Overview of Homeless System of Care Study Session

Kelli Kuykendall, Housing and Community Services
Jenny Abramson, Community Development Commission
Patrick Wigmore, HomeBase
Federal Policies Drive Sonoma County’s Local Efforts

HEARTH Act 2009
• Simplified Targeted Homeless Assistance (“Continuum of Care” funding) rules
• Aligned assistance with evidence-informed practices
• Created funding for Rapid Re-Housing nationwide
• Required Coordinated Entry focusing on most vulnerable, in every community

Opening Doors Fed Strategic Plan
• Mandated by the HEARTH Act
• Defined metrics for ending homelessness:
  o Immediate access to shelter and permanent housing
• Designated special populations: veterans, chronically homeless, families, youth
HUD Requirements: Continuum of Care

- Engage government, non-profits, homeless and formerly homeless persons, and community to end homelessness

- Adopt Housing First strategies

- Sonoma County 2016 award of $3 million for 19 projects county-wide

- Administered by Community Development Commission
  - Room for organizational improvement
HUD Requirements: Homeless Data Initiatives

Annual Point-In-Time Homeless Count

Steady decline in homelessness since 2011, due to

- Fewer people entering homelessness
- Rapid Re-Housing for more than 800 households

Point-In-Time Housing Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Beds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shelter (year-round)</td>
<td>605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter shelter</td>
<td>210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transitional housing</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rapid Re-Housing</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent supportive housing</td>
<td>812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent supportive housing in development</td>
<td>241</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### HUD Requirements: Performance Measurement

#### Required by HEARTH Act

Incorporated into Commission and City contracts and deliverables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Performance Measures</th>
<th>2015-16 Performance</th>
<th>Change from 2014-15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total number of homeless persons</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Point In Time Count Number</td>
<td>2,906</td>
<td>-191</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Served Year-Round</td>
<td>3,883</td>
<td>+1,257</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rate of Return to Homelessness</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Within 6 months</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Within 12 months</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Within 24 months</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Successful Exits from Homeless Services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. From Shelter or Transitional Housing to Permanent Housing</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>+1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Retention of Permanent Housing (by Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing participants)</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>+6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HUD Requirements: Coordinated Entry System

Planning began 2011

Pilot opened 2015: reduced average days homeless from 196 to 57

Expansion open by January 2018
HUD Requirements: Housing First Systems

- Low barriers to entry
- Connect people to permanent housing as quickly as possible
- Strategic targeting of Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing resources
- California law requires system-wide implementation by July 2019
Sonoma County Funding & Decision Making

Community Development Commission: $4 million
(plus $1.8 million Continuum of Care funds)
City of Santa Rosa: $2.4 million
Other County Departments
Homeless Services Funding: $6 million
Need for better coordination with other funding streams

Homeless Services Funding, 2017-18 (thousands of dollars)

- Continuum of Care - other agencies, $1,274
- Continuum of Care - CDC projects, $1,802
- Private sources, $4,800
- Community Development Commission, $4,047
- Other County Departments, $6,000
- City of Santa Rosa, $2,400
- Other Cities, $380
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- Other County Departments, $6,000
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- Other Cities, $380
Local Funders and Decision-Makers

- Other Municipalities: $380,000 in FY 2017-18
- Private Funders: at least $4.8 million in FY 2017-18
  - Community Foundation: $504,500 (including Sonoma Wine Country Weekend)
  - St. Joseph Health Systems: $800,000 Well Being Trust in 2018

*Increasing coordination on funding policies and deliverables*
Sonoma County Safety Net Services

**Strategic Priority:** ensure more vulnerable people have better access to services and support they need to improve health and well-being

- Close the gaps in the safety net
- Improve coordination and share data more effectively
- Make it as easy as possible for people experiencing poverty and homelessness to get the help they need

Departments of Human Services, Health Services (including Behavioral Health), Child Support, Probation, Community Development, and the Public Defender

*Presented to City Council May 24, 2017*
Sonoma County Safety Net Services

Human Services Examples:

Adult Protective Services
Child welfare, foster care, transition-aged youth
CalFresh, General Assistance, Medi-Cal
Sonoma WORKS
Sonoma County Safety Net Services

Health Services Examples:

No Place Like Home
Whole Person Care
Community Intervention Program
Mobile Support Team
Crisis Stabilization
Homeless System Redesign
Call for Change

• Repeated shortfalls in available public funding to meet the need
• Recognition of need to more fully operationalize Housing First
• Large and growing number of groups assuming leadership role
• Providers seek predictability
• Alignment with Safety Net and Housing for All Strategic Priorities
Homeless System Redesign Scope

- **Technical Assistance for Commission**
  - Revise funding policies to address scarce resources
  - Incorporate performance measures into contracts
  - Assist with implementation of Housing First practice

- **Organizational Assessment**
  - How to best organize vision and decision-making

- **HomeBase**: National HUD Technical Assistance provider
  - Patrick Wigmore, Lead
IDEAL SYSTEM OF CARE SYMBIOSIS

PRIMARY DECISION-MAKING GROUP

Assigned duties and responsibilities

Leadership, vision, and direction

TASK GROUPS

LEAD AGENCY

Provides support, data, and staffs task groups
Current Organization
Homeless System Redesign

Next Steps

• Coordinate funding processes and deliverables across jurisdictions and funders
• Drive data integration
• Continue technical assistance for Housing First
• Continue to convene cities and others
• Refresh contracting practices

Preliminary Recommendations

• Rebrand and revise Continuum of Care
• Establish a unified Primary Decision Making body
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Discussion