



CITY OF WHEATLAND

CITY COUNCIL MEETING STAFF REPORT

October 25, 2016

SUBJECT: Review and Approve Regional Homeless Plan for Yuba and Sutter Counties

PREPARED BY: Greg Greeson, City Manager

Recommendation

Council review and approve the attached Regional Homeless Plan for Yuba and Sutter Counties.

Background/Discussion

At our July 26th Council meeting, the Council appointed Council Member Bob Coe to serve as the City's representative to attend a series of meetings of elected officials and administrators/managers to review the draft Regional Homeless Plan ("Plan") for Yuba and Sutter counties and discuss "next steps, such as possibly forming a regional board or JPA and bringing the plan before our respective councils/boards for consideration." The draft Plan was subsequently reviewed and has been submitted to the local jurisdictions in Yuba and Sutter counties for their review and approval.

As stated in the Plan;

"This plan is being developed to establish a way forward for the Yuba-Sutter region to address homeless camping, which impacts quality of life in our communities. Its purpose is to address the needs of both chronic and situational homeless persons through the development and implementation of a coordinated response from the counties and cities in the Yuba-Sutter region. This joint effort will reduce the number of people living in public spaces through this coordinated effort of local jurisdictions and non-profit organizations.

Unique to the Yuba-Sutter region is the ease of migration between jurisdictions and attractiveness of the river bottom locations for camping. The two counties (Sutter and Yuba) and four incorporated cities (Yuba City, Live Oak, Marysville and Wheatland) have a combined population of 168,690. The 2015 point in time count of homeless individuals in Sutter and Yuba counties identified 869 individuals experiencing homelessness, slightly down from the 997 counted in 2006 (Appeal Democrat 5-3-06). About a third of the identified homeless population (31%) reported chronic substance abuse, severe mental illness, military veteran status, or fleeing a domestic violence situation contributing to homelessness.

Government alone cannot solve the issue of homelessness. It is critical that local government agencies partner with non-profit service providers, business operators/owners, residents, and people who are homeless in this planning process. All are considered stakeholders.

The overall purpose and mission of this plan is to provide a strategy for implementation of a coordinated, sustainable regional approach to assist homeless individuals and families achieve stable and healthy lives. A concurrent purpose of this plan is to create a more positive interaction between the homeless and the general community at or near public locations; ensuring the enjoyment of public spaces for all local citizens within the region.

Note: *This is a living document created to serve as a guide and subject to change and amendment as this partnership grows.”*

The key partners and stakeholders include Yuba County, Marysville, Wheatland, Sutter County, City of Yuba City, Live Oak, nonprofit organizations, Yuba-Sutter Continuum of Care members, business owners and operators, residents, and people experiencing homelessness.

Therefore, staff is recommending that the Council review and approve the attached Regional Homeless Plan for Yuba and Sutter Counties.

Attachments

1. The “FINAL Draft” Regional Homeless Plan for Yuba and Sutter Counties, entitled “Action Plan for Homelessness – Yuba and Sutter Counties”

ACTION PLAN FOR HOMELESSNESS YUBA AND SUTTER COUNTIES

This plan is being developed to establish a way forward for the Yuba-Sutter region to address homeless camping, which impacts quality of life in our communities. Its purpose is to address the needs of both chronic and situational homeless persons through the development and implementation of a coordinated response from the counties and cities in the Yuba-Sutter region. This joint effort will reduce the number of people living in public spaces through this coordinated effort of local jurisdictions and non-profit organizations.

SUMMARY

Unique to the Yuba-Sutter region is the ease of migration between jurisdictions and attractiveness of the river bottom locations for camping. The two counties (Sutter and Yuba) and four incorporated cities (Yuba City, Live Oak, Marysville and Wheatland) have a combined population of 168,690. The 2015 point in time count of homeless individuals in Sutter and Yuba counties identified 869 individuals experiencing homelessness, slightly down from the 997 counted in 2006 (Appeal Democrat 5-3-06). About a third of the identified homeless population (31%) reported chronic substance abuse, severe mental illness, military veteran status, or fleeing a domestic violence situation contributing to homelessness.

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KEY PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS

- Yuba County
- Marysville
- Wheatland
- Sutter County
- City of Yuba City
- Live Oak
- Nonprofit organizations, Yuba-Sutter Continuum of Care members
- People experiencing homelessness
- Business Owners/Operators
- Residents

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- **Enhance** coordination among non-profit organizations and government
- **Provide** seamless services through effective partnerships
- **Increase** the availability of stable and sustainable housing
- **Ensure** the availability of basic needs services
- **Inventory and evaluate** enforcement strategies utilized by jurisdictions
- **Preserve** public areas for their intended use by residents and the public at large

Priority A. Enhance coordination among non-profit organizations and government

- Goal 1:** Formation of a regional governance/advisory team and charter (this action plan)
 - **Objective:** Establish governance team members:
 - 2 representatives each Sutter, Yuba Counties
 - 2 representatives from nonprofit interests

✓ *Measurement: Team established*

- Goal 2:** Identify services currently available in all jurisdictions
 - **Objective:** inventory of services currently available for supporting the action plan
 - **Objective:** from this inventory, a lead nonprofit project partner will be identified by the governance team

✓ *Measurement: Service inventory established; lead nonprofit named*

- Goal 3:** Identify services to be provided
 - **Objective:** Lead nonprofit partner scope of service work developed

Service Providers

Yuba County

- Buddy's House
- California Rural Legal Assistance
- Habitat for Humanity Yuba-Sutter
- Harmony Health Medical Clinic
- Marysville Immediate Care Clinic
- Peach Tree Health
- REST - Regional Emergency Shelter Team
- SA Depot Family Crisis Center
- Salvation Army
- St. Joseph Church (CLRS)
- St. John's Episcopal Church – *food shelf & community lunch*
- Twin Cities Rescue Mission
- Sutter-Yuba Mental Health Services
- Yuba County Health & Human Services
- Yuba County One Stop
- Yuba Sutter Stand Down
- Yuba Sutter Veteran Services Office

Sutter County

- A Hand Up Ministry
- Ampla Health
- Bridges to Housing
- Casa de Esperanza
- Central Valley Homeless Veterans Assistance Program
- Crossroads Community Church
- First Lutheran Church
- First Steps
- First United Methodist Church
- Hands of Hope
- REST - Regional Emergency Shelter Team
- Sutter County One Stop
- Sutter County Social Services
- Sutter-Yuba Mental Health Services
- St. Vincent de Paul
- St. Andrew Presbyterian
- VA No. Calif. Health Care Clinic

- **Objective:** Partner nonprofits and agencies scope of services developed

✓ *Measurement: Scopes of service developed*

□ **Goal 4:** Identify best practices

- **Objective:** Field trip to service sites in nearby jurisdictions of similar size (*example: Fourth & Hope emergency shelter, housing, residential treatment*)
- **Objective:** Engage businesses and the community in best practices conversation through community meetings

✓ *Measurement: best project practices reviewed; community engaged with at least 2 public meetings (1 in each county)*

□ **Goal 5:** Secure initial service location

- **Objective:** Determine use for initial location – emergency housing (cabins/tiny homes), one stop coordinated entry
- **Objective:** Establish budget for providing identified services

✓ *Measurement: location, use, and budget established/created*

Potential Financial Resources

- CA Housing & Community Development (HCD)
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
- General fund of jurisdictions
- First 5
- Private foundations and donors
- AB 109: CA Public Safety Realignment
- Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities (AHSC): revenue stream from CA cap and trade program
- Housing choice vouchers (housing authority)
- HUD

Priority B. Provide seamless basic needs services through effective partnerships

□ **Goal 6:** Partner agencies and nonprofit develop MOU's defining services

- **Objective:** Service definition to include timing, location, populations (e.g., focused on military veterans)

□ **Goal 7:** Partner agencies and nonprofit sign MOU's defining services to be provided

✓ *Measurement: MOU's in place*

Short term project steps:

- Facilitate re-location out of river bottom; prevent increase in number of individuals in general, and along the river bottom.
- Engage in services, solution resources, etc.
- Rapidly re-house those who are willing
- Find a temporary location that will serve as a temporary living site for 200-300 people.
- Survival and self-sufficiency services provided by local service providers.

Priority C: Increase the availability of stable and sustainable housing

- Goal 8:** Inventory of housing resources created by governance team
 - **Objective:** Vacancy rate determined
 - **Objective:** New construction needs determined

✓ *Measurement: Housing inventory available*

Priority D: Ensure the availability of basic needs services

Goal 9: Establish list of financial and in-kind resources

- **Objective:** Working with nonprofit and agency partners, this list will be reviewed and available to governance team
- **Objective:** Affordable housing options will be identified as available for individuals wanting to move from homelessness to housing

✓ *Measurement: Resources list developed*

- Goal 10:** Secure commitment of financial and in-kind resources from government and nonprofit partners
 - **Objective:** Working with jurisdictions and nonprofits, available funding sources will be identified and secured for plan implementation

✓ *Measurement: List developed; assessed with budget plan*

- Goal 11:** Location/site services
 - **Objective:** Establishment of a broader continuum of services at a temporary one stop campus, with access to temporary housing, permanent supportive housing, rapid re-housing and menu of social service activities

✓ *Measurement: Services in place at one stop location*

Priority E: Inventory and assess enforcement strategies

□ **Goal 12** Review recent enforcement efforts of other jurisdictions

- **Objective:** Identify successful regional strategies

✓ *Measurement: Jurisdictional governance teams receive accounting of regional strategies that have been employed, and an evaluation of effectiveness.*

Priority F: Inventory and assess overall best practices to effectively address nuisance behaviors

□ **Goal 13** Review recent efforts by area jurisdictions to address any nuisance behaviors of people experiencing homelessness that have a negative impact on the general public.

- **Objective:** Identify successful local and regional best practices that encourage positive behavior and community interaction of people experiencing homelessness while mitigating public nuisance behaviors.
- **Objective:** Evaluate strategies to address nuisance behaviors impacting private property owners, and/or business operations.

✓ *Measurement: Jurisdictional governance teams receive accounting of strategies that have been employed, and an evaluation of effectiveness.*

PLACEHOLDER GOAL FOR THE PROGRAM:

Once goals 1 – 13 have been implemented, the collection of data regarding people served, and how they are being served will be conducted. Program accomplishments will be shared with the community.

Outcome Measurements & Community Education

- Data collection – numbers served, etc.
- Dissemination of data – community engagement plan