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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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September 9, 2014

Honorable E. Bradley Nelson
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Hall of Justice
Department 4, Room 306
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

The Honorable Judge Nelson,

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report of July 8, 2014 – Solano County Services Outreach for Economically Disadvantaged

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933(c) and 933.05, the Solano County Board of Supervisors responds to Findings 1-6 and Recommendations 1-6 contained in the 2013/2014 Grand Jury Report of July 8, 2014 – Solano County Services Outreach for Economically Disadvantaged.

Finding 1

Specific leadership for homeless services is lacking in Solano County and the Continuum of Care.

Response to Finding 1

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors partially agrees with the finding. In 1999 Solano County and the incorporated cities established the Solano County Economic Opportunity Council which later changed its name in 2006 to the Community Action Partnership of Solano County Joint Powers Authority (CAP Solano JPA). The CAP Solano JPA was created as a means to bring local government together to focus on homeless issues throughout the County and assist with the coordination of resources; however the CAP Solano JPA delegated its authority and control to a non-profit of a similar name CAP Solano Inc. (Non-Profit). This has created confusion in the community and has weakened the collaboration between the Cities, County and community providers.

On June 16, 2014 the CAP Solano JPA voted to strengthen the CAP Solano JPA by re-designating the CAP Solano JPA as the Community Action Agency which makes the CAP Solano JPA the recipient of the State Community Services Block Grant funding for programs that reduce poverty, revitalize low income communities, and empower low income families and individuals to become self-sufficient. On July 30, 2014 the CAP Solano JPA presented to the Continuum of Care a proposal to unify the CAP Solano JPA and the Continuum of Care Board AKA Housing First Solano Board in an effort to further strengthen the collaborative effort to serve the homeless and reduce poverty. The Continuum of Care voted to form a workgroup to develop the structure roles and responsibility of a unified Cap Solano JPA/ Housing First Solano Continuum of Care Board. The first meeting of the workgroup was held on August 8, 2014 which developed a

new membership structure to be brought back to the full Continuum of Care at their August 27, 2014 meeting.

Recommendation 1a

A County employee should be in charge of overseeing all homeless services. At a minimum, this position should have the power and authority to consolidate services and be effective.

Response to Recommendation 1a

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors disagrees with the recommendation because homeless services are not the sole responsibility of the County; the CAP Solano JPA was established so the County and the cities could work together on the Homeless Issues and supporting low income communities.

Recommendation 1b

A County employee should be well-versed in writing and obtaining grants for the economically disadvantaged from State, Federal, public and private entities to fund the following recommendations.

Response to Recommendation 1b

Board of Supervisors: Solano County Board of Supervisors disagrees because the County does have employees that are well-versed in writing and obtaining grants; however, serving the economically disadvantaged is not the sole responsibility of the County which is why the County and the cities are working together to strengthen the CAP Solano JPA.

Recommendation 1c

Solano County establish oversee and partner with a strong Continuum of Care organization.

Response to Recommendation 1c

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors partially disagrees because Solano County is not solely responsible for this effort. The CAP Solano JPA which includes the County and incorporated cities made a presentation on July 30, 2014 to the Continuum of Care to unify the CAP Solano JPA and the Continuum of Care Board AKA Housing First Solano (HFS) Board in an effort to develop a strong collaborative to serve the homeless and reduce poverty. As a result a workgroup was formed to develop the structure for a unified Cap Solano JPA/HFS Continuum of Care Board.

Finding 2

Solano County lacks a permanent shelter to provide for the homeless population.

Response to Finding 2

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors disagrees because it is not the sole responsibility of Solano County for this effort. The CAP Solano JPA was formed with the County and incorporated cities to work on these issues; however this statement is not accurate because Solano County does have numerous shelters which are run by non-profits and faith based organizations.

Recommendation 2

Create shelters for chronically homeless persons.

Response to Recommendation 2

Board of Supervisors: Solano County Board of Supervisors disagrees because Solano County does have numerous shelters which are run by non-profits and faith based organizations.

Finding 3

Solano County does not have a drop-in day center for chronically homeless persons.

Response to Finding 3

Board of Supervisors: Solano County Board of Supervisors partially agrees because Solano County previously had a drop in day center for chronically homeless persons; however it was found not to be the best solution for the Homeless issues. The current research recommends permanent supportive housing as the way to reduce homelessness.

Recommendation 3

Create drop-in day centers in various areas of the County for chronically homeless persons

Response to Recommendation 3

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors disagrees because current research does not recommend a drop in day center as a way to reduce homelessness. Permanent Supportive Housing is the recommendation that is supported through HUD and the Hearth Act.

Finding 4

Solano County Health & Social Services contracted with HomeBase to produce a comprehensive report on the Continuum of Care with many significant recommendations.

Response to Finding 4

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Health and Social Services response.

Director, Health & Social Services: Solano County Health & Social Services agrees with the finding and continues to work with HomeBase, the Cap Solano JPA, the Cap Solano non-profit, the Housing First Solano Board and the full Continuum of Care to develop a unified collaborative in support of resolving homeless issues in Solano County.

Recommendation 4

Strongly focus, evaluate and implement appropriate corrective actions and recommendations as outlined in the HomeBase report of July 2013.

Response to Recommendation 4

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Health and Social Services response.

Director, Health & Social Services: Solano County Health & Social Services agrees with this recommendation and continues to work with HomeBase to support Homeless Issues. The County has made significant progress on the recommendations in the HomeBase report of July 2013

Finding 5

The mobile dental van is often out of service due to lack of maintenance. The newly acquired medical van has not yet been put into service as of this writing.

Response to Finding 5

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Health and Social Services response.

Director, Health & Social Services: Health and Social Services disagrees with this finding, the mobile dental van is a specialized van equipped to provide dental services to the residents of Solano County. The newly acquired medical van is operational and serves the unincorporated and hard to reach areas of Solano County.

Recommendation 5a

The mobile dental and medical vans be immediately repaired, put into service and maintained in good operational condition.

Response to Recommendation 5a

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Health and Social Services response.

Director, Health & Social Services: Health and Social Services disagrees with this finding, because the mobile dental van and newly acquired medical van is operational and serves the unincorporated and hard to reach areas of Solano County.

Recommendation 5b

In the event dental and medical vans are not in operational condition, a nine-passenger, or similar vehicle, be available to transport individuals in need of medical and/or dental care to the existing Solano County facilities.

Response to Recommendation 5b

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Health and Social Services response.

Director, Health & Social Services: Health and Social Services disagrees with this finding because the mobile dental van and medical van contain specialized equipment that cannot be replicated into a nine passenger van.

Finding 6

Solano County does not operate care facilities for individuals with chronic mental health issues.

Response to Finding 6

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Health and Social Services response.

Director, Health & Social Services: Health and Social Services disagrees with this finding because the County operates a 23hour crisis center and contracts with numerous providers that operate facilities for individuals with chronic mental health issues.

Recommendation 6

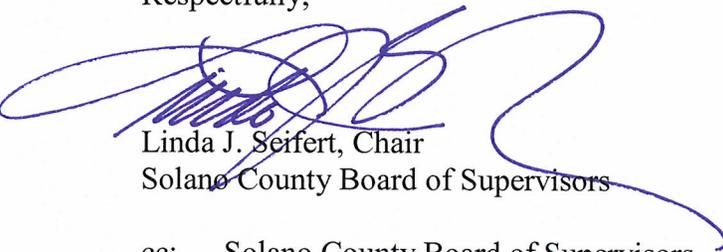
Solano County establish care facilities for individuals with chronic mental health issues.

Response to Recommendation 6

Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Health and Social Services response.

Director, Health & Social Services: Health and Social Services disagrees with this recommendation because the County contracts with numerous providers that operate facilities for individuals with chronic mental health issues.

Respectfully,



Linda J. Seifert, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

cc: Solano County Board of Supervisors
Clerk of the Board, Solano County Board of Supervisors
Patrick Duterte, Interim Director, Health & Social Services, Solano County
Birgitta Corsello, Solano County Administrator
Dennis Bunting, County Counsel, Solano County
Grand Jury Office