Community Meeting
Homeless Initiative

AT&T Theater
January 13, 2016
1:30pm – 4:30pm

Homeless Initiative
County of Los Angeles
WELCOME

Jo-Ann Yanagimoto-Pinedo
Senior Advisor
Office of Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Chairperson
County of Los Angeles

Elise Buik
President & CEO
United Way of Greater Los Angeles
OVERVIEW

Phil Ansell
Director
Homeless Initiative
Chief Executive Office
County of Los Angeles
HOMELESS COUNT
2015

Peter Lynn
Executive Director
Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count
2015

Total Homeless Population
(includes Glendale, Long Beach and Pasadena)

2013: 39,461
2015: 44,359

Total Homeless Population - Sheltered and Unsheltered

Unsheltered: 28,948
Sheltered: 12,226

Data provided by Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
Total Increase in the Number of Tents, Makeshift Shelters and Vehicles

Data provided by Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority
## CalWORKs Caseload & Homeless Families

Los Angeles County  
July 2006 – May 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeframe</th>
<th>CalWORKs Families</th>
<th>CalWORKs Homeless Families</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2006</td>
<td>152,722</td>
<td>5,487</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 2015</td>
<td>162,880</td>
<td>15,768</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Increase</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>187%</td>
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Data provided by DPSS - CalWORKs Program (Definition of homelessness is broader than used in the Homeless Count, so this data is not directly comparable to the data on the prior slides.)
• The homeless are three to six times more likely to become ill than housed people.
• The homeless are three to four times more likely to die prematurely than the general population.
• Average life expectancy for the homeless population is estimated between 42 and 52 years, compared to 78 years in the general population.
• Homeless patients stay in LA County Dept. of Health Services hospitals an average of four days longer (10.6 vs. 6.4 days).
County Homeless Initiative

Seizing the moment: Historic opportunity to combat homelessness throughout LA County

• Launched on August 17, 2015
• To develop a comprehensive set of recommended County strategies to combat homelessness and identify potential city strategies
• Inclusive and collaborative planning process: 25 County departments, 27 participating cities, and over 100 community organizations
County Homeless Initiative

Planning Timeline:

- Oct. 1 – 29, 2015: Initial policy summits on key policy areas
- Jan. 13, 2016: Community Meeting on draft recommendations
- Jan. 21, 2016: Public comment period ends
- Feb. 2016: Final recommendations for Board of Supervisors’ consideration
Policy Summit Focus Areas

- Employment
- Land use
- SSI/Veterans Benefits Advocacy
- Homelessness Prevention
- Affordable Care Act Opportunities
- Outreach/Engagement – Street Homelessness & Encampments
- Coordination of Services and "No Wrong Door"
- Discharges into Homelessness
- Subsidized Housing
DRAFT STRATEGIES TO COMBAT HOMELESSNESS
1. Homelessness is an extraordinarily complex problem which necessitates active, sustained collaboration amongst the County, cities and other public agencies, and a wide array of community partners.

2. The web of established collaborative relationships in LA County provides a very strong foundation for the implementation of these strategies.
3. Strengthen and build upon current County efforts by:
   • Directing more resources to proven strategies
   • Integrating existing programs and services more effectively
   • Enabling cities to join the County in combating homelessness
   • Identifying opportunities to leverage mainstream criminal justice, health, and social services
1. 47 draft recommended strategies divided into six key areas: http://priorities.lacounty.gov/homeless/
   • Prevent Homelessness
   • Subsidize Housing Costs
   • Increase Income
   • Provide Case Management and Services
   • Create a Coordinated System
   • Increase Affordable/Homeless Housing

2. 12 priority strategies identified which will have the greatest impact in the short and medium term. Implementation scheduled to commence by end of the current fiscal year, subject to Board approval.
# Draft Recommended Strategies

## E. Create a Coordinated System

| E1 | Advocate with Relevant Federal and State Agencies to Streamline Applicable Administrative Processes for SSI and Veterans Benefits |
| E2 | Drug Medi-Cal or Organized Delivery System for Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services |
| E3 | Creating Partnerships for Effective Access and Utilization of ACA Services by Persons Experiencing Homelessness |
| E4 | First Responders Training |
| E5 | Decriminalization Policy |
| E6 | Countywide Outreach System |
| E7 | Strengthen the Coordinated Entry System |
| E8 | Enhance the Emergency Shelter System |
| E9 | Discharge Data Tracking System |
| E10 | Regional Coordination of LA County Housing Authorities |
| E11 | County Specialist Support Team |
| E12 | Enhanced Data Sharing and Tracking |
| E13 | Coordination of Funding for Supportive Housing |
| E14 | Transition Age Youth |
| E15 | Homeless Voter Registration and Access to Vital Records |
| E16 | Affordable Care Act Opportunities |
| E17 | Regional Homelessness Advisory Council and Implementation Coordination |

## A. Prevent Homelessness

| A1 | Homeless Prevention Program for Families |
| A2 | Discharge Planning Guidelines |
| A3 | Housing Authority Family Reunification Program |
| A4 | Foster Care Discharges |

## B. Subsidize Housing

| B1 | Provide Subsidized Housing to Homeless Disabled Individuals Pursuing SSI |
| B2 | Expand Interim Assistance Reimbursement to additional County Departments and LAHSA |
| B3 | Partner with Cities to Expand Rapid Re-Housing |
| B4 | Facilitate Utilization of Federal Housing Subsidies |
| B5 | Expand General Relief Housing Subsidies |
| B6 | Family Reunification Housing Subsidy |
| B7 | Interim/Bridge Housing for those Exiting Institutions |
| B8 | Housing Choice Vouchers for Permanent Supportive Housing |

## C. Increase Income

| C1 | Enhance the CalWORKS Subsidized Employment Program for Homeless Families |
| C2 | Increase Employment for Homeless Adults by Supporting Social Enterprise |
| C3 | Expand Targeted Recruitment and Hiring Process to Homeless/Recently Homeless People to Increase Access to County Jobs |
| C4 | Establish a Countywide SSI Advocacy Program for People Experiencing Homelessness or At Risk of Homelessness |
| C5 | Establish a Countywide Veterans Benefits Advocacy Program for Veterans Experiencing Homelessness or At Risk of Homelessness |
| C6 | Targeted SSI Advocacy for Inmates |

## D. Provide Case Management and Services

| D1 | Model Employment Retention Support Program |
| D2 | Expand Jail-in-Reach |
| D3 | Supportive Services Standards for Subsidized Housing |
| D4 | Regional Integrated Re-entry Networks – Homeless Focus |
| D5 | Support for Homeless Case Manager |
| D6 | Criminal Record Clearing Project |

## F. Increase Affordable/Permanent Housing

| F1 | Promote Regional SB 2 Compliance and implementation |
| F2 | Linkage Fee Memo Study |
| F3 | Support for Inclusionary Zoning for Affordable Housing Rental Units |
| F4 | Development of Second Dwelling Units Pilot Program |
| F5 | Incentive Zoning/Value Capture Strategies |
| F6 | Using Public Land for Homeless Housing |
A. Prevent Homelessness
A. Prevent Homelessness

Combating homelessness requires effective strategies to reduce the number of families and individuals who become homeless, in addition to helping currently homeless families and individuals move into permanent housing.
Direct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) and the Dept. of Public Social Services to convene a workgroup consisting of other relevant County departments and key community stakeholders to develop an integrated, comprehensive homeless prevention program for families which draws on the Homeless Family Solutions System (HFSS) model and builds upon current available County homeless prevention funding sources to address rental/housing subsidies, case management and employment services, and legal services.
Direct the Dept. of Health Services to convene a workgroup consisting of the Dept. of Children and Family Services, Mental Health, Public Health, Sheriff, Probation, Veterans Administration, LAHSA, Hospital Association of Southern CA, and key community agencies to utilize known best practices to develop/enhance Discharge Planning Guidelines, with the goal of preventing individuals from being homeless upon discharge.
1. Direct the Sheriff and the Probation Department to work with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles and the Office of Diversion and Reentry to develop a plan to increase utilization of HACLA’s Family Reunification Program.

2. Direct the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles to evaluate the feasibility of implementing a similar program with its Section 8 vouchers, and report back with its findings.
Direct the Dept. of Children and Family Services, in conjunction with the Probation Dept. and LAHSA, to develop a plan to strengthen the County’s Foster Care Discharge Policy:

• Convene transition planning meetings six-months before discharge to identify and prepare the Transition Age Youth (TAY) for housing.

• Offer wrap-around support services to families when youth exit back to a family member’s home.

• Ensure that community college or vocational training, at minimum, is part of the transition plan.

• Improve utilization of assessments for determining placement into the Supervised Independent Living Program.
B. Subsidize Housing
Almost all homeless families and individuals lack sufficient income to pay rent on an ongoing basis, particularly given the extremely high cost of market-rate housing in Los Angeles County. In this context, subsidizing rent and related housing costs is key to enabling homeless families and individuals secure and retain permanent housing and to preventing families and individuals from becoming homeless.
Direct the Departments of Public Social Services and Health Services to work together to maximize both the number of disabled homeless individuals applying for SSI who are placed in subsidized housing and the recovery of those rental subsidy costs through Interim Assistance Reimbursement for individuals approved for SSI.
Direct the Chief Executive Office to work with the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) to amend the existing Memorandum of Understanding with the California Department of Social Services to expand the ability to collect Interim Assistance Reimbursement (IAR) to additional County Departments and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.
Direct the Department of Health Services and Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to partner with cities and expand the availability of rapid re-housing.
Direct the Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles to develop the following temporary, two-year programs to encourage landlord acceptance of subsidized tenants with a HUD voucher issued by HACoLA:

1. Damage Mitigation/Property Compliance Fund
2. Vacancy payments to hold units
Direct the Dept. of Public Social Services to enhance and expand the GR Housing and Case Subsidy Project by:

1. Increasing the maximum rent subsidy from $400 to $475 per month

2. Incorporating a Rapid Rehousing model which includes housing location assistance and housing-related case management

3. Increasing the number of available subsidies for disabled homeless GR participants pursuing Supplemental Security Insurance, through the utilization of the additional recommended funding
Direct the Dept. of Children and Family Services and LAHSA to provide rapid re-housing and case management services to families in the child welfare system where the parent(s)’ homelessness is the sole barrier to the return of the child(ren), and the family meets the following criteria:

- Child(ren) are currently placed in out-of-home care (including relative caregivers)
- Parent(s) have complied with or are in substantial compliance with all court orders for the return of their children
- Family is a good candidate for rapid re-housing, rather than a longer-term housing subsidy
Direct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, in collaboration with the Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, Probation, Children and Family Services, and Sheriff to develop and implement a plan to increase the interim/bridge housing stock across the County, including identification of funding that can be used to support the increase.
Direct the Housing Authority of the County of LA to dedicate Housing Choice Vouchers, which become available through routine turnover, to permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals through the following tiered approach:

1. Tier 1: HCV waiting list preference for chronically homeless individuals
   - 35% of turnover vouchers for FY16
   - 50% for FY 2017 and each subsequent fiscal year

2. Tier 2: HCV waiting list preference for homeless already registered on HACoLA’s waiting lists

3. Tier 3: Project-Based Vouchers
Public Comment
C. Increase Income
Most homeless families and individuals have the ability to increase their income to the point where they will be able to pay for their own housing in the future, if they secure the assistance they need.

A high percentage of homeless adults can increase their income through employment; qualified disabled homeless individuals can increase their income through federal disability benefits.
Direct the Department of Public Social Services to enhance the existing DPSS CalWORKs Subsidized Employment Program for homeless CalWORKs families and those CalWORKs families housed through a Department of Children and Family Services Housing Subsidy.
Direct the CEO to support Social Enterprise/Alternate Staffing Organizations (SE/ASO) to increase employment opportunities for Homeless Adults:

1. Enhance the procurement process to provide preferential treatment of Social Enterprise.
2. Support the creation of Alternative Staffing Organizations operated by SE Entities and designate them as the preferred staffing agency.
3. Provide a SE entity operating an ASO with a subsidy.
4. Leverage DPSS Transitional Subsidized Employment Program for CalWORKs beneficiaries.
5. Develop and distribute an inventory of the services currently being provided in Los Angeles County by SE/ASOs.
6. Encourage cities to adopt a Social Enterprise Agency Utilization Ordinance.
Direct the Department of Human Resources to expand targeted recruitment opportunities to include those who are homeless or recently homeless.
Direct the Department of Health Services to collaborate with the Department of Public Social Services and other relevant County Departments to establish a Countywide Supplemental Security Income Advocacy Program:

1. Benefits Specialist Resource Team(s) for each Service Planning Area (SPA)
2. Ongoing training & technical assistance for Homeless Services Agencies, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and County and other public agencies
1. Direct the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs to contract for one or more Homeless Veterans Benefits Specialist Resource Teams:
   - Outreach & engagement
   - Assessment & screening
   - Coordination of multi-disciplinary services
   - Coordination with VHA and VBA

2. Ongoing training & technical assistance to providers
Direct the Sheriff’s Department, in collaboration with the Departments of Mental Health and Health Services, to develop an SSI Advocacy Program for inmates.
D. Provide Case Management & Services
D. Provide Case Management and Services

Most homeless families and individuals need some level of case management and supportive services to secure and maintain permanent housing, though the specific need varies greatly, depending on the individual circumstances. The availability of appropriate case management and supportive services is critical to enabling homeless families and individuals to take advantage of an available rental subsidy, increase their income, and access/utilize available services and benefits.
Direct the Department of Public Social Services and Community and Senior Services to identify the key components of a Model Employment Retention Support Program and work with relevant departments to incorporate identified services into existing programs, as feasible.
Direct the Sheriff’s Department and Health Services to work with their non-profit partner agencies and collaborating County departments to expand Jail in Reach to make it available to all homeless people incarcerated in a Los Angeles County jail, subject to available funding.
Instruct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, in collaboration with the Departments of Mental Health, Public Health, Health Services, and Public Social Services, the Probation Department, and the Community Development Commission to draft and adopt a definition of supportive services and establish a set of standards for high-quality supportive services for persons in subsidized housing who have recently experienced homelessness.
Direct the Office of Diversion and Reentry, in collaboration with the Care Transitions Unit of the new Integrated Jail Health Services division and the Sheriff to incorporate a focus on homeless individuals into the multi-disciplinary, clinically-focused Regional Integrated Re-entry Networks which are already being developed.
Direct the Chief Executive Officer to work with each department identified below as a collaborating department to develop and implement a plan for each department to support community-based homeless case managers, which reflects the extent and nature of each department’s interaction with homeless families and individuals.
Direct the Public Defender, in collaboration with the Office of the Alternate Public Defender, Probation, Dept. of Public Social Services, and Sheriff to develop a Criminal Record Clearing Project. Identify homeless jobseekers who have criminal records and connect them to a legal advocate who will assist them with record clearing and other legal barriers to achieve stable housing and employment.
Public Comment
E. Create a Coordinated System
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Given their complex needs, homeless individuals, families and youth often touch multiple County departments, city agencies and community-based providers. For the most part, services are not well coordinated; this fragmentation is often compounded by disparate eligibility requirements, funding streams, and bureaucratic processes. Maximizing the efficacy of current programs and expenditures necessitates a coordinated system which brings together homeless and mainstream services.
Direct the Chief Executive Office to advocate with relevant Federal and State agencies to streamline applicable administrative processes, in order to enhance access to SSI and Veterans benefits for applicants who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
Direct the Department of Public Health’s (DPH’s) Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) network to provide the full continuum of Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) waiver services in a culturally competent manner to people experiencing homelessness.

Direct DPH/SAPC to leverage new flexibility through the DMC-ODS waiver to increase access to substance use disorder services by providing field-based services in the community for people experiencing homelessness.
Direct the Health Agency to report back to the Board with recommendations to develop partnerships between health plans, health care providers, and homeless service providers to:

1. Identify and share information
2. Emphasize case management for health care services
3. Promote health literacy education
4. Connect the homeless to health care and services
Direct the Sheriff’s Department to develop:

1. Training program and implementation plan for law enforcement, fire departments and paramedics throughout Los Angeles County, including but not limited to the Sheriff and the Los Angeles Police Department

2. Countywide protocol to address encampments/unsheltered homelessness
Direct the Sheriff’s Department, in collaboration with the District Attorney, Public Defender, Assistant Public Defender, and Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, to develop a decriminalization policy for use by the County and cities throughout the County.
Direct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, in conjunction with relevant County agencies and community based organizations, to develop and implement a plan to leverage current outreach efforts and create a countywide network of multidisciplinary, integrated street-based teams to identify, engage and connect, or re-connect, homeless individuals to interim and/or permanent housing and supportive services.
Direct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, in collaboration with the departments and agencies, to assess the adult Coordinated Entry System, the Homeless Families Solutions System, and the “under construction” coordinated system for transition age youth, develop a recommended plan to strengthen these three related systems, and submit the plan for consideration.
Direct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority to enhance the emergency shelter system:

- Open 24-hours a day/7 days a week
- Transform into interim/bridge housing
- Establish “low threshold” common criteria for shelter eligibility
- Fully utilize the shelter bed assignment system in Homeless Management Information System
- Implement a system to accommodate pets
Direct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, in collaboration with DHS, DPH, DMH, DCFS, and the Sheriff Department, to develop a consistent, systemic approach to tracking and identifying people in an institution or residential setting who were homeless upon entry or who are at risk of being homeless upon discharge.
Direct the Housing Authority of the County of LA, in collaboration with the Housing Authority of the City of LA, to convene an ongoing, quarterly Homeless Issues Roundtable of all public housing authorities in LA County, for the purpose of identifying common issues related to combating homelessness and developing more integrated housing policies to assist homeless families and individuals.
Direct the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, in collaboration with the below County departments to establish a countywide team of specialists to consult with community-based homeless case managers throughout the County:

- Dept. of Children and Family Services
- Dept. of Health Services
- Dept. of Mental Health
- Dept. of Public Health
- Dept. of Public Social Services
- Probation
Direct the Chief Executive Office and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to develop and implement a plan to enhance data sharing and tracking.
Instruct the Community Development Commission/Housing Authority of the County of LA to convene an ongoing working group comprised of the Dept. of Mental Health, LAHSA, the Housing Authority of the City of LA and the LA City Housing and Community Investment Department to:

- Align priorities and processes in order to maximize capital, operating, and service funding for supportive housing.
- Develop a coordinated funding application and award process to dramatically reduce the time required to assemble project financing.
Pending development based on collaboration among Departments/Agencies providing services to homeless Transition Age Youth (TAY) as directed by December 15, 2015 Board Motion.
Direct Registrar-Recorder to collaborate with LAHSA and other County departments and homeless/housing service providers to enhance training and outreach efforts to homeless service providers and County agencies that serve homeless individuals, families and TAY by providing assistance in helping homeless citizens register to vote and access vital records.
Direct the Health Agency to maximize the contribution of the Affordable Care Act to combating homelessness, by aggressively pursuing the nine goals related to homelessness in the Health Agency’s Strategic Priorities, with emphasis on:

- Maximizing revenue through the Whole Person Care pilots and Health Homes
- Providing integrated physical health, mental health and substance use disorder services to address the unique needs of the homeless population within the larger health care system
E17 - Create a Coordinated System

Regional Homelessness Advisory Council and Implementation Coordination

- Direct LAHSA to convene a public-private Regional Homelessness Advisory Council to ensure broad-based collective strategic leadership.

- Direct LAHSA to establish an intergovernmental Homeless Strategy Implementation Group jointly with County public administrative leaders, Los Angeles City public administrative leaders and LAHSA to coordinate the ongoing implementation of the approved homeless strategies.
F. Increase Affordable/ Homeless Housing
F. Increase Affordable/Homeless Housing

The lack of affordable housing overall, and homeless housing in particular, contributes substantially to the current crisis of homelessness. The County and cities throughout the region can increase the availability of both affordable and homeless housing though a combination of land use policy and subsidies for housing development.
Direct the Dept. of Regional Planning to secure consultant assistance to develop a Countywide SB 2 strategy, which encompasses the following:

1. Drafting an SB 2 model ordinance and set of best practices for distribution to jurisdictions throughout LA County

2. Consulting with jurisdictions to promote compliance and/or implementation of SB 2

These actions should occur in partnership with the State Dept. of Housing and Community Development and cities.
Direct the Department of Regional Planning to conduct a nexus study for the development of an Affordable Housing Benefit program ordinance.
Instruct the Chief Executive Officer and the Sacramento advocates to support amendment or clarification of the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act to allow for an inclusionary housing requirement for new rental housing.
Direct the Dept. of Regional Planning to work with the Community Development Commission and CEO to develop and recommend for Board approval of a Second Dwelling Unit Pilot Program that:

1. Expedites the review and approval processes to facilitate the development of second units on single-family lots in the unincorporated areas of the County
2. Provides County incentives to assist homeowners in constructing new or preserving existing, unpermitted second units in exchange for providing long-term affordability covenants or requiring recipients to accept Section 8 vouchers
Instruct the Department of Regional Planning to secure a consultant to assess the feasibility of implementing various Incentive Zoning/Value Capture strategies, including those outlined in DRP’s Equity Development Tools report provided to the Board on June 24, 2015, and in conjunction with the Board’s December 15, 2015 motion on equitable development tools.
Instruct the CEO’s Real Estate Division and the CDC to work in collaboration with the Departments of Internal Services, Fire, Health Services, Libraries, Parks and Recreation, Public Works, Regional Planning, and Sheriff, to assess the feasibility of making County-owned property available for the development of housing for homeless families/individuals, and develop a public land development strategy/program.
Public Comment
CLOSING REMARKS
Office of Homeless Initiative
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 493
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 974 - 2326
homelessinitiative@lacounty.gov

FOR UP TO DATE INFORMATION VISIT US AT:
HTTP://PRIORITIES.LACOUNTY.GOV/HOMELESS