



**NEVADA
COUNTY**
CALIFORNIA

Health and Human Services Agency

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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: January 27th, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Ryan Gruver, Agency Director, Health and Human Services

SUBJECT: Informational presentation to the Board of Supervisors including a review of Point in Time Count and Coordinated Entry Data, updates on the Homeless Action Plan, Discussion of upcoming reforms and opportunities, the transition to sustainable programs, and a discussion with the CoC president. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of an objective for 2023.

RECOMMENDATION: Receive the presentation and discuss policy objective for 2023.

FUNDING: Homelessness projects utilize a variety of State, Local, and Federal funding such as Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI), No Place Like Home, Whole Person Care, Roomkey, Homekey, Homeless Housing Assistance Program, CalAIM funding, and CARES Act funding. Every attempt is made to be strategic in spending local general fund dollars.

BACKGROUND:

Review 2022 Board Objective

Leverage partnerships, housing first and sustainable reforms in order to continue efforts to prevent homelessness, provide emergency shelter, expand supportive services, secure housing, and enhance coordination to address the needs of the homeless population and to mitigate impacts on the community.

Discussion of Data

The 2022 Point in Time Count showed an alarming increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness statewide. In Nevada County, we make every effort to count as many people as possible, and get as close to an accurate count as we can. The Nevada County 2022 Point in Time Count showed a significant increase in overall homelessness, from 410 in 2019 to 527 in 2022. The overall increase was offset by an even more substantial increase in sheltering, resulting in a slight decrease in



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unsheltered homelessness compared to the 2019 Point in Time Count. While some of the overall increase is attributable to more accurate counting, it is clear both locally and statewide that homelessness is getting worse. The unprecedented investments of time and money in addressing this issue have resulted in many people being housed or sheltered, and yet the underlying factors that contribute to homelessness, most particularly the housing crisis, worsened significantly between 2019 and 2022. As a result, around 200 people reported being homeless for the first time, the largest count ever.

Despite efforts to get an accurate Point in Time Count, it remains an imperfect measure that is impacted by weather, among other things. Additionally, as the name suggests it is a point in time, and is not an actionable list. Over the last five years the County, as a member of the Built 4 Zero movement, has been working towards a clean and functional coordinated entry system, a goal that was achieved last year. Nevada County now has a functional coordinated entry system that gives us an accurate, real-time list of households experiencing homelessness, which can be analyzed to identify trends and develop interventions, and worked by our teams to ensure that homelessness is rare and short in duration.

This presentation will include a review of the Point in Time Count data, as well as the seven key Built 4 Zero metrics that we can now track in Coordinated Entry.

Homeless Action Plan Update

In June of 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved submission of Phase II of the County's plan to address homelessness, which also served as the State's required local homeless action plan. This represents the next phase of the County's plan, and includes objectives and measures across a consistent set of five broad categories from prevention (reducing inflow) to housing (increasing outflow). To meet state requirements to release funding that flows to the County and the Continuum of Care (CoC), the plan also includes landscape analysis and a set of metrics that were developed in tandem with the state.

Subsequent to submitting the homeless action plan to the State, the Governor announced that he was suspending approval of all the plans, and would convene counties to discuss more ambitious measures related to reduction in unsheltered homelessness. Nevada County participated in the meeting with the Governor, and subsequently submitted revised metrics that have now been approved.

The presentation will include an update and discussion on the plan, and the meeting with the Governor.

Reforms/Opportunities



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There are several important reforms and new programs coming from the State, and these pose both challenges and opportunities to efforts to address homelessness. The CalAIM initiative is the most significant healthcare reform in California since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act. At its core CalAIM recognizes that healthcare is about more than just physical medicine and takes steps towards expanding what is fundable through Medi-Cal, and moves towards a whole person model of care. This important reform has deep repercussions for how Behavioral Health services are delivered, and includes people experiencing homelessness as a specific target population.

Care Court is a new alternative court that will create a process for referring people with specific diagnoses into an involuntary court system where they can be compelled to receive treatment/housing. As first proposed, Care Court had deep flaws, and through intervention of CSAC, CBHDA, CWDA and others, significant improvements were made before final passage. The program still creates unfunded mandates and has significant challenges (significantly that it does nothing about the underlying lack of housing). However, through county advocacy, Care Court is phased and includes a handful of pilot counties who will work through processes and challenges before Nevada County is required to implement Care Court in January of 2025.

While both of these programs have substantial challenges, they also come with significant opportunities. Both programs are accompanied by State grant opportunities to help with infrastructure and implementation, as well as an expansion of services available to serve individuals experiencing homelessness. It is an infrastructure grant related to CalAIM that is allowing the county to purchase and rehab a building on Sutton Way to serve as a homeless resource center.

Projects to Programs

As discussed in the last Board workshop, the last several years of efforts to address homelessness have been made more challenging by the funding landscape at the state level. The state has consistently balked at county requests for ongoing funding and consistent programs, instead relying on grants and one-time investments. This has led to a chaotic environment of learning and experimentation. Nevada County has been extremely aggressive and ambitious in going for as many funding and service opportunities as possible. However, it is time to transition from one-time projects, to ongoing, sustainably funded programs. Utilization of CalAIM to evolve and sustain the county side of the HOME Team is one example, and in this presentation we will discuss upcoming movement towards coalescing which programs need to be sustained at the county, and which are more effectively addressed through the network of providers and collaborators that participate in the Continuum of Care (CoC).

CoC Discussion

The transition to enduring programs, and the State's allocation of resources according to local



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homeless action plans necessitate a higher than ever level of coordination between the County and the CoC. The CoC Chair will join the presentation for a discussion.

Proposed 2023 Objective

In partnership with the Continuum of Care, prevent homelessness, address the needs of people experiencing homelessness, and move towards sustainable, ongoing programs.

Item Initiated and approved by: Ryan Gruver, Agency Director, Health and Human Services

Submittal Date: 1/17/2023