CONTRA COSTA HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

TO: Family and Human Services **Committee Members**
Board of Supervisors

DATE: October 25th, 2021

FROM: Heather Cedermaz
Lead Clinician, Health Care for the Homeless

Ori Tzvieli
Director, Contra Costa Public Health Department

SUBJECT: Health Care for the Homeless Annual Update

Recommendations

1. Accept this report from the Health Services Department; and

2. Forward this report to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance; and

3. Direct staff to continue to report on an annual basis to the FHS Committee regarding health status of the homeless population in Contra Costa County by the Health Care for the Homeless Program.

Background

Since 1990, the Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) Program has provided health care services to the homeless population in Contra Costa County through mobile clinics, stationary health centers, the Concord Medical Respite facility, street medical outreach clinics and the medication-assisted treatment program. Health care services provided by the HCH team include routine physical assessments, basic treatment of primary health problems such as minor wounds and skin conditions, respiratory problems, TB screening, acute communicable disease screening, coordination and referrals for follow up treatment of identified health care needs, dental services, health education, behavioral health services, medication assisted treatment for opioid addiction, and outreach and enrollment services. A significant portion of the homeless patients seen by the HCH team have chronic diseases, including asthma, hypertension, and diabetes. They also have disproportionately more dental, substance use and mental health needs than the general population.

The attached presentation includes program updates since the last report. Most importantly, it highlights the impact safe, non-congregate shelters has on the behavioral health and medical outcomes of our unhoused. In response to

COVID-19, the Health Care for the Homeless program has provided direct medical and behavioral health services, COVID-19 testing, COVID-19 vaccinations and support services to those individuals living on the streets, in our shelters and in our Project Roomkey hotels.