Intersection: Homelessness, Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health

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Challenges/Opportunities

• Building Common Understanding and Defining Goals
  – Population, interaction with systems
  – Problem statement and direction
• Scaling flexible re-housing capacity with sustained investment
• Finding connective tissue between silo-ed systems, including data
QUICK STATS – WHAT WE KNOW
2019 Point-In-Time Count

5,570 Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

70% Unsheltered  30% Sheltered

Homelessness has increased by an estimated 19% in Sacramento County since 2017.

30% are experiencing chronic homelessness, a lower rate than anticipated given the general increase.

93% of unsheltered respondents were originally from Sacramento or long-term residents.

From Sacramento Steps Forward for Sacramento Continuum of Care, https://sacramentostepsforward.org/2019pitcount/
HUD website: https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-homeless-populations-and-subpopulations-reports/
Mental Illness Among Homeless Chronically Homeless and Unsheltered Chronically Homeless

Chart 6: Mental Illness Among Homeless, Chronically Homeless, and Unsheltered Chronically Homeless People
Source: HMIS Data (2017 - 2018)

- Homeless Persons (N = 5,517): 35% reporting no mental illness, 65% reporting mental illness
- Chronically Homeless Persons (N = 1,536): 36% reporting no mental illness, 64% reporting mental illness
- Unsheltered Chronically Homeless Persons (N = 932): 29% reporting no mental illness, 71% reporting mental illness

Source: Sacramento County Homeless Plan, Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data
Estimated Criminal Justice System Involvement and Mental Illness Among Unsheltered Homeless in CA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Estimate</th>
<th>% of Unsheltered Homeless Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ever Incarcerated</td>
<td>64,149</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recently Incarcerated</td>
<td>25,660</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presently Justice Involved</td>
<td>1,913</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever Incarcerated Reporting Mental Health Issues</td>
<td>29,692</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ever Incarcerated Reporting a Serious Mental Illness</td>
<td>13,746</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Homeless & Facing Misdemeanor Charges?

50%

For two weeks, Sacramento County Public Defender counted the number of individuals facing criminal charges that law enforcement reported as homeless.

Review of 482 cases indicated 50% of Public Defender clients are experiencing homelessness.
Homeless Services – Aspiring Toward a System
Finding Homeless Resources

- **Drop-In Center/Day Shelter Programs**: Seven (7) programs throughout the county.

- **Year-Round and Seasonal Overnight Shelters**: Thirty-three (33) shelters with a total of 762 beds for singles, families, and youth.

- **Temporary Housing/Transitional Housing Programs**: Sixteen (16) programs offering a total of 669 beds for singles and families.

- **Rapid Re-housing Programs**: Ten (10) programs with 661 slots (permanent housing units or rooms) for singles and families.

- **Permanent Supportive Housing Programs**: Twenty-seven (27) programs for chronically homeless adults or families and adults or families experiencing mental illness, housing a total of 3,028 people in 2,119 households.

Source: Continuum of Care Housing Inventory Count, [https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-housing-inventory-count-reports/](https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-housing-inventory-count-reports/)
### Snapshot: County Homeless Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Office of the County Executive</td>
<td>Homeless Coordination, Strategy and Policies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child, Family, and Adult Services</td>
<td>Child Protective Services, Bringing Families Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adult Protective Services, Sr. Safe House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Human Assistance</td>
<td>Targeted CalWORKS Programs, Homeless Services, funding outreach, navigation, shelter, re-housing, County Initiatives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Health Services</td>
<td>Behavioral Health – Mental Health Services and Alcohol and Drug Services; Primary Health; Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Authority</td>
<td>Pubic Housing Authority Finance, Emergency Solutions Grant, Community Development Block Grant, Affordable Housing Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Also:</td>
<td>Environmental Management Department, Planning and Environmental Review, Parks Department, Probation Department, Public Defender, Sheriff’s Department, District Attorney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Sacramento County Homeless Plan, 2018, [https://www.saccounty.net/Homelessness/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.saccounty.net/Homelessness/Pages/default.aspx)
Prevalent Model:
People Finding Services
Recent Innovations in Sacramento County

| Flexible Supportive Housing Program | 2/2018 Launch  
|                                   | Ongoing services and housing assistance for “Top 250”  
|                                   | County General Fund |
| Flexible Housing Pool             | Includes Jail Diversion Pilot  
|                                   | Fall 2019 Launch  
|                                   | Limited-term services and housing assistance  
|                                   | State HEAP Funding |
| New Approaches Public Defender Services | 2019  
|                                           | Expungement Services, Mental Health Diversion, Social Worker Connections  
|                                           | HEAP and County General Fund |
Permanent Supportive Housing for Top 250 Utilizers

FLEXIBLE SUPPORTIVE RE-HOUSING PROGRAM
Flexible Supportive Re-Housing Program

• Based on LA’s Housing for Health program
  – Rand Study: Participants used substantially fewer health care services in first year after receiving housing
• Sacramento’s FSRP targets top 250 persons
  – Highly targeted to intersection: homelessness, behavioral health, criminal justice
  – Permanent Supportive Housing using existing housing
    • Ongoing services and housing supports
  – $4.5 million annual from General Fund

“Housing for Health: A State-of-the Art Program for Reducing Homelessness in Los Angeles County”
https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/RB10000.html
Cost distribution Across 250 High-Utilizing Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in Sacramento County

Refined high-cost utilizers across HMIS, Sheriff, BHS systems

\[ N = 250 \]

Average annual cost (2015-16) = $42,383

“Using Pay for Success to Improve Outcomes for the Persistently Homeless in Sacramento”, Social Finance, Spring 2018

FSRP: Services Finding People

Intensive Case Management

- Whatever it takes
- Ongoing engagement and case management
- Navigation to Services: health, behavioral health, benefits, employment, expungement

Property Related Tenant Services

- Secure housing: client choice, shared, master leased, private, public, affordable
- Manage ongoing financial assistance (or leverage housing choice voucher)
- Work with owner and tenant to maintain tenancy
- Identify when higher level of care needed and help to transition
### Notable Demographics of 191 participants, December 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Formal Probation</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifetime Sex Offender Registrant</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Disability</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Diagnosis</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Use Addiction</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-occurring mental health issues and substance use disorders</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
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FSRP Programmatic Flexibility

- Scales up with additional investment
- Flex individual services & length
- Provider/County relationship
  - Ongoing ICMS provider solicitation
  - Per person per month cost
  - 1 to 20 CM ratio
  - Partner for success includes weekly case conferencing

- Housing Focus: Of 250 enrolled, 212 housed

Early Stage Implementation Report: https://www.saccounty.net/Homelessness/Pages/default.aspx
Collaborative Investment Plan for $19.9 million
New Programs Fact Sheets

http://www.saccounty.net/Homelessness/Pages/default.aspx

FLEXIBLE HOUSING POOL
Initial Investment: State HEAP

- Flexible Housing Pool 43%
  - $8.1 million
- Shelter 47%
  - $9.3 million
- System Development 5%
- Administration 5%
  - $1 million
  - $1 million

Growing the FHP Pool
- Local MHSA: $5M
- State Funding Applications:
  - Housing for Healthy CA
FHP: Creating System Flow

FHP Services: 600 Housed

- Street Outreach Programs (175)
- Jail Diversion Pilot (80)
- Adult Protective Services (80)
- Countywide Shelters (300)

Core Services < 24 months:
- Case Management using Critical Time Intervention
- Flexible Rental Assistance
- Expungement Services
- Disability Advocacy
- System Brokering
- Case Conferencing

FHP Program Description:
# Flexible Housing Pool Goals

**End homelessness for up to 635 households through stable, permanent housing**

**Build a **scalable and flexible** re-housing program through flexible housing pool**

**Connect** system partners to FHP re-housing services to create flow in continuum
- Vulnerable seniors and dependent adults active with County APS
- Persistently homeless eligible for jail diversion
- Persons living in emergency shelters
- Persons engaged in street outreach navigation services

**Build connections** between homelessness system and criminal justice system
- New jail diversion pilot program
- Expungement Services

**Increase re-housing capacity:** Standardize and improve re-housing and supportive services, training academy, system partnering to reduce client barriers
FHP Jail Diversion Process

**Step 1**: Person experiencing homelessness is pending misdemeanor charges.

**Step 2**: Public Defender identifies person as a candidate for FHP Jail Diversion.

**Step 3**: Case is negotiated and continued so candidate can meet FHP case manager and written plan for services and housing made.

**Step 4**: FHP delivers services, interim housing, and re-housing assistance. Candidate is monitored by court for up to one year. Upon successful participation, case is dismissed.
Additional County Efforts

OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENDER
Expungement Clinic for Persons Experiencing Homelessness

Increase earning capacity by 30%
Average Employment rates increase 75% to 80-85%


Program Fact Sheet: [https://www.saccounty.net/Homelessness/Documents/HEAP%20Program%20Description%20-%20Expungement%20Clinic.pdf](https://www.saccounty.net/Homelessness/Documents/HEAP%20Program%20Description%20-%20Expungement%20Clinic.pdf)
Social Workers in Office of PD

Mental Health Diversion

Increase Public Safety
Reduce Jail Utilization
Link to Services: Mental Health and Housing
Negotiate Case with Holistic Approach
Challenges/Opportunities

• Building Common Understanding and Defining Goals
  – Population, interaction with systems
  – Problem statement and direction

• Scaling flexible re-housing capacity with sustained investment

• Finding connective tissue between silo-ed systems, including data