



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY, ROOM 335, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101-2470

AGENDA ITEM

DATE: February 2, 2016

14

TO: Board of Supervisors

SUBJECT: PROJECT ONE FOR ALL (DISTRICTS: ALL)

Overview

Homeless individuals with a severe mental illness are the least likely among us to be able to secure and maintain housing without intensive assistance. They are also the most expensive, inappropriate users of emergency medical and law enforcement resources as well as often causing the most distress for the community. To change those circumstances, it is imperative that the County offer intensive intervention and complete wraparound services to those homeless individuals with a severe mental illness for whom we can locate acceptable housing through the cooperation of our housing partners. The County must actively engage and partner with cities, organizations and agencies working with the homeless, as well as with landlords and housing officials to identify housing for these seriously ill people living on the streets, who, with behavioral health services would be able to function with shelter and treatment.

According to the 2015 Point-In-Time-Count, conducted by the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, more than 18 percent of the 8,500 homeless individuals living throughout San Diego County are estimated to be suffering from a Serious Mental Illness (SMI).

At the January 26, 2016 meeting, the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved a series of recommendations from our Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) to immediately expand an array of behavioral health contracts to serve a limited number of homeless individuals experiencing a SMI and other co-occurring conditions. The impetus for this expansion was the resounding input the County received from law enforcement, community advocates and practitioners who made the case for the dire need to expand programs for our most vulnerable homeless population; the seriously mentally ill.

Approval of the recommendations to launch "Project One for All" will establish, as policy direction, Full Service Partnerships (FSP), a proven best practice to provide the most appropriate intervention for all homeless individuals meeting the specific SMI criteria. This program will create a process for municipal and community housing partners across the region to integrate services with housing resources. Combining wrap-around services with accessible housing will support the seriously mentally ill portion of our homeless population with the resources and

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supports they need to live successfully in the community.

Recommendation(s)

CHAIRMAN RON ROBERTS AND SUPERVISOR GREG COX

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop and launch “Project One for All,” a focused effort to provide intensive wraparound services to local homeless individuals with Serious Mental Illness who are eligible for supportive housing.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop a mechanism for County housing resources to be matched with “Project One for All” services for homeless individuals with Serious Mental Illness residing in the unincorporated areas.
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to develop a protocol for cities, local housing authorities, and non-profit organizations to pair housing resources with wraparound services for the Serious Mentally Ill homeless.
4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back to the Board in 120 days with an implementation plan for “Project One for All.”

Fiscal Impact

N/A

Business Impact Statement

N/A

Advisory Board Statement

N/A

Background

Homeless individuals with a severe mental illness are the least likely among us to be able to secure and maintain housing without intensive assistance. They are also the most_expensive and often inappropriate users of emergency medical and law enforcement resources as well as often causing the most distress for the community. To change those circumstances, it is imperative that the County offer intensive intervention and complete wraparound services to those homeless individuals with a severe mental illness for whom we can locate acceptable housing through the cooperation of our housing partners. The County must actively engage and partner with cities, organizations and agencies working with the homeless as well as with landlords and housing officials to identify housing for these seriously ill people living on the streets, who with behavioral health services would be able to function with shelter and treatment.

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According to federal statute, adults with SMI are 18 years and older who have a diagnosable mental, behavioral, or emotional condition resulting in serious functional impairment, which substantially interferes with or limits one or more major life activities. Common SMI conditions include, but are not limited to, schizophrenia, bipolar disorders and major depression disorders.

Full Service Partnership (FSP) programs are one of the most successful service models that our County offers to individuals struggling with SMI to help them function independently in a community setting and avoid costly institutionalization. The County of San Diego Behavioral Health Services Department has created an FSP program that includes intensive case management, outreach and engagement, to address the root causes that lead this vulnerable population into homelessness. FSP programs provide comprehensive wrap around services on a 24 hours per day, seven days per week basis with a “whatever it takes” approach. These services address all the important issues the client may be experiencing; particularly in areas of psychiatric rehabilitation, substance abuse, health care, employment, education, transportation, and other services critical to an individual’s ability to live independently.

The Full Service Partnership model was the cornerstone of the successful “Project 25” pilot, an innovative collaboration originally designed and funded by the County of San Diego, San Diego Housing Commission, United Way and St. Vincent de Paul. This initiative was devised to reduce the over use of high-cost systems of care by the most chronic homeless in downtown San Diego. Under the Housing First model, the program actually housed 37 individuals providing targeted supports. Results of “Project 25” showed that participants significantly decreased utilization of high cost services such as emergency room visits, ambulance rides, hospital stays, mental health inpatient services, incarceration and detoxification services. Further, it increased the use of more appropriate services like housing subsidies that led to stable living arrangements and accessing primary care and medications to manage health ailments. Overall, “Project 25” resulted in public cost savings while improving the quality of life for these individuals. “Project 25” is one example of the many Full Service Partnership collaborations that the County of San Diego has funded that has achieved successful outcomes.

Individuals with multiple barriers, such as those served by FSP programs, cannot be successful with support services alone. Housing is an essential component for recovery and independence. That is why FSPs need to be paired with housing. To address this, we are directing the Chief Administrative Officer to create a mechanism whereby a city, nonprofit agency or other community stakeholder that wants to make housing available to serve the SMI population can access supportive services for the person in need. This can be achieved by developing an education and recruitment plan targeted at external partners to apply for and utilize Full Service Partnership services.

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Today's recommendations build on the January 26, 2016 actions and reinforce our Board's commitment to support our most vulnerable homeless population with SMI by committing resources and supports to all individuals meeting the specified criteria. The linchpin for 'Project One for All' is the extent to which we can identify partners with local housing resources that can be paired with our support services. Combining wrap-around services with accessible housing will support the seriously mentally ill portion of our homeless population with the resources and supports they need to live successfully in the community.

Linkage to the County of San Diego Strategic Plan

Today's proposed actions support the Healthy Families and Safe Communities initiatives in the County of San Diego's 2016-2021 Strategic Plan, as well as the County's Live Well San Diego vision, by combining wrap-around services with accessible housing to support the seriously mentally ill portion of our homeless population with the resources and support they need to live successfully in the community.

Respectfully submitted,

RON ROBERTS
Supervisor, Fourth District

GREG COX
Supervisor, First District

ATTACHMENT(S)
N/A

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AGENDA ITEM INFORMATION SHEET

REQUIRES FOUR VOTES: Yes No

WRITTEN DISCLOSURE PER COUNTY CHARTER SECTION 1000.1 REQUIRED
 Yes No

PREVIOUS RELEVANT BOARD ACTIONS:
1/26/16 Behavioral Health Services Authorization for Augmentation of Contracts

BOARD POLICIES APPLICABLE:
N/A

BOARD POLICY STATEMENTS:
N/A

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE:
N/A

ORACLE AWARD NUMBER(S) AND CONTRACT AND/OR REQUISITION NUMBER(S):
N/A

ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT: Chairman Ron Roberts and Supervisor Greg Cox

OTHER CONCURRENCES(S): N/A

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