

Yolo County Homeless Services Update

Who we are:

Kristen Cline – LMFT, Clinical Supervisor

Emily Meza – Homeless Services Analyst

Nadia Waggener – Housing Coordinator

Aurora William – Homeless Services Manager

Alignment with County & HHSA Strategic Plans




2016-2019 Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan Goals and priority focus areas for 2016-2019 are supported by the following guiding principles of Operational Excellence:

- ★ Advance innovation
- ★ Collaborate to maximize success
- ★ Provide accessible, fiscally sound, dynamic and responsive services
- ★ Strategically align our organization
- ★ Engage and empower both our residents and County workforce


Thriving Residents

- ☐ Implement Community Health Improvement Plan
- ★ Develop and implement strategies to reduce homelessness
- ☐ Expand best practices in programs benefitting children




Safe Communities

- ☐ Develop coordinated continuum of care ranging from prevention through intensive services
- ☐ Implement proactive, coordinated code enforcement effort
- ☐ Ensure robust disaster emergency management program
- ☐ Identify and address service delivery and critical infrastructure needs in unincorporated communities



Sustainable Environment

- ☐ Ensure water reliability
- ☐ Identify and implement sustainable parks system model
- ☐ Identify countywide waste reduction strategies
- ☐ Update and implement Climate Action Plan



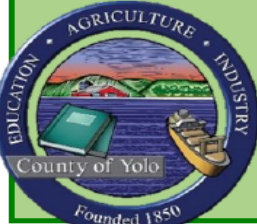
Flourishing Agriculture

- ☐ Ag land preservation
- ☐ Facilitate connections between growers and buyers
- ☐ Develop strategies, including a concierge approach, to nurture new ag/ag tech businesses
- ☐ Align workforce development efforts with ag and food system employer needs



GOAL 1: Improve Outcomes for Clients and the Community

- ★ Increase community-based access points for outpatient specialty mental health services.
- ★ Develop a coordinated system for identifying and assessing people experiencing homelessness and prioritizing entry into permanent housing and supportive services.
- Increase the percentage of foster children and youth placed in local home-based settings.
- Provide timely access to benefit programs for applicants in HHSA Service Centers.
- Implement county-wide policies to improve community health and wellness for Yolo residents.
- Improve the quality and performance of public health services by securing national public health accreditation.
- Improve the Agency's preparedness to respond to emergencies that require the provision of mass care, public health and/or medical services.



GOAL 2: Ensure Fiscal Health

- Develop a 3-year financial sustainability plan for the Agency's primary funding sources (Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder, Social Services and Public Health).
- Develop staffing and service delivery plans for the Service Centers that operate within social services funding allocations.
- Improve management's ability to access electronic fiscal data in a timely manner.
- ★ Use mental health funding more efficiently by increasing use of community-based treatment options instead of hospitalizations.
- Diversify funding by seeking grants and other funding sources.

GOAL 3: Strengthen Integration

- Develop consistent agency wide policies and procedures.
- ★ Develop and provide training on core topics, including eligibility for safety net programs, trauma-informed practices, mental health first aid, social determinants of health, fiscal issues, human resources and leadership.
- Increase opportunities for employee engagement and inclusion.

GOAL 4: Make Data Informed Decisions and Create a Culture of Quality

- Implement use of a performance management system agency wide.
- Expand the use of data dashboards.
- Advance "culture of quality" through implementation of quality improvement projects in all branches.
- ★ Pilot use of cross-branch performance measures by developing and tracking measures for all homeless and housing services in the Agency.

Strategies for Addressing Homelessness

Based on direction from the Board of Supervisors, staff use three strategies to advance goal of reducing homelessness:

1. Grow funding for homeless services
2. Develop a data collection system
3. Establish a full continuum of housing and services



What has been done to grow funding?

New Grant Awards – Fiscal Years 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18		
Grant	Applied For	Received
Bridge to Health and Housing	\$499,124.8 <i>(2-year period)</i>	\$499,124.8
Bringing Families Home	\$225,000 <i>(2.25-Year Period)</i>	\$225,000
CalWORKs Housing Support Program	\$2,200,000 <i>(Annually)</i>	\$1,800,000
Cooperative Agreements to Benefit Homeless Individuals (CABHI)	\$2,399,328.57 <i>(3-Year Period)</i>	\$2,399,328.57
Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP)	\$405,223.5 <i>(2-Year Period)</i>	\$190,483
No Place Like Home Technical Assistance	\$100,000 <i>(3-Year Period)</i>	\$100,000
Partnership Housing	\$2,344,729 <i>(Undetermined Timeframe)</i>	\$2,344,729 <i>(Conditionally Awarded)</i>

What has been done to develop the data collection system?

- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is tool for data collection
- There are currently 18 voting members on the Homeless and Poverty Action Coalition (HPAC) and 8 agencies (including the County) contributing to HMIS data collection.
- To date 836 Vulnerability Assessments have be administered throughout the County and entered in HMIS.
- Partner agencies are utilizing collected data to make informed decisions about client placement and treatment based on *least restrictive manner possible*.

What has been done to establish full continuum of housing and services?

- Housing Coordinator on staff partnering with local agencies and municipalities to grow local housing inventory list and strengthen the County infrastructure.
- New permanent and/or temporary housing projects in each city (including Woodland, Davis and West Sacramento).
- HPAC led case conferencing to utilize coordinated entry to identify and prioritize persons experiencing chronic homelessness and high levels of vulnerability for program housing/beds.

Ongoing Challenges

- **Lack of Housing Availability**

- Housing Coordinator working to develop relationships with landlords, property managers and partner agencies.
- Establishing two toolkits:
 - One for staff and partner agencies to use with landlords to enhance engagement and reduce barriers and apprehension
 - One to be utilized with clients to better understanding the skills and behaviors that will help them to retain housing.

- **Self-awareness among the homeless population**

- County staff and partner agencies working to build relationships and rapport to help unhoused individuals become more receptive to receiving services.

Opportunities and Next Steps

- Partnering with 4th & Hope through CABHI and utilizing street outreach teams to connect with people in the community who may not already have connected to services.
- Utilize VI-SPDAT to identify most vulnerable people in the community.
- Continue to support community partners in the Continuum of Care and strengthen collaborative partnerships.
- Using data to determine appropriate level of treatment and program fit for unhoused people in the community.

Questions