

Regional Steering Committee on Homelessness and Housing Issues

The Barriers Continua of Care in Our Region Are Facing in Implementing Strategies toward Ending Homelessness

“Systems” need to be aligned and coordinated so that people who are homeless obtain the services that they need.

- a. State law and local processes need to align with needs of people who are homeless (e.g. benefits suspended but not terminated while in prison; discharge from jails late at night to shelters without case management on site at that time)
- b. Federal incentives need to align with local priorities and strategies toward ending homelessness

To make this change:

- The community needs to be engaged in our efforts to end homelessness
- Cities need to be involved

Best Practices to explore include:

- Homeless Courts
- Yolo County’s program tracking success in relation to a reduction in fines
- Diversion Policies
- Contra Costa County’s Forensics Team (police officers, mental health and outreach team meetings concerning success in engaging people who are homeless and living on the streets)

Housing units available to people who are homeless need to increase.

- a. We need additional funding to create units and to subsidize rents
- b. We need additional land

To make this change:

- We should work with for-profit housing developers and local housing offices to develop housing for which people who are homeless, and who are at-risk of homelessness (extremely low income) are eligible
- We should train on permanent supportive housing development, operations and funding

Particular subpopulations who need housing include:

- Youth
- Older adults
- Those who can benefit from a harm reduction model

The Strategies in 10-Year Plans to End Chronic Homelessness need to coordinate with “Other Homeless” strategies.

- a. We need to explore smart Continuum of Care conversion practices

Resources for Mental Health, Addictive Illness and Health Care Services need to be secured so that these Services can be provided at the level to meet the needs of people who are homeless.

- a. We need to increase resources dedicated to these services, including by engaging in the Proposition 63 process to see that these funds are expended for the benefit of people who are homeless
- b. We need to overcome NIMBY opposition to siting of treatment facilities
- c. We need to create detoxification centers

The Work of the RSC in 2005

- Which of these issues are our priorities for 2005
- What shall our workplan as the RSC be to address our priorities issues

Consider:

- Outcome objective of the work
- Preparatory work through each Continuum of Care
- Best practice information desired
- Utilization of time at our meetings