

ATTACHMENT

For Item

#12

Tuesday,
October 11, 2022

PUBLIC COMMUNICATION RECEIVED BY THE
CLERK OF THE BOARD

From: henkinp@earthlink.net
To: [Fletcher, Nathan \(BOS\)](#); [Desmond, Jim](#); [Anderson, Joel](#); [Vargas, Nora \(BOS\)](#); [Lawson-Remer, Terra](#)
Cc: [FGG, Public Comment](#); [Robbins-Meyer, Helen](#)
Subject: [External] HOMELESS - YOU & RTFH SHOULD PLAN FOR HOUSING LATER AND OTHER THINGS NOW
Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 5:34:48 PM

Hi Supervisors,

As I have said, **housing is not the primary solution to the homelessness problem.**

I think that **dignity, employment, quality of life**, is really the #1 problem.

There are also mental health problems, police and safety considerations along the way, and then housing, the ultimate goal, hopefully permanent if all the other things are put in order.

It costs society as a whole - people fearful to go shopping or do errands, sometimes even go to work, when they find a street so 'filthy' that they dare not go down it, Police costs paid for in rising taxes, extra ambulance trips which we all pay for when the hospital bill has to be adjusted for the overtime, and on and on.

Something I like about the plan is that (per the Union Tribune (U-T) "The plan also calls for incorporating people who have experienced homelessness in discussions about solutions and for ending what it calls the criminalization of homelessness, such as the enforcement of laws that target encampments." Two things I have called for - groupthink and not breaking up encampments willy-nilly, stealing the homeless peoples' stuff.

"These efforts erode trust in the system for people living unsheltered, which creates barriers to receiving and engaging in services and exiting homelessness," the plan reads. U-T says "The county has about 4,000 shelter beds, and the plan identifies a need for between 850 and 1,290

more. Specifically, the city of San Diego needs between 430 to 600 more and East County, North County and South County each need 150-230 more." Considering the county has at least 8700 homeless, that is not a plan to solve homelessness anytime soon.

The shelters you're advocating for and the Board's subsidized housing plan are a good start, but this is a multi-faceted problem, as I think you recognize. A few job ideas - I'm sure the homeless have done more than their fair share and are good at these:

- Teachers of survivalism, co-operation, and cooking
- Advocates for the homeless, impoverished, or drug users
- Agriculturalists, gardeners, planters, farm workers.
- Other ideas:
 - Social workers to make sure they are eating enough and quality food.
 - A social worker embedded in City & County Libraries and parks.
 - Parks and Recreation monitoring recreational areas and connecting the homeless to outreach teams.

Psychotropic meds are great if they work but they but they can drive people crazy either when they take it or when they forget.

And there's crime. Homeless with too much spare time turn to drugs or crime to fill the void. If you start taking their stuff - they'll want to replace it, by hook or crook. The U-T says "the task force also would like some existing shelters to adopt low-barrier policies to allow a broader group of people in. While city-funded shelters in San Diego are low-barrier, some in other areas require sobriety testing, barring people dealing with addictions." Sounds like an open invitation to mayhem.

Let's actually help all of the County and not just shuffle the homeless around to send the problem somewhere else.

Regards,

Paul Henkin
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<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/regional-task-force-sets-goals-for-reducing-ending-homelessness-thousands-of-beds-will-be-needed/ar-AA12So0a?cvid=a10a5ef6651347b7a5be88e6d81d2965>

San Diego Union Tribune

Regional task force sets goals for reducing, ending homelessness. Thousands of beds will be needed

Gary Warth - 8h ago [10/12/2022]

Hundreds more shelter beds and thousands of additional low-income housing units are needed to significantly reduce homelessness across the county, according to a new plan released Wednesday by the San Diego Regional Task Force on Homelessness.

Tamera Kohler, president and **CEO** of the task force, said the plan is an attempt to get all cities in the county on the same page when addressing homelessness while also noting progress that has been made, finding areas that need improvements and setting goals to help specific communities.

[Task Force or business with an interest (like builders)?]

The county has about 4,000 shelter beds, and the plan identifies a need for between 850 and 1,290 more. Specifically, the city of San Diego needs between 430 to 600 more and East County, North County and South County each need 150-230 more.

Kohler said the task force also would like some existing shelters to adopt low-barrier policies to allow a broader group of people in. While city-funded shelters in San Diego are low-barrier, some in other areas require sobriety testing, barring people dealing with addictions.

Besides getting shelters to follow the same policy, Kohler said the regional plan is a way of getting all jurisdictions in the county to take a

unified approach in addressing homelessness.

"When we did our engagement **across the region**, there still is room for **improvement of leadership**," she said. "We have seen greater coordination between the city of San Diego and the county, but there's still work to be done in a number of jurisdictions."

Kohler didn't name any specific city, but there has been a public disagreement between the county and the city of El Cajon over a voucher program that provides hotel rooms for homeless people. Officials in the East County city have said the county's program places a greater burden on them than in other cities because of the number of vouchers issued to El Cajon hotels.

"I think it is important that our leadership across the region is coordinated and moving in the same direction," Kohler said.

Besides improving collaboration with cities in the county, Kohler said there also should be better relations with the 18 Indian tribes in the region.

The plan sets a goal of reducing the number of homeless people without shelter by 50 percent within three years and to end homelessness among veterans, youths, older adults and families.

In what was said to be an alignment with national best practices, the plan also calls for a "person-centered" system, with a bedrock framework of housing first, racial equity and social justice, trauma-informed care and progressive engagement, defined as recognizing that each person has unique needs and should receive an appropriate level of help.

The plan also calls for incorporating people who have experienced homelessness in discussions about solutions and for ending what it

calls the criminalization of homelessness, such as the enforcement of laws that target encampments.

"These efforts erode trust in the system for people living unsheltered, which creates barriers to receiving and engaging in services and exiting homelessness," the plan reads.

Besides calling for more shelter beds, the plan also identifies a need for more diversion efforts that could help an estimated 4,470 people countywide avoid homelessness. Kohler said those could include temporary rent subsidies, discussions with landlords or something as minor as intervening in a dispute between roommates.

The plan also calls for 11,774 more rapid-rehousing units, which provide rent subsidies that gradually taper off as tenants become self-sufficient. The county now has about 2,500 rapid re-housing units, and the plan calls for adding 7,309 in the city of San Diego, 1,858 in East County, 1,863 in North County and 743 in South County.

The city of San Diego also needs 3,132 more low-income housing units while 797 are needed in East County, 798 in North County and 319 in South County for a total of 5,046, according to the plan.

Another 4,347 permanent supportive housing units are needed countywide, with 2,676 in the city of San Diego, 658 in East County, 718 in North County and 294 in South County.

Many cities throughout the county have adopted their own plans to address homelessness, and Kohler said the new countywide plan is something they could adopt or draw from to expand their own efforts.

"We didn't find a lot of contradictions, but what we found was many of them had sort of a minimal approach," she said.

"It's really up to the cities," Kohler said about how jurisdictions will respond to the new the regional plan. "Our hope is they'll take things out

of this plan that will support the work that they're doing. More than anything, we want to expand their success and align our efforts so that we're using the same measures, the same language, and we're able to bring down as many resources as we possibly can to help every city in addressing homelessness."

Kohler also said the Regional Task Force on Homelessness can help cities apply for funding from the state and other sources, as sometimes dollars are left on the table. As an example, only three cities applied for \$10 million the county made available to create shelters, leaving \$5 million behind.

This story originally appeared in San Diego Union-Tribune.