
- New site for Trinity CARE Center
- Safe Park Walnut Creek



# Questions?

**Jaime Jenett, MPH**

Community Engagement Specialist

[Jaime.Jenett@cchealth.org](mailto:Jaime.Jenett@cchealth.org)