

SACRAMENTO CONTINUUM OF CARE

October 11, 2019

Honorable David De Alba, Presiding Judge
Sacramento County Superior Court
720 Ninth Street, Department 47
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Continuum of Care Board Response to Sacramento County Jury Report
2018-19: Addressing Homelessness in Sacramento County

Dear Judge De Alba:

The Sacramento County Continuum of Care (CoC) Board appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Sacramento County Grand Jury 2018-19 report that focused on the regional response to homelessness. It is clear that the Grand Jury spent a great deal of time and care in attempting to understand the myriad organizations and funding sources that play a part in the region's response to homelessness.

Finding 1. There is no formal organization model being used by the community of organizations that will ensure the most effective use of the critical resources available to be used to address homelessness in Sacramento County.

Response to Finding 1: The Sacramento CoC Board generally agrees with the finding that a better organizational model is needed to respond to homelessness in a more unified manner.

Finding 2. The leaders and workers in the community of organizations actively working to address the challenges presented by homelessness in Sacramento County have demonstrated an impressive level of both dedication and competence in assisting and supporting the County's homeless population.

Response to Finding 2: The Sacramento CoC Board agrees with this finding. We are grateful for the Grand Jury's acknowledgement in Finding 2 that many people and organizations display both dedication and competence in assisting and supporting people experiencing homelessness. Certainly one of the many goals of the CoC Board is to continue to support such efforts, through facilitating federal and state funding, as well as serving as a conduit for sharing information and best practices among service providers.

Finding 3. A County of Sacramento Homeless Plan to secure NPLH funds was recently developed by the County and adopted by the Board of Supervisors. The plan presents a significant initial strategic direction for addressing homelessness in Sacramento County and many of the organizations providing services and programs for the homeless collaborated with the County on the plan's development and support its direction and implementation.

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Response to Finding 3: The Sacramento CoC Board agrees with this finding. We appreciate the Grand Jury's recognition in Finding 3 as to the value of the County of Sacramento's Homeless Plan in providing strategic direction in moving forward. The CoC Board collectively, and many of its members individually, spent a great deal of time developing the Plan and remain actively engaged in efforts to implement its strategies.

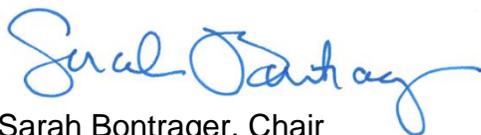
Recommendation 1. The community of organizations working to address homelessness in Sacramento County should initiate a process during Fiscal Year 2019/20 to identify an organizational model that will be responsive to needs expressed by the community. This process should be coordinated by the five primary organizations providing resources to the homelessness effort. They are:

- County of Sacramento
- City of Sacramento
- Continuum of Care Advisory Board
- Sacramento Steps Forward
- Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency

Response to Recommendation 1: The Sacramento CoC Board generally agrees with the recommendation that a better organizational model is needed to respond to homelessness in a more unified manner. The entities to be included in discussions around such a model (County and City of Sacramento, CoC Board, Sacramento Steps Forward, and the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency) are all essential partners in creating a model that will make homelessness a rare, brief, and one-time experience. Although the format of that organization model will require exceptionally careful consideration so as not to add another layer of complexity to an already burdensomely complex system, the CoC Board recognizes its obligation to enhance regional cooperation and welcomes the opportunity to participate in discussions about organizational models that will streamline and maximize the region's homeless housing options and service delivery methods.

Please contact me at 916-627-3209 or sbontrager@elkgrovecity.org if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you,



Sarah Bontrager, Chair
Sacramento Continuum of Care Board