

## STAKEHOLDER INPUT: DISCHARGE AND TRANSITION PLANNING

### I. Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) Stakeholder Meetings

#### Where This Stakeholder Input Came From?

In 2005 the State of California Inter-Agency Council on Chronic Homelessness requested state government departments to solicit stakeholder input to assess current needs. Responding to the request, HCD held three stakeholder meetings throughout the State:

Tuesday, November 15, 2005	1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	San Francisco, California
Thursday, November 17, 2005	1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	Los Angeles, California
Monday, November 28, 2005	1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Sacramento, California

The following questions were presented to the Department:

1. What are state agencies doing well and what should continue?
2. What is not working well and should be changed?
3. What should be done that isn't being done?
4. What changes, improvements, etc., do we need from the federal government?

- There are many homeless parolees along the I-5 corridor (where many prisons are located). The Department of Corrections should implement discharge-planning protocols to house homeless parolees.
- Try to change HUD's requirement that McKinney-Vento funded housing not be used for ex-prisoners. Ex-offenders are a significant proportion of the chronically homeless population.
- Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation should suggest to the federal government that people entering prison have their SSI temporarily suspended, as opposed to permanently suspended, to expedite reinstatement once released.
- Include the Department of Education and Department of Health Services in planning process to prevent revolving door outcomes.
- Need to put in place hospital discharge planning for homeless patients.
- State should participate in local discharge planning.
- Model local plans by looking at prevention of homelessness through better discharge planning from hospitals, jails and foster care. Don't discharge to shelters, which are not able to provide level of care often needed.
- Assist foster youth upon graduation. Many shelter clients are 18 to 24 and from foster care. Need thorough assessment of needs before emancipation from foster care.
- Create source of funding for convalescent care for the seriously ill discharged from hospitals and in need of care.

- FESG [Federal Emergency Shelter Grants provided by HUD to entitlement localities and by HCD to small, non-entitlement jurisdictions] has a homeless prevention program, but limited to use every 2 years [per client]. Allow annual use.
- Address mental health needs of veterans coming back from Iraq, including female vets with different needs.
- Need transitional housing for juvenile probationers and emancipated foster care youth.
- State should fund efforts to help people at risk retain their present housing.
- Develop programs to help families address credit issues – particularly evictions.
- Outlaw use of credit scores by landlords to screen prospective tenants. Record of paying rent should count for more than, say, the record of paying charge bills.

## II. California Department of Veterans Affairs Stakeholder Input

### Where This Stakeholder Input Came From?

In 2005 the State of California Inter-Agency Council on Chronic Homelessness requested state government departments to solicit stakeholder input to assess current needs. Responding to the request, the California Department of Veterans Affairs submitted written input.

The following questions were presented to the Department:

1. What are state agencies doing well and what should continue?
2. What is not working well and should be changed?
3. What should be done that isn't being done?
4. What changes, improvements, etc., do we need from the federal government?

- A coordinated effort between the National Guard, Reserve Guard, Reserve Commands, and Veterans Affairs is needed to ensure demobilizing troops receive valuable benefit information.
- Conduct outreach to new veterans.
- The state currently makes no specific outreach to advise homeless veterans of their benefits or provide veteran specific assistance in transitioning back into the workforce.
- Expand and fund the “Thank You for Services” program, a 2005 California Governor’s Office project providing recently released veterans with information on how to obtain benefits.
- The state must take on the role of informing National Guard and Reserve personnel on their eligibility for Transition Assistance Program, as the federal government only conducts outreach to active duty personnel.
- Target outreach efforts to include Native American veterans, minority veterans, and transitional programs for incarcerated veterans.