



September 30, 2015
For Immediate Release

Contact: Ruben Imperial
(209) 525-6333

MEDIA ADVISORY

Summit on homelessness to bring more than 500 people together in Stanislaus County.

Stanislaus County, CA – Stanislaus County and the City of Modesto are presenting a summit on homelessness as part of the County’s Focus on Prevention initiative. More than 500 people are scheduled to attend this event. The Focus on Prevention initiative is a 10-year journey of Stanislaus County toward community transformation and prosperity. A primary focus of the initiative is to reduce homelessness.

Who: Stanislaus County and the City of Modesto

What: “Finding Our Way Home” Summit on Homeless

When: Thursday, October 1 from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Where: Modesto Center Plaza 1000 L Street Modesto, CA

“We are very excited for this first community convening,” stated Terry Withrow, Chairman of the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors. “There has been an outpouring of support for making long-term changes in the area of homelessness that will help our community. The first steps are often the most difficult, and we are looking forward to a great community discussion.”

“Homelessness is an issue that has no simple answer,” stated Jim Holgersson, Modesto City Manager. “We are pleased that people are coming together to work on this and make a concerted effort to reduce and prevent homelessness. The Focus on Prevention summit will provide a forum for ideas and help us develop strategies related to this challenge.”

Participants in the summit will include people who are homeless or have been homeless, community advocates, representatives from the business community, service organizations and many more. Panel discussion will include “Understanding the Experience of Homelessness” as well as “Results and Strategies.” There will also be breakout discussions and a learning walk.

-MORE-

-CONTINUED-

The Focus on Prevention Initiative is supported by multiple community partners, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, Stanislaus County Chief Executive Office, and led by a Stewardship Council comprised of community leaders from various sectors who act as stewards of the overarching initiative.

In partnership with the Action Councils, the Stewardship Council members provide leadership in developing and approving county-wide indicators to document meaningful progress and change for the overall initiative. Additionally, the Stewardship Council will cultivate commitments to embrace and support the initiative from institutions across the multiple sectors, and work strategically to identify and help secure funding from private, philanthropic, and other non-government sources.

Sectors involved in the prevention initiative include government; business; health; non-profit; philanthropy; education; faith; neighborhood; media; and arts, entertainment, and sports. Stanislaus County government is providing assistance with the formation of the initiative, but ultimately community volunteers will provide oversight and direction through a leadership team called the Stewardship Council.

For members of the public interested in additional information, they can call Ruben Imperial at (209) 525-6333.

#####



Agenda and Handouts

**FINDING OUR WAY HOME
SUMMIT ON HOMELESSNESS**

Thursday, October 1, 2015

8:30 AM – 5:00 PM

Centre Plaza

Modesto, California

AGENDA

SUMMIT OBJECTIVES

- Develop shared understanding of the current reality of homelessness in Stanislaus County
- Build community will and capacity to act to prevent homelessness

Time	
7:30 AM	Registration and Continental Breakfast
8:30 AM	Welcome and Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Terry Withrow: Chairman, Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors• Stan Risen: Chief Executive Officer, County of Stanislaus
9:00 AM	PART 1: DEVELOPING SHARED UNDERSTANDING <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panel 1: The Focus on Prevention Initiative• Panel 2: Understanding the Experience of Homelessness
10:20 AM	Break
10:30 AM	PART 1: DEVELOPING SHARED UNDERSTANDING (Continued) Panel 3: Results and Strategies
12:15 PM	Lunch and Learning Walk
1:45 PM	PART 2: BUILDING COMMUNITY WILL TO ACT Community/City Breakout Conversations
3:30 PM	Break and Final Learning Walk
4:00 PM	Final Plenary Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What's emerging• Next steps• Assessing the summit• Final reflections
5:00 PM	Adjourn

PANELISTS

Aaron Farnon, Stanislaus County Chief Executive Office Focus on Prevention

Aaron has 15 years of public service experience in Stanislaus County, with eight years on the Executive Committee of the Stanislaus County Housing and Support Services Collaborative Continuum of Care. Currently, he's Coordinator with the Housing Authority of the County of Stanislaus, while providing data analysis and related support to the County of Stanislaus Chief Executive Office.

Bev Hatcher, Interim Executive Director for the United Samaritans Foundation

Bev graduated from Stan State with a Masters in Public Administration and served as an adjunct professor for both the Politics/Public Administration Department and the Business School. Bev has had a long career in Public Service with Modesto Irrigation District, City of Modesto, City of Turlock Councilmember, Carnegie Foundation, and as a Field Representative for Stanislaus County's Board of Supervisors members Vito Chiesa and Bill O'Brien.

Brad Hawn, President, Modesto Neighborhoods Inc.

Brad is a downtown business owner and a resident of the College Ave community. He served as a City of Modesto council member from 2003-2011. As President of Modesto Neighborhoods Inc., he's working with neighborhoods, associations, and community collaboratives to Promote, Empower, Assist, Connect and Equip (P.E.A.C.E.) Modesto's diverse neighborhoods.

Cindy Duenas, Executive Director, Center for Human Services (CHS)

Cindy has over 30 years of experience providing behavioral health services and leading organizations in implementing a variety of family strengthening programs and activities. She sits on multiple local and statewide boards and collaborative partnerships. CHS is a local non-profit organization serving over 20,000 youth and families annually in Stanislaus County. Cindy has a Masters in Counseling Psychology from Stan State and is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

Dain Judd, Lived Experience, Homelessness

Dain has lived "houseless" for most of his life. He uses the term "houseless" because he believes "home" is a matter of where your heart is. Within the last 6 months, Dain has obtained employment and is currently living in Northeast Modesto. As part of a local homelessness documentary effort, The Peace Life Center interviewed Dain and he regularly shares his story as a tool to educate the community.

Dee Klem, Client Advocate, Community Impact Central Valley

Dee is a veteran of the Reserve Army National Guard where she obtained the rank of Sergeant. After years of living homeless, she now works to support others in gaining access to housing and support services. She has an Associate degree in Human Services.

John Ott, President/Co-founder, Center for Collective Wisdom

John has designed and facilitated successful change efforts for over 30 years. He has consulted with foundations; state and local governments; small businesses and a multi-national corporation; local schools and schools districts; and non-profit/community-based organizations. Early in his career John was a member of the faculty at Duke University's Public Policy Studies Department and helped launch the Hart Leadership Program there. John has authored multiple books and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Duke in Public Policy Studies and a Juris Doctorate from Stanford.

Jimmy Yarnell, Clinical Services Clinician, Stanislaus County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services

Jimmy is a Clinical Services Clinician with Stanislaus County Behavioral Health & Recovery Services where he provides outreach and engagement services to individuals who are homelessness and have a mental illness. Jimmy lived homeless from the age of 16 years to the age of 34 and uses his life experience to help others. He is a certified substance abuse counselor.

John Sellers, Lived Experience, Homelessness

John has lived in Modesto all his life, living homeless for many of those years. He is a member of the Focus on Prevention Homelessness Action Council. In October 2015, John will move into his own home, ending a multi-year cycle of homelessness.

Kalvin Bizek, Director of Operations, Berberian Shelter and Transitional Housing

Kalvin served in the US Air Force from 1981-1990, and has held multiple private sector jobs, including owner of a home maintenance business. Since 2003, Calvin has worked for The Salvation Army in Arizona, Washington and California, holding various leadership positions,

Kevin Carroll, Executive Director, The Mission

Kevin has held various positions such as Juvenile Hall Counselor, Deputy Probation Officer specializing in gangs, and Teen Challenge Program Director and Area Director. He took a position in Williamsport, PA with American Rescue Workers as the Men's Shelter Director for 6 years. Kevin returned to Modesto with his family in 2013 to serve as the Executive Director for Modesto Gospel Mission. Kevin has a Bachelor of Science in Sociology with an emphasis in Juvenile Corrections.

Leanne Sheok, Lived Experience, Homelessness

Leanne is a lifetime resident of the city of Modesto with two of those years living homeless. During an extended stay in the Scenic Drive Cemetery, she met a mental health outreach worker that developed a trusting relationship that led to her accessing help. In November, she will celebrate one year of living in her own home.

Marian Kaanon, Chief Executive Officer, Stanislaus Community Foundation

Stanislaus Community Foundation is a place-based funder that provides grants and scholarships to community organizations and students in Stanislaus County. In the decade since its founding, the organization has invested over \$10 million in local nonprofits and regional initiatives. Marian grew up in Modesto and graduated from UC Davis with a degree in Communication Studies.

Marvin Jacobo, Executive director of City Ministry Network

Marvin has been a resident of Modesto since 1958 and is a graduate of Modesto City Schools. He and his wife Cheryl love Modesto and have invested 40 years of their life to mentoring young men and women at CrossPoint Community Church, Modesto City Schools and Youth for Christ. Along with others, he has been instrumental in energizing Modesto's neighboring movement through strengthening our city's citizens.

Randy Limburg, Personal Services Coordinator, Telecare Behavioral Health Services

Randy has lived in Modesto all his life and lived homeless for over a decade. Randy now provides street-level outreach and engagement services to individuals living homeless utilizing the same empathic and accountable approach that helped change his life.

Robert Jackson, Chief of Police, City of Turlock

Raised in Ceres California, he attended and graduated from Ceres High School and Modesto Junior College. Chief Jackson spent nearly 20 years with the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department which culminated in his final assignment at the Sheriff's Department as the Police Chief for the City of Waterford. In 2007, Chief Jackson joined the ranks of the Turlock Police Department as a Captain and in 2012 was appointed as the Chief of Police.