

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS  
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Behavioral Health and Recovery Services  
Community Services Agency  
Urgent \_\_\_\_\_ Routine X  
CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES ph NO \_\_\_\_\_  
(Information Attached)

BOARD AGENDA # B-24  
AGENDA DATE JULY 10, 2001  
4/5 Vote Required YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO X

SUBJECT:

APPROVAL OF THE DESIGNATION OF STANISLAUS HOUSING AND SUPPORT SERVICES COLLABORATIVE (SHSSC) AS THE PLANNING AND COORDINATING BODY FOR HOMELESS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES IN STANISLAUS COUNTY.

STAFF  
RECOMMEN-  
DATIONS:

1. REQUEST THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DESIGNATE THE SHSSC AS THE PLANNING AND COORDINATION BODY FOR HOMELESS ISSUES IN STANISLAUS COUNTY. THE SHSSC WILL SERVE AS AN ADVISORY BODY TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS.
2. DIRECT STAFF TO SEEK MODESTO CITY COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR SIMILAR DESIGNATION TO FACILITATE THE COLLABORATION OF EFFORTS ON BEHALF OF HOMELESS.
3. EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO FUND A GRANT WRITING CAPABILITY TO BE SHARED BY THE CITY/COUNTY AND HOUSING AUTHORITY.

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FISCAL  
IMPACT:

No impact at this time.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2001-530

On motion of Supervisor Blom , Seconded by Supervisor Caruso

and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: Mayfield, Blom, Simon, Caruso, and Chair Paul

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) \_\_\_\_\_ Denied

3) \_\_\_\_\_ Approved as amended

Motion:

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

By: Christine Ferraro Deputy

File No.

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STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS  
(Cont'd):

4. REQUEST SHSSC SUBMIT BYLAWS FOR BOARD OF SUPERVISOR REVIEW.
5. DESIGNATE THE SHSSC TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THE CONTINUUM OF CARE PLAN AS REQUIRED BY HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

DISCUSSION:

Homelessness is a serious problem that affects many in our community. While the causes are multifaceted, solutions are for the most part piecemeal and fragmented. This is due in large part to the absence of any coordinated strategy at either the state or national level for affordable housing and homelessness. This has led to state housing funding agencies too often adopting conflicting applications, criteria, and procedures. In this policy environment, efforts tend to be fragmented and poorly coordinated. In an attempt to address this issue, a local collaborative has formed.

Through the efforts of nonprofit agencies, local government, affordable housing providers, and community volunteers, some effective programs and services for assisting homeless and persons at risk of homelessness have been established.

Despite these efforts, however, a significant number of people on our streets and under our bridges are recycled month after month through shelters and other emergency services, with no foreseeable improvement in the quality of their lives. This is due in part to the nature of funding which targets certain qualifying populations (i.e. mentally ill, child welfare). Additionally, high unemployment rates and escalating rents have combined with limited education and job skills to create a myriad of obstacles for both families and individuals making up our county's homeless population. Now even the working poor find themselves at risk of homelessness, as our county's escalating housing costs outpace local wages.

Estimates of homeless in our County vary from 11,736 persons (HUD estimate) to 5,200 families and 3,200 single adults (Community Housing & Shelter Services estimate) during a single year.

The need to create a viable, working Continuum of Care Plan has never been more critical. Through such a Plan, comprehensive, more effective, service delivery strategies can be developed, coordinated, funded, and implemented to address the diverse needs and problems of the homeless.

The Stanislaus Housing and Support Services Collaborative (SHSSC) was formed in May 2000 with the goal of developing a viable working Continuum of Care Plan. SHSSC is made up of non-profit and local government agencies,

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DISCUSSION  
(Cont'd):

social service providers, homeless advocates, veterans, housing providers, and individuals. SHSSC is committed to working collaboratively on identifying needs, and services gaps so that effective homeless service delivery systems can be developed, funded, and implemented to address the county's homeless problems.

**PROPOSED ACTION**

This is to request that the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors and Modesto City Council formally recognize the SHSSC as the planning and coordinating body for homeless programs and services in Stanislaus County.

**PURPOSE**

The SHSSC can serve the purpose of:

- A. Collect data identifying homeless needs and service resources.
- B. Identify service gaps.
- C. Prepare the HUD Continuum of Care Plan and annual updates as required to qualify for HUD homeless funding (\$1.5 million).
- D. Assist in the preparation of grant applications for homeless funding.
- E. Review federal homeless grant applications to insure that they address the housing, service needs, and gaps identified under the HUD Continuum of Care Plan.
- F. Support coordinated delivery of homeless services to maximize impacts and eliminate any service duplication.

**COMPOSITION**

A collaborative of public, private agencies, advocates and community members. A membership composition is attached.

POLICY  
ISSUE:

By approving this request, will continue the Board's priority of Safe, Healthy Communities, Community Service Delivery and Efficient Government Operations.

STAFFING  
IMPACT:

None.