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PETER C. FOY, Chair
STEVE BENNETT
LINDA PARKS
KATHY I. LONG
JOHN C. ZARAGOZA

STEVE BENNETT
SUPERVISOR, FIRST DISTRICT
(805) 654-2703
FAX: (805) 654-2226
E-mail: steve.bennett@ventura.org

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF VENTURA

GOVERNMENT CENTER, HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
800 SOUTH VICTORIA AVENUE, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA 93009

February 5, 2013

Board of Supervisors
County of Ventura
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

SUBJECT: Recommendation of Supervisor Bennett and Supervisor Long to review and adopt the Update of the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness; acknowledge that the Ventura County Council of Governments serves as the Interagency Council on Homelessness; and recommend that affected County agencies collaborate with local jurisdictions and the IACH and its advisory bodies in facilitating the implementation of relevant portions of the updated Plan.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Review and adopt the Update of the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness in Ventura County as presented in Attachment 2;
2. Acknowledge that the Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG) serves as the Interagency Council on Homelessness (IACH) called for in Recommendation 23 of the Plan; and
3. Recommend that affected County agencies collaborate with local jurisdictions and the IACH and its advisory bodies in facilitating the implementation of relevant portions of the updated Plan.

DISCUSSION:

The original 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness (10-Year Plan) in Ventura County was adopted by this Board on June 5, 2007. On June 26, 2012, the Board received a report from the County Executive Office (CEO) on current Federal regulations and trends in homeless services and new responsibilities of the CEO and the Human Services Agency. Furthermore, the June 26, 2012 report provided this Board information on the Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition's (VCHHC) efforts to convene a broad based Steering Committee tasked to perform a five year review and update of the 10-Year Plan by aligning the document with the new federal guidelines and best practices.

We had the privilege to Co-Chair VCHHC's Steering Committee. The Steering Committee's evaluation of local homeless data over the past five years found a 12% decrease in local homelessness as well as a 37% decrease of homeless families when compared to 2009. However, the Committee found an increase in the percentage of local chronic homelessness at

36%, which did not match the unprecedented decrease in chronic homelessness nationally. These findings, in addition to emerging best practices and changes to federal funding guidelines, formed the basis for the new recommendations.

On December 3, 2012 the Steering Committee presented a draft of the updated 10-Year Plan at a community meeting held at the Ventura County Office of Education. The Plan was presented to over 60 people representing a broad cross-section of community organizations, local governments, and individuals. (Please refer to Attachment 1 for a list of the December Community Meeting attendees.) With the release of the Plan to the general public, comments were solicited, incorporated as appropriate, and the revised document is being presented to this Board today as the final updated 10-Year Plan with a request of this Board's adoption. (Please refer to Attachment 2 for the final Five Year Evaluation and Update of the 2007-2017 County of Ventura 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.)

On September 13, 2012, the Ventura Council of Governments (VCOG) agreed to serve as the Interagency Council on Homelessness (IACH). On January 10, 2013, VCOG received a report on the updated 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and accepted the request that members facilitate the Plan's review and endorsement by their respective Councils and the Board of Supervisors. The Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition is coordinating the effort to bring the updated Plan before each City Council.

Ventura County receives about \$2 million annually under HUD's Continuum of Care; these funds leverage millions of dollars in other funding to provide facilities and programs for homeless persons throughout the region. Accessing funds necessitates collaboration with a wide array of interests, including requiring that funding decisions are based upon capacity; performance; demonstrated unmet need; and that progress in ending homelessness can be measured with each application for funding. Therefore, it is imperative that vested County agencies continue to collaborate with local jurisdictions and the IACH to utilize the 10-Year Plan as a guide and maximize our effectiveness and the resources available to end homelessness in Ventura County.

We sincerely appreciate the County staff members who participated in the Steering Committee process by sharing their expert knowledge and time. In particular, we acknowledge the efforts of County Executive Office staff, Christy Madden and Meg Kimbell-Drewry, who in addition to their service on the Committee have accepted increased responsibilities in homeless services including administering the Ventura County Continuum of Care process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Cordially,


Steve Bennett
Supervisor, First District


Kathy I. Long
Supervisor, Third District

Attachment 1: December 3, 2012 Community Meeting Attendee List

Attachment 2: A Five Year Evaluation and Update of the 2007-2017 County of Ventura 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness.