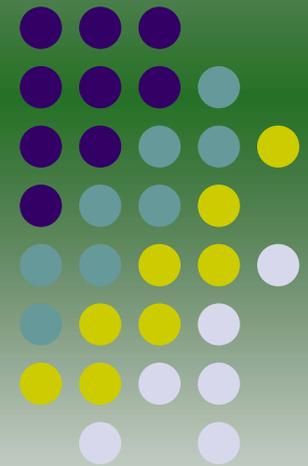


GATEWAY CITIES
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Gateway Cities Council of Governments

Homeless Initiative

By Fred Latham, Santa Fe Springs And Chris Shippey, Long Beach
May 9, 2007





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How We Got Here



- September 2005** At the request of the City of Whittier COG Board hears presentation from LAHSA about homelessness in Los Angeles County, the role of LAHSA, and the federal goal to end homelessness in ten years.
- 2005-06** COG staff attends LAHSA meetings and gathers information. City Managers Steering Committee tours homeless services facilities. Appoints Fred Latham and Chris Shippey as CM Committee on homelessness.



How We Got Here



**April
2006**

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopts major homeless services funding package. Supervisor Knabe provides major leadership for program to Gateway Cities.

**August
2006**

City Managers Steering Committee recommendations presented to COG Board of Directors.

- COG Board of Directors votes to work collectively as a sub-region to address homelessness.
- COG petitions Los Angeles County for fair share of funding.
- Ad Hoc Committee of Board appointed.



How We Got Here

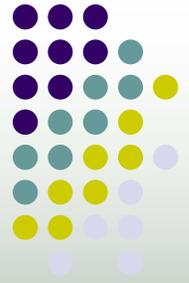


Fall 2006 Ad Hoc Committee and City Managers tour homeless services facilities.

April 2007 CAO David Janssen confirms ongoing funding package and availability of planning funds.



Where We Stand Today



- \$150,000 in planning funds available.
- \$1.2 million in ongoing annual county funding available.
- Prospect of \$4 million capital available.
- Special acknowledgement is given to Supervisors Knabe and Molina for planning funds and overall support.
- Draft RFP for Needs Assessment and Strategy being finalized.
- RFP will select a consultant to identify existing services, service gaps and strategy for filling the service gaps for each of the following:
 - Count, Plan and Evaluate
 - Street Outreach and Emergency Response



Where We Stand Today



- Multi-disciplinary Regional Referral Centers (also known as “intake” or “stabilization”)
- Emergency shelter, especially winter shelter
- Detoxification housing in preparation for transitional housing
- Transitional housing with supportive services
- Permanent housing and supportive services
- Community Education

Consultant will work with cities to identify strategies suitable to the region. The goal is integration of services into a regional system serving all of the Gateway Cities. Services may be expansions of existing services, facilities and providers or may be new.



Who Stands to Benefit



FAMILIES

Southern California's housing shortage has many families living on the edge. Minor setback can push them into homelessness. Prevention services may keep them in their homes; homeless services may keep them safe and shorten their period of homelessness.

EMANCIPATED FOSTER YOUTH

These comprise significant portion of the homeless population. They typically lack the resources and skills to move directly from foster care to independent housing.



Who Stands to Benefit



VETERANS

These are another significant portion of the homeless population. The current international conflicts are expected to produce the next generation of homeless veteran.

MENTALLY ILL AND SUBSTANCE ABUSERS

This group is a significant portion of the chronically homeless. Shelters, hospitals and law enforcement serve these persons repeatedly at a very high cost. For this population, modern integrated services, including permanent supportive housing, hold out the promise of stopping the revolving door.



Who Stands to Benefit



BUSINESSES

Businesses currently experience disruption from persons living and/or soliciting assistance on the streets; business owners seek humane alternatives.

COMMUNITIES

Often open space and community spaces such as parks and bus stops serve as shelter for homeless persons. Communities stand to benefit from traditional housing services that would return these public spaces to their intended use.



Who Stands to Benefit



PARKS, PUBLIC WORKS AND

CALTRANS MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENTS

Resources are now spent on cleaning outdoor living spaces and on confrontations with homeless persons that are not the best use of these resources, not within the expertise of these staff and often leave staff demoralized.

THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Emergency room resources are repeatedly spent on homeless persons who could be stabilized with primary and preventive care.



Who Stands to Benefit



LAW ENFORCEMENT

Local law enforcement spends time, money and jail space on repeated encounters with homeless persons; these resources could be redirected to serious crimes.



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