Reducing Homelessness in your Community: Where Do You Start?

September 14, 2018

Speakers

Melissa Kuehne – Communications Manager, Institute for Local Government (Presiding)

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Helene Schneider, Regional Coordinator, US Interagency Council on Homelessness
Homelessness in California

- California accounted for nearly half of all unsheltered people in the country in 2017 (49%).
- Half of all people experiencing homelessness did so in one of five states: California (25% or 134,278 people); New York (16% or 89,503 people); Florida (6% or 32,190 people); Texas (4% or 23,548 people); or Washington (4% or 21,112 people).

Department of Housing and Urban Development 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress

Joint League/CSAC Homelessness Task Force

- Mission Statement: “to provide needed education, identify resources and develop policy that cities and counties need to prevent, assist and reduce the number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in our communities.”
- Co-Chairs: Grass Valley Councilwoman Jan Arbuckle and Yolo County Supervisor Oscar Villegas
Joint League/CSAC
Homelessness Task Force

Examine homelessness in CA
Discuss collaborative local solutions
Provide education and resources

Task Force Report
I. Introduction
II. Assessing the Cost of Homelessness
III. Funding Options
IV. Existing and Emerging Approaches
V. Creating a Homelessness Plan
VI. Partnering for Greater Impact
VII. Building Support for the Spectrum of Housing in the Community—Public Outreach and Engagement
VIII. Conclusion

Homelessness in California
www.ca-ilg.org/homelessness
Introduction

State of Homelessness
• From 2016 to 2017, homelessness in California increased 13.7%
• 134,278 Californians counted as homeless
• Experts agree that the number of people without housing is 3 to 4 times higher than recorded

Causes of Homelessness
• Lack of affordable housing
• Poverty
• Lack of affordable health care
• Domestic violence
• Mental illness
• Addiction

Assessing the Cost of Homelessness

Data Collection and Sharing
• Allows cities and counties to understand the demographics and needs of their homeless populations as well as track the associated costs.

Preventative Services and Cost Savings
• Addressing homelessness early on and implementing preventative services and strategies can save jurisdictions resources and revenue in the long run.
Funding Options

Examples:
- San Jose - Streamlined Temporary and Incidental Shelter Program
- Marin County Landlord Partnership Program
- LA County Landlord Incentive Programs

Existing and Emerging Approaches

Housing
Veterans
Health and Social Services
Families
Law Enforcement

Local Examples:
- Yolo County, Bridge to Housing
- Yuba County, 14 Forward
- City of Fresno, Poverello House
- City of San Diego, Housing Our Heroes
- Alameda County, Care Connect
- Marin County, Homeless Outreach Team
- San Mateo County, LifeMoves
- St. John’s Program for Real Change
- City of Bakersfield Homeless Center
- Downtown Streets Team
- City of Citrus Heights Navigator Program
- City of Anaheim Homeless Outreach Team
Creating a Homelessness Plan

Partnering for Greater Impact

More efficient use of resources
Increased effectiveness in the community

Examples:
- LA Home for Good
- Sacramento Steps Forward
- San Leandro Homeless Compact
- LA Interfaith Summit on Homelessness

LA Home for Good – Walk
Building Support for the Spectrum of Housing in the Community

- Engaging the Public in Planning for Housing
- Building Healthy and Vibrant Communities: Achieving Results through Community Engagement
- TIERS Public Engagement Framework
- Beyond the Usuals: Ideas to Encourage Broader Public Engagement in Community Decision Making
- Partnering with Community-Based Organizations for More Broad-Based Public Engagement
- Dealing with Deeply Held Concerns and other Challenges to Public Engagement Processes
- Effective Public Engagement through Strategic Communication
- Planning Public Engagement: Key Questions for Local Officials

To access these resources and more, visit the ILG’s website at [www.ca-ilg.org/engagement](http://www.ca-ilg.org/engagement).
City of Woodland’s Homeless Action Plan

Paul Navazio
City Manager

League of California Cities
Annual Conference - September 14, 2018

Case Study – City of Woodland

Sacramento Valley Division
Yolo County Seat
Population = 55,500
2017 Point-in-Time Homeless Count

Say WHAT...?

- Homeless Count does not pass the “eye-ball” test
- Who are these folks, where are they coming from, how did they get here?
- Who’s responsibility is this?
- County Seat’ Complex (sic)
- Complaints Mounting
- Drain on City Resources
All-Staff Brainstorming

- Series of Brown Bag Lunch meetings
- What is Staff dealing with
- What can City Management do to assist?
  - What resources would be helpful?
  - Policies / Ordinances / Enforcement tools
- How best to coordinate our INTERNAL city efforts

Issues / Response

- Needles
- Knives/Weapons
- Electrical Outlets
- Library
  - Coordinated Services
- Mental Health
- Vandalism
- Shelters
- Human Waste
- Prostitution
- Fights
- Dumpsters
- Garbage
- Arson
- Encampments
- Broken Water Lines
- Panhandling
- City Hall Patio
- Scrap Metal Thefts
- Absentee Slumlords
- Rehab / Treatment
- Human Waste
- Shelters
- Blighted Properties
- Shopping Carts
- Needles
- Drugs
Homeless Action Plan
https://www.cityofwoodland.org/1013/Homeless-Action-Plan

- **HOUSING**
  - Initiatives that contribute to ENDING HOMELESSNESS
  - “Housing First” Model

- **SHELTER/SERVICES**
  - Efforts to ENHANCE CAPACITY of services/shelters
  - Addressing needs of homeless UNTIL housing solutions bear fruit

- **MANAGING IMPACTS**
  - ADDRESSING IMPACTS of Homelessness in our Community

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Managing Impacts of Homelessness

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Proposed Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M1 - Addressing capacity困难or housing shortages</td>
<td>Establish a HOPE team (Homeless Outreach Street Team) to include representatives from City departments, staff from mental health agencies, and other partners; proactive approach to addressing “hot spots” and chronic issues/concerns; consider hiring/assigning position of City Homeless Outreach Coordinator.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M2 - External factors</td>
<td>Work with Tulalip County Jail, Tulalip County Probation Office, Dignity Health, Tawakal &amp; Hope, and other service providers to ensure clients from other communities are reconnected with their areas of origin; explore options for offering travel assistance to other individuals not receiving services in Woodland, provided that family or friends are available to house these individuals when they return.</td>
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<tr>
<td>M3 - Housing management</td>
<td>Provide PD, PW, and Parks with vehicles to transport personal property and purchase a cargo container for storing the property at the City’s Municipal Service Center or other location.</td>
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<td>M4 - Displacement</td>
<td>Revise City ordinances to increase penalties for property owners who do not secure vacant properties; cite squatters for trespassing/Neighborhood Court/Community service.</td>
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<td>M5 - Support approaches to inappropriate behavior</td>
<td>Engage with Waste Management, commercial property owners and apartment complex managers on protocols to minimize disruption of regular garbage and recycling pick-up; evaluate applicability of ordinances created in other communities specific to this issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M6 - Security/management difficulties</td>
<td>Identify Program to hire a security guard for the library and potentially other City facilities; support the establishment of a day shelter to provide a safe place for homeless during the day and access services.</td>
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<tr>
<td>M7 - Support activities for parks</td>
<td>Implement POG cameras in selected parks; Freeman Park, City Park, Firmin Park.</td>
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### Managing Impacts of Homelessness

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| MI - Shopping carts | • Review City’s Shopping Cart ordinance  
|              | • Collaboration with shopping centers/offices  
|              | • Review contract services |
| MI1 - Recycling centers | • Evaluate number, location and permits for recycling centers to reduce illegal scrap metal activity |
| MI2 - Engage Homeless Population | • Establish relationships with (selected) homeless individuals/liaisons to assist with needs, self-policing and problem solving |
| MI3 - Shelters/Shacks | • Provide Public Works and Parks field staff with training on handling sharps through YCPHARMU |
| MI4 - Improvements/Upgrades | • Security/Barrier facilities  
|              | • Maintenance plan - reduce impacts |
| MI5 - Expand Community Partnerships | • Establish collaborative initiatives with Downtown Businesses, Faith-based community and Neighborhood groups to assist with identifying problem issues/individuals and shared responsibility for response. |

### Homeless Action Plan Services / Shelters

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</table>
| S1 - Housing First Model | • Explore funding opportunities to purchase 1 to 2 residential properties for the City’s Housing First Pilot Project  
|              | • Work with Yolo County Homeless Coordinator to apply for Partnership HealthPlan of California’s Innovation Grants on Housing RFP to fund the purchase of 1 to 2 residential properties  
|              | • Apply for grant funds through Voter Getting to Zero to support the operation of the City’s Housing First Pilot Project. |
| S2 - Tiny Homes | • Explore funding opportunities to increase the supply of temporary shelter for singles and couples in a village-type, tiny homes setting with services component  
|              | • Work with Yolo County Homeless Coordinator to apply for Partnership HealthPlan of California’s Innovation Grants on Housing RFP to fund predevelopment costs of temporary shelter for singles and couples. |
| S3 - Shelter Capacities | • Continue to support the operations of Fourth & Hope’s emergency shelter through the Community Development Block Grant program  
|              | • Expand capacity of Fourth & Hope shelter  
|              | • Allocate funding (public services component) through the CDBG Annual Action Plan  
|              | • Explore options for assisting Fourth & Hope with the financial sustainability of the emergency shelter  
|              | • Consider funding a capital project for the shelter in FY 2019/20 CDBG Action Plan |
| S4 - Daytime Shelter / Service Center | • Identify suitable site for pilot daytime shelter |
| S5 - County Homeless Coalition | • Evaluate means to improve coordination with Yolo County Homeless Coordinator |
| S6 - Mentoring/Case Management | • Designate specific areas where homeless are encouraged to live (sleep) ground rules |
| S7 - Life Skills / Job Training | • Provide/Connect the homeless with basic life skills training, job training and employment opportunities. |
Homeless Action Plan

Housing

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</table>
| B1 - Housing Fund Distribution | - Explore funding opportunities to increase the supply of permanent supportive housing (PSI) for homeless families and individuals. 
- Work with Yolo County Housing Coordinator to apply for Partnership HealthPlan of California’s Innovation Grants on Housing RFP to fund predevelopment costs of PSI projects. |
| B2 - Affordable Housing | - Continue to support developments gap loans and other assistance that increase the supply of affordable housing units. |
| B3 - Federal Continuum of Care | - Continue to apply for grants through the Federal Continuum of Care program in partnership with Fourth & Hope to support permanent housing projects for homeless families and individuals. 
- Apply for renewals of Consolidated PHH, Relocation PHH, Homeless Project PHH on an annual basis. |

Highlights

Initiated Police Department-led Homeless Outreach Street Team (HOST)

- Documented 275 individuals as of June 2018
- Over 225 contacts with homeless
- Over 70 camps visited
- Over 130 offers of service
- Over 50 business contacts
- Over 1,200 shopping carts picked up

Camp Clean-Ups - Agreements in place with CalTrans and CHP for coordinated clean-up and monitoring of freeway right-of-way and sound walls coordination with Northern Pacific and Sierra Northern railroads
Homeless Action Plan

Highlights

- **Initiated Emergency Winter Shelter**
  - Partnership with faith-based community

- **Implemented Regular Multi-disciplinary Team Meetings**
  - City Manager's Office, Woodland Police, County HHS, District Attorney, Probation, Community-based Service Organizations, Dignity Health

- **Hired Social Services Manager**
  - Case manages referral to social services
  - Coordination with County, cities and service providers

- **Expansion of Fourth & Hope Shelter Services**
  - Starting Day Services 9/12/18
  - City providing portable toilets / showers

Homeless Action Plan

Micro-Neighborhood Project
Ongoing Challenges

- Clean-ups and enforcement do not SOLVE problems; merely displace people, shifts problem to new location
- Public perception that City is not aggressively enforcing laws and city ordinances
- Many programs / funding sources are restricted to specific populations
- Coordination across jurisdictions remains a challenge
  - Competition for funding
  - Lack of comprehensive County-wide strategy

Need for Public Information and Education
A City Oriented Response to Homelessness

League of California Cities

September 14, 2018
Homeless Point-in-Time Count
Sacramento County, 2007-2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Unsheltered</th>
<th>Sheltered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1,005</td>
<td>1,447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1,266</td>
<td>1,412</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1,194</td>
<td>1,606</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>1,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>1,752</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>948</td>
<td>1,711</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2,052</td>
<td>1,613</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Homelessness in Sacramento
January – June, 2018

- 21,913 calls to police regarding homeless related activities
- 812 encampments reported through City 311
- 2,266 service referrals made by police IMPACT team
- 2,844 cubic yards of debris removed from abandoned encampments
Homeless Death Report
Sacramento County, 2003-2017


A City Response

Safety
- The City is committed to the safety of all residents. This includes meeting the immediate safety needs of those experiencing homelessness

Stability
- The City is committed to ensuring individuals have access to the services necessary to transition from the streets or temporary shelters into permanent housing

Success
- The City is committed to supporting to helping transition individuals into permanent housing and helping them maintain long-term housing
A City Response

Safety: Assertive Outreach & Engagement

Stability: Emergency Shelter & Triage

Success: Permanent Housing & Supportive Services

Prevention & Diversion

Safety: Crisis Response – SPD Impact Team

› 1 lieutenant, 1 sergeant, 7 officers
› Respond to encampments City-wide
› Service oriented approach
› Mental health intervention
› Community outreach partnerships

Annually: 4,656 referrals for service/housing
6,451 cubic yards of debris removed
Stability: Railroad Triage Shelter

- Up to 200 individuals nightly
- Focused outreach in community
- Access by outreach - no walk ups!
- 24/7 staffing and security
- On-site services, focusing on housing, health, & income acquisition
- Opened December 2017
- 135 positive exits (as of 8/15)

Success: pathways to HEALTH\HOME

- Four-year pilot program for high-risk Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are frequent users of multiple care systems and have poor health outcomes.
- Provides flexible federal funding to improve health and housing outcomes and more efficiently and effectively use health care resources.
- Pilots identify target populations, assess health and housing needs, coordinate care in real-time, and evaluate outcomes.
- Promotes deeper collaboration and coordination between service providers by requiring pilots to form partnerships and share data.
Success: pathways to HEALTH HOME

- Vulnerable, unsheltered populations
- Individuals with complex health care needs
- Frequent users of emergency services & crisis health system
- High-risk individuals exiting institutions

Outreach: 6,800 "touches"
Care Coordination: 3,250 individuals
Housing Support: 1,650 individuals
Respite Beds: 344 individuals

Upcoming Initiatives

Behavioral Health
Employment Programs
Innovative Housing
Prevention & Diversion
USICH & League of CA Cities Partnerships & Political Will

Helene Schneider, Regional Coordinator
September 14, 2018

Statutory Authority and Mission

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is charged with:

• **Coordinating the federal response** to homelessness

• **Creating a national partnership at every level of government and with the private sector** to reduce and end homelessness in the nation

• **Maximizing the effectiveness of the federal government** in contributing to the end of homelessness
Coordinating the Federal Response

- The Council
- Council Policy Group
- Interagency Working Groups
- Performance measurement and accountability

USICH Roles and Activities

- **DC-Based Policy Team** – Coordinating strategies across federal agencies
- **Field-based National Initiatives Team** – Driving progress in communities
- **Communications Activities** – Providing tools and resources to strengthen practices
USICH Regions: National Initiatives Team

- Connector of Dots
- Slayer of Bureaucratic Demons
My introduction to USICH:
El Carrillo, Santa Barbara Grand Opening, 2006

Political Will is Essential
Project Recovery Success: July 2012 – March 2018

Number of Clients admitted: 1154
35% Women; 65% Men

Clients reporting as Homeless: 807 = 70%

41% discharged to improved housing

73% clients successfully discharged after 14 days in program

80% discharged clients continued on with other outpatient services
USICH Areas of Increased Focus

• Increasing **affordable housing** opportunities
• Strengthening **prevention and diversion** practices
• Creating solutions for **unsheltered homelessness**
• Tailoring strategies for **rural communities**
• Helping people who exit homelessness to find **career success and economic mobility**
• Learning from the **expertise of people with lived experiences of homelessness**

Read the Plan.
www.usich.gov/home-together

#HomeTogether
Home.
Because we know that the only true end to homelessness is a safe and stable place to call home.

Together.
Because the solutions are going to take all of us working together, doing our parts, strengthening our communities.

Our Shared National Goals

- Ending homelessness among Veterans
- Ending chronic homelessness among people with disabilities
- Ending homelessness among families with children
- Ending homelessness among unaccompanied youth
- Ending homelessness among all other individuals
Structure for Plan

**Operational definition:** Comprehensive response that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it can’t be prevented, it is a rare, brief, and one-time experience.

**Criteria and benchmarks:** Essential elements of comprehensive systems and the outcomes those systems must be able to achieve.

1) Ensure Homelessness is a Rare Experience

**Objective 1.1:** Collaboratively Build Lasting Systems that End Homelessness

**Objective 1.2:** Increase Capacity and Strengthen Practices to Prevent Housing Crises and Homelessness
### 2) Ensure Homelessness is a Brief Experience

**Objective 2.1:** Identify and Engage All People Experiencing Homelessness as Quickly as Possible  
**Objective 2.2:** Provide Immediate Access to Low-Barrier Emergency Shelter or other Temporary Accommodations to All Who Need It  
**Objective 2.3:** Implement Coordinated Entry to Standardize Assessment and Prioritization Processes and Streamline Connections to Housing and Services  
**Objective 2.4:** Assist People to Move Swiftly into Permanent Housing with Appropriate and Person-Centered Services

### 3) Ensure Homelessness is a One-Time Experience

**Objective 3.1:** Prevent Returns to Homelessness through Connections to Adequate Services and Opportunities
4) Sustain an End to Homelessness

**Objective 4.1:** Sustain Practices and Systems at a Scale Necessary to Respond to Future Needs

Challenges with Encampments and Unsheltered Homelessness
Addressing Encampments & Unsheltered Homelessness

• Get good data, establish a benchmark
• Create & enhance partnerships & collaboratives
• Invest in Outreach Services, use a coordinated entry system
• Allow for low barrier emergency shelters
• Focus on Housing-First Models
• Ensure sustainability
• Share best practices

OPPORTUNITY! New State Resources

• Creation of CA Coordinating Council with funded staffing
• $600M in FY19 State Budget for homelessness-related services
• Prop 2 Funds

How is your City coordinating with your Continuum of Care (CoC)?
Ingredients towards Success

• Political Will

• Effective Use of Adequate Resources

• Collaborative Approach

• “Never Give Up” Attitude

Why it Matters
www.usich.gov

Questions?
Contact Information/Stay in Touch

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