Reducing Homelessness for People with Behavioral Health Needs Leaving Prisons and Jails

A Collaboration Between the Council on State Governments Justice Center and the Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health

August 18, 2021
Agenda

2:00 PM Welcome & Introductions
2:10 PM State Agency Speakers
2:25 PM Lived Experience Perspectives – Amity Foundation
2:40 PM CSG Housing Report Presentation
3:05 PM Justice and Housing: Collaboration in Action
3:15 PM Call to Action and Announcements
3:20 PM Q&A
Quick Notes:

**Presentation is being recorded**

- Use the “raise hand” feature to make a comment.

- You will be placed in line to comment in the order in which requests are received by the host.

- *When it is your turn to comment, the meeting host will unmute your line and announce your name.*

- Members of the public should be prepared to complete their comments within 3 minutes or less if a different time allotment is needed and announced by the Executive Officer.

Email:

CCJBH@cdcr.ca.gov
State Agency Speakers

Corrin Buchanan, Assistant Director
California Department of Social Services (DSS)

Julie Lo, Executive Officer
Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council (HCFC)

Geoffrey Ross, Deputy Director
Housing and Community Development (HCD)

Susan Philip, Deputy Director
Department of Health Care Services (DHCS)
Amity Foundation
Stories of Lived Experience
Reducing Homelessness for People with Behavioral Health Needs Leaving Prisons and Jails

Recommendations to the California Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health

August 18, 2021
The Council of State Governments Justice Center

We are a national nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that combines the power of a membership association, serving state officials in all three branches of government, with policy and research expertise to develop strategies that increase public safety and strengthen communities.
Our Process: Defining Need and Developing Recommendations

39 interviews with state and local policymakers, researchers, people w/ lived experience

Grounded in (available) data

Informed by best practices and local successes

Guided by key leaders and building on prior work

Reducing Homelessness for People with Behavioral Health Needs Leaving Prisons and Jails
Today’s Presentation

• How many people are we talking about?
• What are the challenges in the field?
• What are the recommendations to reduce homelessness for people with behavioral health needs leaving prisons and jails in California?
The Overlap between Homelessness and Mental Health Needs in California Jails

17–39 percent of people experienced homelessness in 30 days prior to jail stay.

Approximately 30 percent or more of jail population has mental health needs.
Housing and Service Needs for People Leaving California Jails

Up to **10 percent** of people in jail may need **ongoing housing assistance** and **intensive** mental health services.

Another **8–16 percent** may need **ongoing housing assistance** and **less intensive** mental health services.

Reducing Homelessness for People with Behavioral Health Needs Leaving Prisons and Jails
About **39 percent** of people **leaving prison on parole** report some level of "residential instability".

At least **29 percent of people in prison** have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness.
Inequities in Multiple Domains

• **Homelessness:** Black Californians represent 6 percent of state population, 29 percent of those experiencing homelessness

• **Criminal Justice:** Incarceration rate for Black Californians nearly 7x higher than for White people, 2x higher for Latinx

• **Behavioral Health:** Higher rates of unmet mental health needs for Black and Latinx people than general population
Key Challenges Identified by Stakeholders: Silos

Silos between criminal justice, behavioral health, and housing systems

- Hard to connect with housing and supportive services without these relationships
Key Challenges Identified by Stakeholders: Data

Lack of data on homelessness and housing needs

- Difficult to match people to the right level of housing and services
- Hard to ask for more resources if you can’t define the problem
Key Challenges Identified by Stakeholders: Stigma and Policy Barriers

- Stigma among landlords and policy barriers among housing providers

- Communities may not prioritize people leaving jail/prison for housing assistance

- Difficult to access limited housing that is available
Key Challenges Identified by Stakeholders: Supply

Lack of affordable housing statewide

✓ Only 1 unit available for every 4 Californians who need it
✓ Significant competition and long waits for limited supply
Recommendations: Overall Key Themes

1. Data
2. Access
3. Supply
Key Theme 1: Data

Why is this a key theme?

- Essential to connect people with the right housing and maximize limited resources
- Supports efforts to advocate for more resources and “grow the housing pie” (see Theme 3)
Key Theme 1: Data Action Steps

Key Action Steps

- Implement simple, brief jail homelessness risk assessment
- Expand housing needs assessments across prisons and jails
  - Require for all CDCR releases
  - Identify “in-reach” funding to implement in jails
- Build systems and create incentives to report these data publicly
Key Theme 2: Access

Why is this a key theme?

- Expanding supply is the ultimate solution but requires significant time and investment
- Improving access to existing housing and services helps meet immediate needs
Key Theme 2: Access Action Steps

Key Action Steps

- Build relationships between discharge planners, community supervision, and housing providers
- Implement landlord incentives to expand inventory
- Expand and target rental assistance toward reentry population
- Partner with private funders on innovative approaches such as Flexible Subsidy Pools
- Leverage new supportive services investments (i.e., CalAIM) to help locate and retain housing
Key Theme 3: Supply

Why is this a key theme?

- Significant scope of housing need, statewide lack of units, and barriers to accessing existing housing
- “Growing the housing pie” is the only long-term strategy that addresses all these issues
Key Theme 3: Supply Action Steps

Key Action Steps

- Assess community needs and build development partnerships
- Leverage state/federal capital (including new state and ARP resources) and operating funding
- Prioritize surplus land for reentry population
- Identify cost savings to fund gaps in financing
- Expand successful Pay for Success approaches
# All Recommendations at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Challenges Addressed</th>
<th>Why it Matters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Facilitate cross-system collaboration</td>
<td>🌍🌐🤝💡🏡</td>
<td>Ensures coordination and maximizes resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Identify those at risk of homelessness</td>
<td>🚨⚠️🛠️▲🏡</td>
<td>Spurs early planning and reduces future homelessness risk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Assess housing needs prior to release</td>
<td>🎈🔍🛠️▲🏡</td>
<td>Matches people to appropriate housing options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Connect people to the homeless assistance system</td>
<td>🎈🔍🛠️▲🏡</td>
<td>Helps prevent “falling through the cracks” upon reentry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Quantify housing and service needs</td>
<td>🎈🔍🛠️▲🏡</td>
<td>Supports funding requests and captures changing trends</td>
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</tbody>
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## Recommendations at a Glance (continued)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
<th>Challenges Addressed</th>
<th>Why it Matters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6. <strong>Increase</strong> resources to meet immediate housing needs</td>
<td>![icons]</td>
<td>Improves access to existing housing via financial assistance &amp; incentives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. <strong>Leverage</strong> supportive services to connect with housing</td>
<td>![icons]</td>
<td>Increases chances of securing and maintaining housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. <strong>Prioritize</strong> target population for existing housing</td>
<td>![icons]</td>
<td>Reduces competition for scarce housing resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. <strong>Equip</strong> staff across systems to meet needs</td>
<td>![icons]</td>
<td>Combines resources and expertise to address underlying issues</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. <strong>Develop</strong> new affordable housing supply statewide</td>
<td>![icons]</td>
<td>Provides long-term solution given scope of need and lack of supply</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
The Full Report: What’s Inside & Where to Find It

- The issues in California and national context
- All recommendations with detailed action items
- Data appendix and methodology

Thank You!

Join our distribution list to receive updates and announcements:

https://csgjusticecenter.org/resources/newsletters/

For more information please contact Charley Francis at cfrancis@csg.org

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Slide 6 Sources

Slide 7 Sources

Slide 8 Sources

Housing Collaboration In Action

Lahela Mattox, Chief Operating Officer
Regional Task Force on the Homeless
San Diego County
HOMELESSNESS IS SOLVABLE

REDUCING HOMELESSNESS FOR PEOPLE WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS LEAVING PRISONS AND JAILS

AUGUST 18, 2021
We believe:

• Housing is a basic human need and right.
• Homelessness is solvable.
• Homelessness is an experience.
• Homelessness does not define who a person is.
• All people can be successful in housing with the right support.
• All people deserve compassion, respect, and to be treated with dignity.
A CoC is a planning body that coordinates housing and services for homeless families and individuals and promotes a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. We are subject matter experts, strategic planners and coordinate region wide efforts.
**We End Homelessness Everyday**

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<tr>
<th><strong>We Must Accelerate Our Efforts With Historical Funding Levels</strong></th>
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**Do More of What Works**
There are proven strategies to address homelessness, we need to do these with more coordination and urgency.

**Extremely Low Income Housing Units**
Housing ends Homelessness – we need more housing stock.

**Historically Underfunded**
Government investments and resources have never been at these levels, we MUST ACT with urgency to rehab, purchase and develop AND prevent homelessness with rental assistance.

**Engage More Internal and External Stakeholders**
Reduce the stigma and shame around homelessness, Communities must embraces vulnerable populations with adequate housing and supports.
Collaboration, Coordination, and Commitment

**Collaboration** - Local, state, and federal government, stakeholders, non-traditional entities, people with lived experience.

**Coordination** to maximize funding and resources to achieve solutions.

**Commitment** to doing our part and implementing plans.
Housing Ends Homelessness
San Diego Flexible Housing Pool

Challenge: Lack of available rental housing that is affordable is the greatest challenge San Diego faces to addressing homelessness.

Solution - Meeting the housing inventory needs will require a multi-pronged approach:

1. Development of new affordable/supportive housing
2. Acquisitions and Rehab
3. Effectively utilizing existing rental market
FHP Model in San Diego

- Dedicated staff to secure units and create housing portfolio
- Flexible funding to support immediate lease up
- Dedicated staff to provide housing tenancy services
- Community Partners operating tenant-based PSH or RRH
- Supportive services in housing
- Vouchers/rental assistance (PSH or RRH)
FHP Benefits

Ability to secure units immediately and begin paying landlord while tenant is identified for the unit.

Ability to enter into agreements with landlords to dedicate/secure large number of units in a complex.

Ability to pay arrears locally and out of state.

Ability to partner with our providers to leverage flexible funds to reduce barriers and house more people.

Brilliant Corners entered into agreement with large SRO owner for 34 units across two properties
Youth provider referred young mother to FHP as one of her main barriers to housing was rental arrears. Brilliant Corners negotiated arrears to a reduced amount and paid the arrears. She selected a unit from the portfolio for her and her daughter and they entered housing.

A young man referred by YHDP found himself two weeks into a lease agreement when he recognized he would not be able to assume responsibility for the rent once his subsidy was exhausted. BC negotiated with the landlord to break the lease with no negative repercussions for the tenant and he selected another unit in the portfolio.

Success Stories

Referrals for people who did not have housing ready documents. BC was able to negotiate with landlords to accept affidavits by the organization and expedite the housing process.
Contact Information

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Regional Task Force on the Homeless
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TWITTER: @RTFHSD
FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/RTFHSD
Call to Action & Next Steps

Brenda Grealish, Executive Officer
Council on Criminal Justice and Behavioral Health
Announcements

September is Suicide Prevention and Recovery Awareness month
Details on CCJBH activities coming soon!

_**Juvenile Justice Workgroup**_
Friday, September 10, 2021 1-3PM

_**Diversion/Reentry Workgroup**_
Friday, September 17, 2021 1-3PM

_**Full Council Meeting**_
Friday, October 29, 2021 2-4:30PM

If you would like to be added to CCJBH’s listserv, email us at **ccjbh@cdcr.ca.gov**

*THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!*