

RTFH Community Plan to Address Homelessness in San Diego County

Presentation to RTFH Governance Board

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June 15, 2017

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About Focus Strategies

We believe the HEARTH Act and Opening Doors lead the way to finally ending homelessness.



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Purpose of the Community Plan

- Bring together existing efforts into a coordinated, region-wide system to end homelessness
- Successful development and implementation will result in significant reductions in homelessness

Community Plan Phases

- ***Phase One (In Progress)***: Develop Strategic Framework for a System to End Homelessness by June 30, 2017.
- ***Phase Two (To Begin July 1)***: Develop Implementation Plan, to be completed by June 30, 2018.

Strategic Framework: Overview

Purpose

- Establish goal of creating a coordinated regional system to effectively end homelessness
- Describe the desired system and identify strategy for creating
- Framework to for organizing and aligning activities for the next 12 months

Information Sources

- Review of available data and system documents (plans, reports)
- Inventory of existing programs and initiatives
- Interviews with 36 key stakeholders (a few still to be conducted)
- Input and informational meetings with stakeholder groups
- Review of research and best practices

Initial Themes: Leadership/Stakeholder Engagement Results

- Community highly engaged in issue
- Desire to implement solutions with urgency
- New RTFH board leadership viewed as sign of high level commitment
- Work to date is siloed, some is partially coordinated

Initial Themes: Leadership/Stakeholder Engagement Results (Cont.)

- Many providers feel blamed for lack of progress on reducing homelessness; support of positive work & system planning desired
- Language of “ending homelessness” is unacceptable to some
- Many stakeholders expressed desire to become a system, but also commitment to their siloes
- More communication about opportunities for input desired

Framework Contents

1. Defining a coordinated and effective regional system for San Diego (principles, key features, measures of success)
2. What is in place
3. What is needed
4. Action steps for 2017-2018

Defining the System: Key Features

1. Unified leadership, effective governance, aligned funding
2. Streamlined and consistent system access: outreach, coordinated entry and diversion
3. Emergency responses providing pathways to housing: shelter, transitional, interim housing
4. System exits: flexible range of housing interventions
5. System infrastructure: data, evaluation, training

What Is In Place

1. Leadership and Governance: RTFH – merger, City/County leadership
2. System access: outreach teams, coordinated entry (phase 1)
3. Emergency responses: shelter, transitional, interim housing; efforts to become more housing focused
4. System exits: growing supply of RRH & PSH
5. System infrastructure: HMIS, PIT, dashboards, training and TA

What Is Needed

1. Leadership and Governance: accountability structure; translating policy to implementation; funding alignment
2. System access: re-design of coordinated entry to speed movement of chronically homeless people into housing; scaling up CE to include all system interventions
3. Emergency responses: shelters and interim housing integrated into CE; systematically connected to housing exits; supports for shelter provider to shift their practices

What Is Needed

4. System exits: scale up rapid re-housing; range of intensity (from “light touch” to high intensity with Critical Time Intervention); improve connections between CES and PSH
5. System infrastructure: improve HMIS participation; expand data analysis capacity (performance, predictive modeling); training and TA to support system and culture change.

Priority Action Steps for FY 17-18

- Public and private funders convene to identify immediate opportunities for alignment of policies and strategies (e.g. adopting common standards, joint RFPs)
- RTFH staff and board evaluate models for a regional governance and accountability structure
- CES re-design working group, charged with identifying how to use outreach, CE and PSH to more rapidly move high priority chronically homeless people into existing PSH

Priority Action Steps for FY 17-18

- RTFH staff, board and funders work together to integrate Community Standards into all funding agreements and contracts for shelter and interim housing
- Convene PSH providers and funders to review admission policies and procedures and identify immediate steps to facilitate access for high priority chronically homeless people
- Approach business community for investment in large scale rapid re-housing initiative

Priority Action Steps for FY 17-18

- Invest in data analysis: system and project performance, typology of single adult and family homelessness, predictive modeling
- Convene ongoing stakeholder learning collaborative for two-way communication on system and culture change to become more data-driven, housing-focused and person-centered.

Discussion