

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: KELLI KUYKENDALL, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
MANAGER
SUBJECT: OVERVIEW OF HOMELESS SYSTEM OF CARE STUDY
SESSION
AGENDA ACTION: STUDY SESSION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Housing and Community Services Department that the Council hold a study session to receive a presentation regarding strategic efforts to address homelessness, including a discussion of preliminary recommendations for a homeless services system redesign. This item is for information only and no action will be taken.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Staff from Housing and Community Services and the Sonoma County Community Development Commission (Commission) will provide a presentation on current homeless needs and the effectiveness of the existing system of care, including the way in which funding decisions have been made and the outcomes measured and evaluated. Preliminary recommendations for redesigning the system will be offered by consulting firm, HomeBase/The Center for Common Concerns (HomeBase), to elicit feedback from the Council.

BACKGROUND

On August 22, 2017, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors received a presentation from the Sonoma County Community Development Commission (Commission) on current homeless needs and the effectiveness of the existing system of care, including the way in which funding decisions have been made and the outcomes measured and evaluated. Preliminary recommendations for redesigning the system were offered by consulting firm, HomeBase/The Center for Common Concerns (HomeBase), to elicit feedback from the Board of Supervisors.

Staff from Housing and Community Services, the Commission, and HomeBase will provide Council with the same presentation.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

On April 4, 2017, staff presented three items to Council: a study session on Housing First with national and local experts, Erin Wixsten from OrgCode and Elaine de Coligny from Everyone Home, and two report items, including a discussion on the homeless emergency declaration, strategy challenges, and Homeless Policy Subcommittee, and extension of the homeless emergency. Council made a motion to 1) continue the homeless emergency; 2) consider the work of the Subcommittee completed; 3) convene a series of special Council meetings to give direction to staff in the development of a comprehensive homeless strategy and the feasibility of partnering in a countywide strategic plan.

On May 24, 2017, Council held the first special meeting which included presentations by City and County staff.

ANALYSIS

The study session and attached “white paper” will provide an overview of the federal context and requirements which drive much of the homeless-related work carried out by the Commission on behalf of Sonoma County. It also describes the current state of program delivery, including what’s working and what could be improved, as context for the Commission’s launch of a redesign of the homeless system.

FISCAL IMPACT

The Study Session is for information only and no action is being taken, therefore, there is no fiscal impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable.

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 - Homeless Policy Workshop: A White Paper for Policy-Makers

CONTACT

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