



San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

AGENDA AND NOTICE OF THE **SPECIAL** MEETING OF THE HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 29, 2022 -- 8:00 AM

Teleconference Meeting

Zoom Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84398766442>

Livestream Link: <https://youtu.be/CaqaXrFphm4>

Chair
Becky Shevlin
City of Monrovia

Vice-Chair
Margaret Clark
City of Rosemead

MEMBERS
Arcadia
Azusa
Baldwin Park
Claremont
Duarte
Glendora
Irwindale
Monrovia
Pasadena
Pomona
Rosemead
South El Monte
South Pasadena
Upper San Gabriel Valley
Municipal Water District
West Covina
LA County Supervisorial
District #1

Thank you for participating in today's meeting. The Homelessness Committee encourages public participation and invites you to share your views on agenda items.

MEETINGS: Regular Meetings of the Homelessness Committee are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 8:00 AM at the West Covina Council Chambers Meeting Room (1444 W. Garvey Avenue S., West Covina, CA 91790). The agenda packet is available at the San Gabriel Valley Council of Government's (SGVCOG) Office, 4900 Rivergrade Road, Suite A120, Irwindale, CA, and on the website, www.sgvkog.org. A copy of the agenda is also viewable at Alhambra City Hall, 111 S 1st St, Alhambra, CA. Copies are available via email upon request (sgv@sgvcog.org). Documents distributed to a majority of the Committee after the posting will be available for review in the SGVCOG office and on the SGVCOG website. Your attendance at this public meeting may result in the recording of your voice.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: Your participation is welcomed and invited at all Committee meetings. Time is reserved at each regular meeting for those who wish to address the Board. SGVCOG requests that persons addressing the Committee refrain from making personal, slanderous, profane, or disruptive remarks.

TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE: At a regular meeting, the public may comment on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee during the public comment period and may also comment on any agenda item at the time it is discussed. At a special meeting, the public may only comment on items that are on the agenda. Members of the public wishing to speak are asked to complete a comment card or simply rise to be recognized when the Chair asks for public comments to speak. We ask that members of the public state their name for the record and keep their remarks brief. If several persons wish to address the Committee on a single item, the Chair may impose a time limit on individual remarks at the beginning of discussion. **The Committee may not discuss or vote on items not on the agenda.**

AGENDA ITEMS: The Agenda contains the regular order of business of the Committee. Items on the Agenda have generally been reviewed and investigated by the staff in advance of the meeting so that the Committee can be fully informed about a matter before making its decision.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Items listed on the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be acted upon by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Committee member or citizen so requests. In this event, the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar and considered after the Consent Calendar. If you would like an item on the Consent Calendar discussed, simply tell Staff or a member of the Committee.



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the SGVCOG office at (626) 457-1800. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the SGVCOG to make reasonable arrangement to ensure accessibility to this meeting.



MEETING MODIFICATIONS DUE TO THE STATE AND LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY RESULTING FROM THE THREAT OF COVID-19: AB 361 (Rivas), signed by California Governor Gavin Newsom on September 16, 2021, authorizes local agencies to hold public meetings via teleconferencing and allows for members of the public to observe and address the meeting telephonically or electronically to promote social distancing due to the state and local emergency resulting from the threat of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

To follow the new provisions in AB 361 and ensure the safety of Committee Members and staff for the purpose of limiting the risk of COVID-19, in-person public participation at the Homelessness Committee meeting scheduled for March 29, 2022 at 8:00 AM will not be allowed. To allow for public participation, the Homelessness Committee will conduct its meeting through Zoom Video Communications. To participate in the meeting, download Zoom on any phone or computer device and copy and paste the following link into your browser to access the live meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84398766442>. You may also access the meeting via the livestream link on the front of the agenda page.

Instructions for Public Comments: For those wishing to make public comments on agenda and non-agenda items, but within the SGVCOG's subject matter jurisdiction, you may submit written comments via email or provide a verbal comment by participating through Zoom.

- Written Comments (Email): If you wish to submit written public comments to be distributed to the committee members prior to or during the meeting, please submit these materials via email to Victoria Urenia at vurenia@sgvcog.org at least 1 hour prior to the scheduled meeting time. Please indicate in the Subject Line of the email "FOR PUBLIC COMMENT." Emailed public comments will be read into the record and will be part of the recorded meeting minutes. Written public comments may include, but are not limited to letters, reports, and presentations. While there is no page or word count limit for written comments, the time for reading written public comments into the record will be limited to three minutes, which is the same time allotted for verbal comments.
- Verbal Comments (Zoom): Through Zoom, you may provide a verbal comment by using the web interface "Raise Hand" feature. Wait to be called upon by staff, and then you may provide verbal comments for up to 3 minutes. Public comment is taken at the beginning of the meeting for items not on the agenda. Public comment is also accepted at the beginning of each agenda item.

Any member of the public requiring a reasonable accommodation to participate in this meeting should contact Victoria Urenia at least 48 hours prior to the meeting at (626) 225-2598 or at vurenia@sgvcog.org.

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Public Comment (*If necessary, the Chair may place reasonable time limits on all comments*)

CONSENT CALENDAR (*It is anticipated the Committee may take action on the following matters*)

5. Adopt Resolution 22-04-HC Making Specified Findings to Enable the Homelessness Committee to Continue to Hold Meetings Via Teleconferencing – Page 1
Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 22-04-HC making specified findings that the existence of a local and state of emergency in California caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to directly impact the ability of the SGVCOG to hold public meetings safely in person thereby necessitating an ability to continue holding meetings via teleconferencing
6. Homelessness Committee Meeting Minutes – 3/1/2022 – Page 6
Recommended Action: Approve
7. State Homeless Funds – Page 9
Recommended Action: For information only.

PRESENTATIONS (*It is anticipated the Committee may take action on the following matters*)

8. El Monte Project Homekey—Alma K. Martinez, City Manager – Page 11
Recommended Action: For information only.
9. Redondo Beach Housing Initiative Court—Joy Abaquin, Quality of Life City Prosecutor – Page 13
Recommended Action: For information only.

ACTION ITEM

10. Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment Court – Page 15
Recommended Action: Recommend that the Governing Board support in concept the proposed Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court program, with the appropriate levels of funding to effectively and fully implement the Program.

UPDATE ITEMS (*It is anticipated the Committee may take action on the following matters*)

11. Chair's Report
12. LA County Homelessness Governance Reform and Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness – Page 18
13. State Budget and Legislative Updates

LIAISON REPORTS (*It is anticipated the Committee may take action on the following matters*)

14. San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust
15. San Gabriel Valley Consortium on Homelessness
16. LA County Homeless Initiative
17. Union Station Homeless Services
18. Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)

ADJOURN

REPORT

DATE: March 29, 2022

TO: Homelessness Committee

FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director

RE: **ADOPT RESOLUTION 22-04-HC MAKING SPECIFIED FINDINGS TO ENABLE THE HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE TO HOLD MEETINGS VIA TELECONFERENCING**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Adopt Resolution 22-04-HC making specified findings that the existence of a local and state of emergency in California caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to directly impact the ability of the SGVCOG to hold public meetings safely in person thereby necessitating an ability to continue holding meetings via teleconferencing.

BACKGROUND

Introduced by Assemblymember Robert Rivas (D-Hollister) on February 1, 2021, AB 361 codifies portions of Governor Gavin Newsom's existing Ralph M. Brown Act exemptions pertaining to teleconferencing if a local agency issues an emergency finding, and reissues it every 30 days, that it is unsafe to meet in person. Specifically, the Brown Act exemptions include requirements to provide a public teleconference location, to maintain a member quorum within the agency's jurisdiction and to provide for public comment at each teleconference location, such as a private residence. The legislation expires in December 2024. On September 16, 2021, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed AB 361 into law, effective immediately.

A local agency wishing to rely on the provisions of AB 361 must meet one of the following criteria:

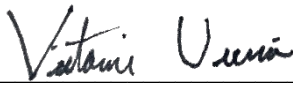
1. The local agency holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency, and state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing; or
2. The local holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency for the purpose of determining, by majority vote, whether as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees; or
3. The local agency holds a meeting during a proclaimed state of emergency and has determined, by majority vote, that, as a result of the emergency, meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health or safety of attendees.

On March 4, 2020, Governor Newsom proclaimed a State of Emergency in California due to the threat of COVID-19 and shortly thereafter issued Executive Order N-29-20 suspending certain Brown Act provisions relating to teleconferencing as public meetings began to be held online.¹ However, this Executive Order expired on September 30, 2021, despite the State of Emergency remaining in place.

¹ Similarly, on March 4, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Los Angeles County Health Officer declared a local and health emergency due to the threat of COVID-19.

The threat that COVID-19 has presented continues to directly impact the ability of the SGVCOG to conduct Governing Board/committee meetings safely in person. Updated guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Los Angeles Department of Public Health in July and August 2021 advise governmental entities to refrain from conducting indoor meetings and consider moving operations outdoors, where feasible, to prevent transmission. SGVCOG staff finds it has been unable to find a suitable outdoor space with the requisite audio/visual capabilities at which the monthly Committee meetings can be held safely. Similarly, an indoor space with sufficient capacity to accommodate safe social distance practices among members, staff, and the public could not be identified

In order to continue to conduct meetings in a safe manner and to prevent unnecessary COVID-19 exposure to members, staff and the public, staff is recommending that the Homelessness Committee adopt Resolution 22-04-HC making certain findings in order to be able to continue teleconferencing for its meetings.

Prepared by: 
Victoria Urenia
Management Analyst

Approved by: 
Marisa Creter
Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Resolution 22-04-HC

RESOLUTION 22-04-HC

**RESOLUTION OF THE HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE OF THE
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SGVCOG) MAKING
SPECIFIED FINDINGS TO ENABLE THE HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE TO
CONTINUE TO HOLD MEETINGS VIA TELECONFERENCING**

WHEREAS, AB 361 (Rivas), and specifically Government Code section 54953 (“Section 54953”), authorizes local agencies to use teleconferencing without complying with the specified teleconferencing requirements imposed by the Ralph M. Brown Act when the legislative body of a local agency holds a meeting during a declared state of emergency and makes certain findings relating thereto; and

WHEREAS, Section 54953 allows for local agencies to teleconference if the legislative body finds, among other things, that state or local official continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing or whether a state of emergency directly impacts the ability of the legislative body to meet safely and that meeting in person would present imminent risks to the health and safety of attendees; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Governor of California proclaimed a State of Emergency to exist in California as result of the threat of COVID-19, which state of emergency remains in place; and

WHEREAS, on March 4, 2020, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Los Angeles County Health Officer declared a local and health emergency as result of the threat of COVID-19, which emergency remains in place; and

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County and State health officials continue to recommend social distancing as a result of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, due to the resurgence of COVID-19 reported cases and surge of the Delta variant statewide and in particular, in Los Angeles County, the California Department of Public Health’s Best Practice Guidance encourages all governmental entities to refrain from conducting indoor meetings and consider moving operations outdoors, where feasible, in order to prevent transmission; and

WHEREAS, SGVCOG’s inability to facilitate Governing Board and Committee meetings using a centralized outdoor space with audio/visual capabilities, as well as the lack of indoor capacity to accommodate safe social distance practices among members and joining staff makes it unsafe for its members and the public to meet safely in person; and

WHEREAS, teleconferencing meetings enables the SGVCOG to retain the ability to continue to conduct meetings in a safe manner that would reduce exposure to members and staff to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, public access and participation remain a core value of the SGVCOG, and the SGVCOG has the capability to meet the requirements in Section 54953 to provide the public with

the ability to view, hear, and participate in such meetings in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of all persons to participate in such meetings; and

WHEREAS, as a condition of extending the use of the provisions to conduct remote teleconference meetings without compliance with specified Brown Act teleconference requirements, the SGVCOG must reconsider the circumstances of the state of emergency that exists, and the SGVCOG Homelessness Committee has done so.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Homelessness Committee does hereby find the existence of a local and state of emergency in California caused by COVID-19 continues to directly impact the ability of the SGVCOG to hold public meetings safely in person and local and state health officials continue to recommend social distancing.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ADOPTED by the Homelessness Committee of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, on March 29, 2022.

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Becky Shevlin, President

Attest:

I, Marisa Creter, Executive Director and Secretary of the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments, do hereby certify that Resolution 22-04-HC was adopted at a meeting of the Homelessness Committee held on the 29th day of March, 2022, by the following vote:

AYES:	
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	
ABSENT:	

Marisa Creter, Secretary



SGVCOG Homelessness Committee Meeting

Unapproved Minutes

March 1, 2022

8:00 AM - Via Zoom/Teleconference

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order
B. Shevlin called the meeting to order at 8:02 AM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance
J. Leano led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call:

Members Present:

R. Gonzales, Azusa
Y. Ruizesparza, Baldwin Park
J. Leano, Claremont
J. Schulz, Duarte
K. Davis, Glendora
M. Ortiz, Irwindale
B. Shevlin, Monrovia
M. Clark, Rosemead
R. Corral, South El Monte
M. Cacciotti, South Pasadena
D. Urbina, LA County Dist. 1

Members Absent:

A. Verlato, Arcadia
W. Huang, Pasadena
D. Holley, Pomona
J. Santana, Upper District
R. Diaz, West Covina

Guests:

M. Wickham
A. Park
B. Young

SGVCOG Staff:

B. Acevedo
M. Creter
T. Lott
S. Pedersen
C. Sims
V. Urenia

4. Public Comment
No Public comment was received for the meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. Adopt Resolution 22-03-HC Making Specified Findings to Enable the Homelessness Committee to Continue to Hold Meetings Via Teleconferencing
Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution 22-03-HC making specified findings that the existence of a local and state of emergency in California caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to directly impact the ability of the SGVCOG to hold public meetings safely in person thereby necessitating an ability to continue holding meetings via teleconferencing

6. Homelessness Committee Minutes – 2/1/2022
Recommended Action: Approve
7. State Homeless Funds
Recommended Action: For information only.

There was a motion to approve consent calendar item 5 - 7 M/S: (J. Leano /M. Cacciotti).

[MOTION PASSED]

AYES:	Azusa; Baldwin Park; Claremont; Duarte; Monrovia; Rosemead; South El Monte; South Pasadena; LA County District 1
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	
ABSENT:	Arcadia; Glendora; Irwindale; Pasadena; Pomona; Upper District; West Covina

ACTION ITEM

8. Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness Governance Options – Mary Wickham, Executive Director
M. Wickham, B. Young, and A. Park, presented on the key themes and potential governance options identified in BRCH meetings. C. Sims followed with a comprehensive presentation on the SGVCOG’s governance structure recommendations for BRCH.

There was a motion to recommend Governing Board direct staff to submit a comment letter on the recommendations for the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH). M/S: (K. Davis /M. Cacciotti).

[MOTION PASSED]

AYES:	Azusa; Baldwin Park; Claremont; Duarte; Glendora; Irwindale; Monrovia; Rosemead; South El Monte; South Pasadena;
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	LA County District 1
ABSENT:	Arcadia; Pasadena; Pomona; Upper District; West Covina

UPDATE ITEMS

9. Chair’s Report
10. LA County Homelessness Governance Reform and Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH)
Chair B. Shevlin provided updates on upcoming BRCH meetings.
11. State Budget and Legislative Updates
V. Urenia provided legislative updates with additional updates provided by T. Egan.
J. Leano requested follow-up information on whether there are efforts in which the legislature is incentivizing or activating recruitment and retention to fill the need for increased mental health resources.

LIASON REPORTS

12. San Gabriel Valley Regional Housing Trust
13. San Gabriel Valley Consortium on Homelessness
14. LA County Homeless Initiative
15. United Way Everyone In
16. Union Station Homeless Services
17. Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)

M. Cacciotti requested an update presentation on the Be Well OC Mobile Response Program in Huntington Beach at an upcoming meeting.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 AM.

REPORT

DATE: March 29, 2022

TO: Homelessness Committee

FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director

RE: **STATE HOMELESS FUNDS**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

For information only.

BACKGROUND

On June 27, 2019, Governor Newsom signed the 2019 Budget Trailer bill which contained \$5,625,000 in funding for homeless programs for the San Gabriel Valley to be administered by the SGVCOG. On September 10, 2019, the County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved a motion by Supervisors Barger and Solis directing the carryover of \$6,000,000 in Measure H “Innovation Funds” for the County’s Councils of Governments. The SGVCOG received an allotment of \$1,541,876. All Innovation Funding was expended by December 31, 2021, in accordance with funding requirements. All State Funding must be expended by June 30, 2022. To ensure that all funds are expended by June 30, 2022, on the Governing Board authorize the Executive Director to re-allocate funding between approved Homeless Program categories, and direct staff to provide monthly updates to the Homelessness Committee on the progress of expenditures. Table 1 shows the current expenditures by program category:

Funding Category	Expended
Admin - Direct Labor	\$197,488.20
RHT – Admin	\$77,500.00
RHT - Capital	\$1,350,000.00
RHT - Operations	\$200,000.00
Prevention & Diversion	\$340,784.98
Pilot Programs	\$643,080.11
Plans Implementation	\$933,411.18
Plans Development	\$99,870.00
Landlord Outreach	\$80,000.00
Other Regional Work	\$148,265.50
TOTAL	\$4,070,399.97

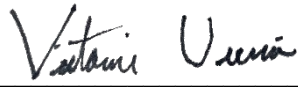
Table 1.
Funds Expended by Category.

REPORT

As summarized, approximately \$3.1 million in funds are left to be expended by June 30. Staff have been meeting with each city and service provider to ensure spend-down plans are in place.

Total Funding:	\$7,166,876
Funds Expended:	\$4,070,400
Remaining Funds:	\$3,096,476 (43%)

Staff will continue to monitor and evaluate expenditures and spend-down projects and make modifications to the funding category budgets to ensure that all funding is expended by June 30, 2022. SGVCOG will provide monthly updates to the Committee.

Prepared by: 
Victoria Urenia
Management Analyst

Approved by: 
Marisa Creter
Executive Director

REPORT

DATE: March 29, 2022

TO: Homelessness Committee

FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director

RE: **EL MONTE PROJECT HOMEKEY**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

For information only.

BACKGROUND

Project Homekey is an innovative partnership between the State of California and local jurisdictions to provide funding for innovative housing solutions, including the conversion of nonresidential structures to residential dwelling units, the conversion of commercially-zoned structures – including hotels and motels, manufactured housing, and the usage of excess state-owned properties. The intent of the program is to convert these properties into permanent, long-term housing for people experiencing homelessness. Homekey builds upon Project Roomkey, which was an urgent but temporary initiative to provide non-congregate shelter options for people experiencing homelessness (PEH), with a specific focus on seniors and other medically vulnerable PEH.

In July 2020, the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the Homekey Program. The City of El Monte applied for Project Homekey and was awarded funding totaling \$17,713,213 for two Homekey sites. The City also had some resources, as it received \$5.67 million of Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Emergency Solutions Grant Coronavirus (ESG-CV) funding for homeless prevention, street outreach, rapid rehousing, and emergency shelter.

An overview of the City's two sites can be found below:

Site	Units	Type	Services
Budget Inn	40	Emergency Shelter for Transition Age Youth (TAY) in perpetuity	Volunteers of America (VOA) will provide property management, onsite wraparound supportive services – including daily meals, rapid rehousing and outreach, homeless prevention, family reunification, substance abuse help, employment services, and mental health – and 24/7 onsite management and security for the first year. The cost of operations is \$752,000 annually for 40 occupants.
M Motel	93	Temporary Housing for Homeless Housing for first 5 years, then transitioning	Will house families starting in July 2022, with 36 months of funding from the Homeless Initiative.

		to permanent supportive housing in 6 th year	
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According to the most recent point-in-time count, the City of El Monte has 433 homeless individuals residing in the City. Alma K. Martinez, City Manager, City of El Monte will provide an overview on the city's Homekey program during the meeting.

Prepared by: Victoria Urenia
Victoria Urenia
Management Analyst

Approved by: Maria Creter
Maria Creter
Executive Director

REPORT

DATE: March 29, 2022

TO: Homelessness Committee

FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director

RE: **REDONDO BEACH HOUSING INITIATIVE COURT**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

For information only.

BACKGROUND

In July 2019, the Redondo Beach Housing Initiative Court Pilot Program was implemented as an alternative option designed for persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) that are in the court system, with a priority towards those individuals who suffer from chronic mental illness or substance abuse or are habitual offenders. Eligible cases that can be considered by the Housing Initiative Court include misdemeanors such as public intoxication, public urination, trespassing, drug possession, and petty theft. Ineligible offenses include driving under the influence (DUI), crimes involving restitution, and crimes of violence such as domestic violence.

The program is designed to address the underlying causes of clients' behavior by connecting individuals with substance abuse and/or mental health treatment and with housing through assistance with necessary documents and expunging criminal history. The ultimate goals of this program are stabilization and attaining permanent housing.

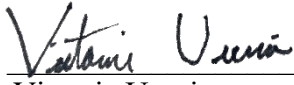
The Program was developed based on input from the community and in close collaboration with the Redondo Beach Police Department and Housing Navigators. The program is made possible through collaborative efforts between the judge, court-appointed attorneys, public defender's office, alternative public defender's office, bar panel, and prosecutors. Additional partners include:

- Department of Mental Health MET team and HOME Team
- LA Public Defender-Homeless Mobile Unit- Expungement Team
- CLEAR Recovery Center
- LA City Attorney HEART Criminal Record Clearing Project
- Department of Public Health - Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Center- CORE Center
- South Bay Workforce Investment Board
- Exodus FSP
- Los Angeles Superior Court, Torrance Courthouse
- Sheriff's Department
- Housing Navigation
 - Harbor Interfaith
 - PATH
 - City Net

- Redondo Beach Homeless Housing Navigator

Since June 2020, 68 individuals have been scheduled for the program. Since July 2019, 23 individuals have been connected to housing. The average attendance rate is 80%, and there was 100% attendance rates in the months of April, June and November 2021.

Joy Abaquin, Quality of Life City Prosecutor from the City of Redondo Beach, will provide an overview of the city's Housing Initiative Court program during the meeting.

Prepared by: 
Victoria Urenia
Management Analyst

Approved by: 
Marisa Creter
Executive Director

REPORT

DATE: March 29, 2022

TO: Homelessness Committee

FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director

RE: **COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE, RECOVERY AND EMPOWERMENT (CARE) COURT**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Recommend that the Governing Board support in concept the proposed Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court program, with the appropriate levels of funding to effectively and fully implement the Program.

BACKGROUND

On March 3, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom introduced a new framework to assist people with mental health and substance use disorders get the support and care they need, called the Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment (CARE) Court. The Proposal would utilize the court system to compel people in crisis to into housing, treatment, and care, as an alternative to incarceration. The plan aims to serve those who are suffering from untreated mental health and substance use disorders.

Many details of the proposal are still being developed, but, in general, the CARE Court would connect a person struggling with an untreated mental illness and/or substance use disorder with a court-ordered Care Plan for up to 12 months, with periodic review hearings and subsequent renewal for up to another 12 months, for a total of 24 months. The court-ordered response could be initiated by family, county and community-based social services, behavioral health providers, or first responders.

Each plan would be managed by a local team that would also be able to administer clinically prescribed, individualized interventions with several supportive services, medication, and a housing plan. The client-centered approach would also include a public defender and supporter to help make self-directed care decisions in addition to their full clinical team. As opposed to conservatorship proposals, which limit one's own rights and decision-making, the CARE Court would instead emphasize a partnership with a participant via a "client-centered approach" to treatment. However, participants who do not successfully complete Care Plans may, under current law, be hospitalized or referred to conservatorship - with a new presumption that no suitable alternatives to conservatorship are available.

On March 15, 2022, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved a motion to submit a letter to Governor Gavin Newsom and California Health and Human Services Agency Secretary Mark Ghaly, in support of the proposed framework for the CARE Court program, while advocating for the necessary dedicated funds for its successful implementation.

All 58 counties across the state would participate in CARE Court as part of their civil court systems under the proposal. If local governments did not meet their specified duties under court-ordered Care Plans, the court would have the ability to order sanctions and, in extreme cases, appoint an agent to ensure services are provided.

DISCUSSION

One of the SGVCOG's long-established legislative priorities is to support legislation that promotes solutions to homelessness for those facing mental health and/or substance abuse challenges and funding for those programs that provide additional resources for persons experiencing homelessness facing mental health and/or substance abuse challenges. Statistics from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)'s 2020 Point-in-Time homeless count indicate that approximately 26% of persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) self-report having mental health disorders, and many believe that this percentage is higher. Sufficient resources for mental health and substance abuse treatment are key components of the fight to end homelessness. To that end, in August 2021 meeting, the SGVCOG submitted a letter to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors advocating for additional mental health resources for the San Gabriel Valley from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH). While the CARE Court is not limited to those experiencing homelessness, Governor Newsom has emphasized that it is designed to be an additional tool to support vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness with untreated mental illness and/or substance use disorders.

Based on staff's understanding of the CARE Court, it could be a valuable tool to provide treatment to those with severe mental illness and/or substance use disorders that end up on the street, in hospitals, or in the criminal justice system. These outcomes do not provide the care and treatment that provide the care that these individuals need. The County's resources for unhoused individuals with severe mental illness – including the Behavioral Health Urgent Care Center (BHUCC) located in the City of Industry, Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH)'s Psychiatric Mobile Response Teams (PMRT), Therapeutic Teams, and Mobile Engagement Teams (MET) – are insufficient. Conservatorships are a challenging tool to use.

The County does have a number of pilot programs, including the City of Redondo Beach's Housing Initiative Court which will also be presented at the March 29, 2022, Homelessness Committee meeting, and the County's Office of Diversion and Reentry (ODR) that was established in 2015 and offers court-ordered mental health treatment and housing in lieu of jail for qualifying individuals who have committed certain crimes and agree to the terms. The CARE Court could allow for the expansion of these types of programs. As such, Los Angeles County and the San Gabriel Valley can greatly benefit from the implementation of the CARE Court.

Staff recommends that the Governing Board support in concept the proposed Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court program, with the appropriate levels of funding to effectively and fully implement the Program.

Prepared by: Victoria Urenia
Victoria Urenia
Management Analyst

Approved by: Marisa Creter
Marisa Creter
Executive Director

DATE: March 29, 2022

TO: Homelessness Committee

FROM: Marisa Creter, Executive Director

RE: **L.A. COUNTY HOMELESSNESS GOVERNANCE REFORM AND BLUE-RIBBON COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

For information only.

RECENT UPDATES

In March 2022, the Los Angeles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH) held three meetings:

March 2, 2022

This meeting featured the following presentations and discussions:

- Heidi Marston, Executive Director, LAHSA, provided updates on the work that LAHSA has been undertaking to improve its work and recommendations on how LAHSA could most effectively serve the homeless services system with a focus on prevention, housing supply, and the rehousing system. She presented on their goals to build an efficient rehousing system, achieve excellence in managing grants and contracts, inform and educate the public, and equip data-driven decision making.
- Brandon D. Young, Partner, Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP presented updates to identified themes and governance structure recommendations. Commissioners continued their discussion on potential governance recommendations and options.

March 9, 2022

This meeting featured the following presentations and discussions:

- Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember, City of Los Angeles, Third District, shared his perspective on the current homeless services system including barriers to shelter and family reunification, the importance of data, and the need for a more flexible system.
- Nithya Raman, Councilmember, City of Los Angeles, Fourth District, presented her district's accomplishments and challenges within the current homeless services system. She emphasized the importance of geographically focused efforts and retaining a sense of community when housing people experiencing homelessness.
- Commissioners facilitated a public forum for discussion with invited guests from 15 cities and 3 Council of Governments, including Marisa Creter, SGVCOG Executive Director. Forum participants discussed proposed governance structures and possible application, local investment, their accomplishments in addressing homelessness, the need for system accountability, and the importance of accurate and accessible data.


March 16, 2022

This meeting featured the following presentations and discussions:

- Alma K. Martinez, City Manager, City of El Monte presented an update on the city's Project Homekey sites, which included program accomplishments and challenges, and provided recommendations for the overall homeless services system.
- Commissioners continued with discussing each of the governance structure recommendations and options, while also identifying and working through potential adjustments, then proceeded to vote on the presented options. Commissioners voted to incorporate the following recommendations into its Final Report to be presented to the Board of Supervisors:
 - Recommendation #1: County Entity and Leader
 - Recommendation #2: Measure H/ Local Solutions
 - Recommendation #3a: Streamlined LAHSA
 - Recommendation #4: Modify CoC Governance
 - Recommendation #5: Improve LAHSA's Operations
 - Recommendation #6: Data and Metrics
 - Recommendation #7: Executive Level Action Team

BRCH staff will continue meeting with commissioners to complete the final report of recommendations. BRCH staff is planning to present the completed report at the next meeting for adoption by the commissioners. Then the report will be provided to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. This may be the final meeting for the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness. If the commissioners need additional time, there is an additional tentative meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2022.

Prepared by: 
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Approved by: 
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