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Date: June 17, 2022
To: Family and Human Services Committee
Supervisor Burgis, District III, Chair
Supervisor Candace Anderson, District II, Co-Chair
From: Christy Saxton, Director, Health, Housing and Homeless Services Division
CC: Anna Roth, RN, MS, MPH Health Services Director
Subject: Annual Update on Homeless Continuum of Care

While the COVID-19 pandemic continued to require attention, the Continuum of Care and Council on Homelessness were able to achieve significant progress since the last presentation by Health, Housing and Homeless Services to the Family and Human Services Committee in October, 2021.

ADDING AND IMPROVING CAPACITY

Project Room Key: To date, there have been 1,915 people in 1,599 households served in Project RoomKey (PRK) locations across the county. As COVID response and funding is winding down and shelters have reopened, the remaining COVID-19 hotels will be closed as of June 30, 2022. Our team has done a tremendous job both responding to the various spikes as well as working to move people in hotel programs into housing or other shelters in preparation for the closing of the remaining Project Roomkey hotels.

Delta Landing: Using state Homekey money, the County purchased the former Motel 6 in Pittsburg and, after renovations, reopened it as an interim housing program named Delta Landing in March 2022. The facility, staffed by Bay Area Community Service (BACS), has 172 resident rooms and an on-site health clinic.

Shelter Improvements: During the pandemic shut down, the Concord Shelter, Philip Dorn Respite Center and Concord Service Center as well as the Brookside shelter were remodeled and the sites have since reopened. The Concord Shelter and Brookside Shelter now have individual sleep stations that provide privacy and allow for couples and multigenerational adult households to stay together. The Concord Service Center provides showers, laundry, bathrooms and mail, in addition to an outdoor pocket park with kennels for pets and functions as a Warming Center with 6 beds for individuals who need to come indoors but cannot access a shelter.

Vouchers

H3 and the Coordinated Entry System supports the Housing Authority of Contra Costa County with the identification and matching of clients for a subset of their housing vouchers, including two new types of vouchers our community received within the past two years: 201 Emergency Housing Vouchers (for individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness; at risk of experiencing homelessness; fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking; or were recently



homeless and for whom providing rental assistance will prevent the family's homelessness or having high risk of housing instability) and 100 Mainstream Vouchers (for non-elderly persons with disabilities).

COLLABORATIONS

Holistic Intervention Partnership (HIP): HIP relies on a public-private partnership between the Contra Costa Office of the Public Defender, multiple county agencies, and community-based partners to provide interdisciplinary case management and navigation services to indigent individuals to ensure timely and coordinated access to a client-centered array of housing, behavioral health, transportation, and legal services at the critical time of initial law enforcement contact. The goal of HIP is to reduce system burden and improve criminal justice outcomes in misdemeanor cases throughout the county. Referred clients have been placed in permanent housing, diverted from entering homelessness or are actively working on housing plans.

Homeless Workforce Integration Network (H-WIN): This new meeting series is the product of a collaboration with Workforce Development funded by the Workforce Accelerator Fund 8.0. These bi-monthly meetings provide an opportunity for people working in Homeless Services and Workforce Development in Contra Costa to connect with and understand each other's resources and services. Four (4) meetings have been held to date, with an average attendance of over 30 people at each meeting.

System Partner Map: In late 2021, the CoC launched the Homeless Partner Map which displays connections between homeless services and other partnering services in Contra Costa County. This tool is designed to help local agencies and partners understand how various local systems and partners are currently connected to the homeless system of care. To see the map, go to <https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/#Map>.

SYSTEM INITIATIVES

Equity: Using a revised supplemental application and rubric, the Council on Homelessness selected new members for open seats that increased the racial and ethnic diversity and number of people with lived experience. In addition, a technical assistance provider, C4 Innovations, conducted an Equity Assessment of the Homeless System of Care. The Council on Homelessness created a time-limited Equity Working Group to develop a work plan, timeline and recommendations for the Council on Homelessness to operationalize findings from the Equity Assessment.

Homelessness Awareness Month: To mark Homelessness Awareness Month (November), the CoC developed a 100+ page toolkit (<https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/pdf/Homeless-AwarenesToolkit.pdf>), a 5-minute video amplifying the voices of people with lived experience of homelessness (<https://spark.adobe.com/video/g8uFATP1cNCaI>), recognized over 50 outstanding individuals and agencies impacting homelessness (<https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/awards.php>), presented to the Board of Supervisors and hosted a the CoC Learning Hub: "Hearing Other People's Experiences (H.O.P.E.) Beyond Homelessness", a panel discussion featuring people with lived experience in our community. A recording of the Learning Hub can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/1-V9Su8fnUc>.

Regional Action Plan: In April 2021, the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors committed to the Regional Action plan, which aims to reduce unsheltered homelessness by 75% by 2024. The Regional Action Plan proposes a 1-2-4 framework which posits that to accomplish this reduction, for every 1 additional interim housing unit funded, 2 permanent housing solutions, and 4 prevention interventions are needed. The Council on Homelessness developed the Plan for Accelerating Transformative Housing (PATH) Innovations Committee of diverse stakeholders to look at the Regional Action Plan 1:2:4 cost/gaps analysis model and utilize



improvement science techniques to test the effectiveness of selected interventions. H3 is looking forward to collaborating with the other County departments needed to operationalize and implement this action plan.

System Improvement

- **Program Models:** Through an extensive community input process, the homeless system of care built a collective definition of each program type for the CoC Written Standards that will form the basis of provider contracts and the performance benchmarks expected. Finalized program models will be incorporated into the CoC Written Standards as well as in the Coordinated Entry Policies and Procedures in the spring, with final incorporations into CoC contracts by July 2022.
- **Monitoring:** In February, the CoC launched a Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Compliance Monitoring Process for 19 CoC-funded providers. The purpose of monitoring is to ensure grant activities are following the HUD rules and regulations; improve individual program performance; and increase provider capacity regarding Continuum of Care compliance and financial management. Homebase, a contracted technical assistance provider, is leading the 2022 monitoring process, has completed its document review and is held virtual monitoring site visits with each of the Continuum of Care-funded projects during the first two weeks of June.
- **Coordinated Entry System Evaluation:** An evaluation of our Coordinated Entry System was conducted to identify opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness in connecting people seeking homeless services with permanent housing, a key driver in reducing unsheltered homelessness. Implementation of the finding will begin in the coming months.

Point in Time Count

- The Point in Time Count, a comprehensive point-in-time count of families and individuals experiencing homelessness in Contra Costa, tallies information about people sleeping in emergency shelters and transitional housing as well as people sleeping in cars, in abandoned properties, or in other places not meant for human habitation. This year, the sheltered count took place on the night of February 23rd and the unsheltered count, supported by over 140 volunteers and staff, took place in the early morning hours on February 24th. The results estimate that 3,093 people were staying in shelter beds or living outdoors in Contra Costa during the count, compared to 2,295 in 2019. A full data set that includes jurisdiction level numbers will be made available later this summer.

FUNDING

The Continuum of Care continues to focus on utilizing one time/short term funding first, while developing strategies to use longer term funding for things like building infrastructure. The state and federal government continue to release funding to address housing and homelessness through multiple channels and into multiple entities at the County level, including directly to cities, through the Behavioral Health Division, Employment and Human Services Department, the Department of Conservation and Development, reentry programs and more. Stronger collaboration and coordination between these entities is needed to maximize the effectiveness of this funding.

Federal

- **Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) funding:** This year Contra Costa was awarded \$16,848,402 through of HUD CoC funding, which included a \$716,332 Domestic Violence bonus allocation for a new project called “Project Home SAFE”. The HUD CoC funding pays for supportive housing programs like Permanent Supportive Housing and Rapid Rehousing,



management and maintenance of the Homeless Management Information System and our Coordinated Entry System, which streamlined the intake, assessment, and referral of over 3,000 people last year to homeless system resources.

- **Transitional Living Program (TLP):** H3 submitted an application for this funding in June 2022. TLP funding helps provide safe, stable, and appropriate shelter for runaway and homeless youth ages 16 to under 22 for up to 18 months and, under extenuating circumstances, can be extended to 21 months.

STATE

- **Encampment Resolution:** The City of Richmond was among 19 communities in California to receive funding from the state to address encampments. Richmond will receive \$4.8 million in Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF), the second largest award in the state, over a two-year period and will focus specifically on the 100+ person Castro Street vehicle encampment, using evidence-based clinical case management and intensive social service and housing navigation support. H3 provided technical support to the city to submit the application and an H3 CORE outreach team was written into the grant.
- **Family Challenge Grant:** In March, the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH) released a Request for Applications (RFA) for a Family Homelessness Challenge Grant (FHC-1) to provide one-time grants and technical assistance to local jurisdictions and continuums of care to address and end family homelessness. Thirty million (\$30 m) will be distributed across a minimum of two rounds of funding. The RFA for Round 1 is for funds totaling \$15 million and awards will be determined through this competitive RFA process. Contra Costa has applied for this funding and is expected to get notification by the end of June.
- **Homeless, Housing and Assistance Program (HHAP3):** HHAP Round 3 is a \$1 billion grant through the California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council that provides local jurisdictions, including federally recognized tribal governments, with flexible funding to continue efforts to end and prevent homelessness in their communities. H3 has gathered community input on the possible priorities for the \$6.6 million (\$3,434,907.05 going to the CoC and \$3,205,913.24 going to the County) expected to be received after submitting the Homeless Action Plan required by the State. The plan includes measurable goals to be accomplished by June 30, 2024, was informed by local landscape analysis and has all-populations goal as well as equity focused goals.
- **Homekey 3:** H3 will be applying for a Homekey 3 allocation this fall, for a 54-unit Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) project in San Pablo. Other jurisdictions within Contra Costa are eligible to apply individually for this funding as well.
- **Pet Assistance and Support (PAS):** H3 has applied for a portion of the \$10m PAS grant offered by the California Department of Housing and Community Development. The grant allows qualified homeless shelters to provide shelter, pet food and supplies, and basic veterinary services for pets owned by individuals experiencing homelessness, along with staffing and liability insurance related to providing those services. These services and accommodations reduce barriers, making shelter and services accessible to people who otherwise would not access these resources.



OTHER

- **The VISA Foundation:** In May, Tipping Point announced that they would be launching a 3-year project focused on improving the lives of youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability in our region using funding from The VISA Foundation. This \$16 million effort will provide support to local nonprofits serving youth experiencing homelessness and establish a Community of Practice to bring together service providers and other important stakeholders from Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, and Santa Clara counties.

FUTURE

- **Data Quality Monitoring Plan:** The CoC is in the process of developing a Data Quality Monitoring Plan which would establish specific data quality benchmarks for the CoC and identify the responsibilities of all parties within the CoC regarding data quality.
- **Governance:** In the coming months, the Council on Homelessness will be considering revisions to governance documents, including potentially changing and/or adding seats to the Council to increase the number of members with lived experience of homelessness.
- **Implement CES evaluation:** The Plan for Accelerating Transformative Housing Innovations (PATH) Committee of the Council on Homelessness will focus on implementing finding from the Coordinated Entry System Evaluation in the coming year.
- **Implement Equity Recommendations:** Within the next few months, the Council on Homelessness will designate an entity within the Council structure to shepherd implementation of equity recommendations.
- **Implement Program Models:** H3 will begin implementation of approved program models beginning in July 2022.
- **HMIS Evaluation:** An evaluation is underway to assess the configuration and use of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), with the overarching aim to ensure that HMIS workflows, data and reporting enable providers to be successful with new program models and performance-based contracting.

Future communications from the Council on Homelessness and the CoC will continue to include:

- Quarterly written reports from the Council on Homelessness (COH) to the Family and Human Services as a way to keep the Committee and Board of Supervisors updated on the activities and priorities of the Council and homeless continuum of care throughout the year.
- An annual presentation from Health, Housing and Homeless Services about the activities and priorities of the homeless continuum of care.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

1. Accept this report from the Health Services Department; and
2. Forward this report to the Board of Supervisors for acceptance

