

SARASOTA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Homeless Services

TO: Thomas A. Harmer, County Administrator
THROUGH: Lee Ann Lowery, Assistant County Administrator
FROM: Wayne R. Applebee, Director of Homeless Services *WRA*
DATE: October 22, 2015
SUBJECT: Homeless Initiative Goals Update

Icons for the report indicate the status of Sarasota County Homeless Initiative Goals is identified below. Goals that are "Complete or Substantially Complete" are now listed at the end of the Update.

- Complete or Substantially Complete
- ⊙ - In Process
- ✂ - On Hold

⊙ **1. Move from a Culture of Enablement to a Culture of Engagement.**

In-Process: Public Awareness Campaign - Key meetings regarding this campaign are continuing with our partners, the Community Foundation of Sarasota and the Gulf Coast Community Foundation and the City of Sarasota.

The HuB in Sarasota has engaged with our partnership to provide technical assistance and offer creative graphic design work. They have provided a pricing estimate for campaign development. This pricing (approximately \$20,000) includes only the design work for the campaign. Both foundations and the City of Sarasota have indicated that they would be willing to contribute \$5,000 each (1/4 of the HuB estimate for development) to the campaign.

⊙ **4. Establish a Men's and Women's 24/7 Come-As-You-Are (CAYA) emergency shelter.**

In-Process: Staff is currently exploring three recommendations from Dr. Marbut's Report Card:

- a) "3 to 1 Plan"
- b) 209 North Lime Avenue, and
- c) County sites within approximately 1/4 mile from city boundary.

Staff has been in touch with Dr. Marbut regarding the "3 to 1 Plan" and our meeting with The Salvation Army and updated him on the Real Estate Services search for available sites in the County and within 1/4 mile of the city limits. Staff are finalizing the initial phase of due diligence and tentatively scheduled an update for the Board on November 17, 2015.

Pinellas County Sheriff Robert Gualtieri and former County Commissioner Susan Latvala presented to the Board on the operations and effectiveness of Pinellas Safe Harbor, a "come-as-you-are" homeless facility serving Pinellas County on October 13.

County staff is working with the Sheriff's Office to update the Board on the status of the SHIFTS program and potential next steps.

11. **Increase transitional, supportive and permanent housing opportunities for adults, families and unaccompanied minors.**

In-Process: The Office of Community Housing and Development is in the process of developing the next five year (2016-2021) action plan. Human Services staff participated in all community meetings to promote increasing transitional, supportive and permanent affordable housing opportunities in the plan. In addition, Human Services staff have reviewed the draft needs assessment section of the plan and provided feedback to strengthen the data.

Harvest House Family Village, located along Martin Luther King Street, continues to be under renovation to add 18 new units and housing for up to 74 individuals. The County is contributing \$200,000 for this project which will be completed in March, 2016. When complete, the units will be available to homeless families, veteran homeless families and unaccompanied youth that have an income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income.

Catholic Charities is in the process of purchasing and renovating 5 units, which will provide supportive housing for families, housing up to 21 individuals for up to 18 months in South County. Two units have been purchased and are currently undergoing renovations that are expected to be completed by November. The County Commission previously approved \$500,000 from the Community Development Block Grant program for this purpose. Catholic Charities has expended approximately \$196,000 of the CDBG funds to date.

The agency continues to search for properties that are affordable and that meet the requirements of the contract. The Office of Housing and Community Development is in the process of developing an amendment to the existing contract that will extend the contract's ending date and expand the 1-mile radius requirement from the Family Haven site to the City of North Port. This is intended to increase the pool of potential acquisitions. Additionally, a home in Venice has been purchased through private funding for use by Family Haven and Family Promise. This home is not counted as part of the 5 units.

The Loveland Center is currently under construction of the "Loveland Village" in Venice that will provide independent living for up to 94 individuals with developmental disabilities. The project will be complete in April, 2016. A number of individuals currently residing in scattered housing owned by CASL will move to Loveland Village. CASL is the nonprofit that is providing housing and services for homeless individuals in our SHIFTS pilot program with the Sheriff's Office.

The following Homeless Initiative Goals are "On Hold" pending implementation of Goal #4.

5. **Establish two Master Case Management Systems: One for Families and One for Adults.**

Adult Master Case Management

On Hold: Implementation of a Master Case Management System for adult men and women will not be possible in the absence of a CAYA or a single point of entry into the system.

8. **Redirect "Street Feeding/Street Services" to align with holistic service programs.**

On Hold: While outreach and education has occurred with the faith-based and civic organizations, which have resulted in changes to street feeding programs, the comprehensive solution relies on the establishment of the CAYA. Homeless individuals and street feeding programs can be co-located at the CAYA once operational.

✂10. Homeless Outreach Teams (HOTs) should be established with the opening of an adult emergency shelter.

***On Hold:** In alignment with the Marbut Plan, the creation of County HOT teams and law enforcement training curriculum will be developed once an opening date for the CAYA shelter facility or other alternative beds are known.*

The following Homeless Initiative Goals have been “Completed or Substantially Completed”.

2. Harvest House Family Haven – North County Family Emergency Shelter.

***Complete:** Harvest House Family Haven (HHFH) opened on October 1, 2014, with 24 beds in 6 dorms.*

3. Catholic Charities Family Haven – South County Family Emergency Shelter

***Complete:** Catholic Charities Family Haven (CCFH) opened on March 6, 2015, with 8 beds in 2 dorms.*

5. Establish two Master Case Management Systems: One for Families and One for Adults.

Family Master Case Management

***Complete:** The Master Case Management agencies have established a unified assessment tool, intake process and conduct weekly meetings to assign families.*

6. Transform the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to a Proactive Case Management Model.

***Complete:** With the 2-1-1 system fully operational, Sarasota County has a singular intake workflow, common assessment tool and real time case management for families.*

7. Establish program to address summer shortages in food supplies with All Faiths Food Bank.

***Complete:** The second annual “Campaign Against Summer Hunger” was held from March 31 to May 9, 2015, although campaign giving extends beyond these dates. All Faiths Food Bank is expected to release the official numbers highlighting the success within the next few weeks. Early indications are that the campaign will exceed the cash donations of \$1.2 million and the approximately 800,000 pounds of food collected from the first annual campaign.*

9. Ordinances should promote engagement with holistic programs, not “criminalize” the condition of homelessness.

***Substantially Complete:** While draft ordinances are written, our community must identify mechanisms to comply with the “Pottinger” Court Decision.*

12. Governance and leadership of the new and improved holistic homeless service system is critical.

***Substantially Complete:** The governance and leadership of the homeless service system is currently more organized and effective, particular in the area of services for families. However,*

gaps in the system remain and a stronger leadership and governance model will be needed to fully implement system-wide change.

- c: **Marlon Brown, Assistant City Manager**
- Don Hadsell, Community Housing & Development**
- Doug Logan, Director of Chronic Homelessness**
- Lin Kurant, Real Estate Services**
- Jamie Carson, Sarasota County Communications**
- Tom Tryon, Herald-Tribune**
- Members, Council of Governments**
- Members, Public Awareness Campaign**