



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



June 14, 2016

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

Grant Nash Colfax, MD
DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Update from the Department of Health and Human Services regarding Homeless program activities.

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Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Receive Department of Health and Human Services' update regarding Homeless program activities.

SUMMARY: As your Board is aware, homelessness is a complex issue with significant impacts on the health, well-being and longevity of the people who experience it. In a high-cost community like Marin, it is likely that there will always be some people who lose their housing. However, with the right mix of housing and services, we can reduce new incidences of homelessness, eliminate long-term homelessness and minimize the effects of homelessness on our community.

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) envisions a system of care in which people who become homeless are quickly returned to permanent housing, people who are housed receive the services necessary to stay there, and the effects of homelessness on the health of Marin residents are minimized.

HHS provides essential safety net services, like behavioral healthcare and employment supports, that are key to helping people regain their housing and independence. In addition, HHS funds community-based organizations to implement a wide range of evidence-based practices targeting a diverse homeless population, including emergency shelter for people experiencing a housing crisis, rapid rehousing and prevention services for people in need of a temporary rental subsidy, moving assistance, or rental deposit; and permanent supportive housing for disabled households with long-term or repeated histories of homelessness.

However, achieving our vision requires more than the services HHS provides; it requires partnerships with other county departments, our cities and towns, and community-based organizations, all of which have different roles to play. HHS acts as a convener to facilitate those partnerships.

In 2016, HHS is:

- Evaluating gaps in our system of care
- Improving how we track and evaluate data about homelessness
- Building cross-sector partnerships with other jurisdictions, including the cities within Marin County and with our neighbors in Sonoma and Napa Counties
- Working with our partners to implement evidence-based practices (including Housing First and the Homeless Outreach Team model)
- Continuing to fund best practices in housing and services

The Department’s report to your Board will provide an update on activities related to Marin’s continuum of homeless services.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal component associated with the acceptance of this report.

Reviewed By:	County Administrator	[X]	N/A	[]
	Department of Finance	[]	N/A	[X]
	County Counsel	[]	N/A	[X]
	Human Resources	[]	N/A	[X]

Respectfully submitted,

Grant Nash Colfax, MD
Director