



COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP SOLANO
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

August 24, 2016

CAP Solano JPA

Special Projects: City
Manager's Office,
City of Fairfield
Attn: Dawn La Bar
1000 Webster Street
Fairfield, CA 94533

Honorable Robert C. Fracchia
Solano County Hall of Justice, Dept. 25
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

RE: Response to 2015-2016 Solano County Grand Jury Report, "Homelessness –
Omnipresent and Invisible?"

Dear Judge Fracchia:

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capsolanojpa.org

The Community Action Partnership (CAP) of Solano, Joint Powers Authority (JPA) is a combined governmental agency formed by a memorandum of understanding between the Cities of Benicia, Fairfield, Rio Vista, Suisun, Vacaville, and Vallejo, and the County of Solano to coordinate efforts to reduce poverty and homelessness in Solano County. As the Eligible Entity for Solano County, the JPA is responsible for the oversight and allocation of Community Service Block Grant funding ranging from \$350,000 - \$500,000 annually to agencies working to end poverty and homelessness, and is the Collaborative Applicant for the Continuum of Care, responsible for contracting with HUD and overseeing over \$1.2 million in funding for services and housing for homeless individuals and families.

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As requested and required by the Solano County Grand Jury report issued June 16, 2016, CAP Solano JPA has the following responses:

Finding 1

No significant changes in the number of permanent, emergency, and transitional beds have been made available since 2008, *Housing with Dignity 10-Year Plan*.

Response to Finding 1

CAP Solano JPA disagrees with this finding because in the last few years, CAP Solano JPA has strategically collaborated with the Housing First Solano/Continuum of Care to increase both HUD and CSBG funding, with a focus on extremely low-income and homeless housing and sheltering. In 2015, the Continuum of Care and CAP Solano received an unprecedented combined total of almost \$2 million in HUD and CSBG funding, including unanticipated bonus and discretionary grant funds specifically targeted to housing.

This year, CAP Solano JPA and Housing First Solano/Continuum of Care are entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City and County of Sacramento to receive and distribute Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding to Solano County service providers for the first time in several years which will increase housing funding by a total \$441,508 in 2016 and 2017.



COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP SOLANO JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

These total funds of approximately \$2.4 million have enabled shelter and housing service providers such as Community Action NorthBay, Mission Solano, and Caminar to expand bed capacity not previously possible.

Recommendation 1a

The Solano County Board of Supervisors, the Department of Health and Social Services and Community Action Partnership of Solano-Joint Powers Authority work collaboratively to address the current, unmet need in Solano County of 711 year-round permanent supportive housing beds, including 638 beds for adults-only households and 71 beds for families with children, as well as, three transitional housing beds.

Response to Recommendation 1a

This recommendation has been implemented. CAP Solano JPA will continue to work with any and all agencies, including the Department of Health & Social Services to secure additional funding and opportunities that increase permanent, emergency, and transitional beds in Solano County.

Recommendation 1b

The Solano County Board of Supervisors, the Department of Health and Social Services and the Community Action Partnership of Solano-Joint Powers Authority consider the approaches outlined in the Sonoma County Website referencing Building HOMES.

Response to Recommendation 1b

The recommendation has been implemented. CAP Solano JPA is always open to researching best practices.

Finding 2

There is no County operated permanent homeless shelter or drop-in center in Solano County. The 795 unsheltered individuals from the 2015 Point in Time Count strongly suggest there is a need for more drop in facilities.

Response to Finding 2

CAP Solano JPA agrees with this finding that there is no County operated permanent homeless shelter or drop-in center in Solano County.

Recommendation 2

The Solano County Board of Supervisors, the Department of Health and Social Services and the Community Action Partnership of Solano-Joint Powers Authority work collaboratively to establish a localized permanent, year-round homeless shelter or drop-in center.

Response to Recommendation 2

CAP Solano JPA agrees with the recommendation to continue working with HUD, State Department of Community Services and Development, Solano County Dept. of Health and Social Services, and Housing First Solano/Continuum of Care to secure additional funding and resources for **additional year-round homeless shelter beds and permanent supportive**



COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP SOLANO
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

housing. Though there is no County operated permanent homeless shelter, CAP Solano JPA was able to award approximately \$299,000 in Community Service Block Grant funds in 2015 to community partners to increase housing, shelter, and services for homeless individuals and families.

However, CAP Solano JPA does not agree that drop-in day centers will decrease the number of unsheltered individuals, and instead supports the HUD Housing First model and permanent supportive housing model to permanently house unsheltered individuals and families.

Finding 3

There are no publicly funded residential drug and alcohol treatment centers in Solano County operated by the County.

Response to Finding 3

N/A

Recommendation 3

The Solano County Board of Supervisors, the Department of Health and Social Services, and the Community Action Partnership of Solano-Joint Powers Authority work collaboratively to establish publicly funded residential drug and alcohol treatment centers.

Response to Recommendation 3

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not a mandate of the JPA. CAP Solano JPA directs CSBG funding toward services in line with our Strategic Plan. The 2016-2017 strategic plan, prepared based on a lengthy county-wide needs assessment, ranks housing and employment resources as highest priority. With limited resources and funding, CAP Solano JPA cannot commit at this time to providing resources to establish a publicly funded residential drug and alcohol treatment center until and unless our strategic plan priorities are met first.

CAP Solano JPA does agree to work with the Solano County Board of Supervisors and the Department of Health and Social Services to raise awareness about the need for drug and alcohol treatment services within the County.

Finding 4

There are no County operated and funded board and care homes for elderly, physically impaired or patients with mental health issues in Solano County.

Response to Finding 4

N/A

Recommendation 4

The Solano County Board of Supervisors, the Department of Health and Social Services and the Community Action Partnership of Solano-Joint Powers Authority work collaboratively to establish publicly funded board and care homes for elderly, physically impaired, or patients with mental health issues in Solano County operated by the County.



COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP SOLANO
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Response to Recommendation 4

The recommendation has been implemented. In both 2015 and 2016, CAP Solano JPA awarded CSBG funds to Caminar that provides services, programs, and permanent housing for people with mental, physical, and developmental disabilities throughout Solano County. CAP Solano JPA will continue to collaborate with the Housing First Solano/Continuum of Care and Health and Social Services to identify and secure funding for housing and services for elderly, physically impaired, and those with mental health issues in Solano County.

Finding 9

The Grand Jury understands regional planning is a necessary and vital component to creating solutions to homelessness and has been informed that efforts are underway to develop a regional approach to the homelessness issues.

Response to Finding 9

CAP Solano JPA agrees with this finding.

Recommendation 9a

Department of Health and Social Services complete the regional plan and disseminate it to all service providers, including Community Action Partnership of Solano-Joint Powers Authority, Continuum of Care, Housing First and the general public.

Response to Recommendation 9a

The recommendation has been implemented. With the support of the County and 7 Cities, CAP Solano JPA has extended a contract with HomeBase, experts dedicated to ending homelessness, preventing its recurrence, and decreasing its effect on communities to develop a 5-year strategic plan. The Regional 5-Year Plan will be a guiding document for CAP Solano JPA, Housing First Solano/Continuum of Care, all seven cities and the County, service providers, stakeholders, and the general public to implement and measure results. The regional plan is expected to be completed late 2016.

Finding 11

Solano County does not have a Homeless Response Guide that lists available services, providers, access points and contact information.

Response to Finding 11

CAP Solano JPA agrees there is not a single, county-wide Homeless Response Guide.

Recommendation 11

The Solano County Department of Health and Social Services work with the Community Action Partnership of Solano-Joint Powers Authority, the Continuum of Care and Housing First to develop a comprehensive Homeless Response Guide.



COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP SOLANO
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Response to Recommendation 11

The recommendation has not yet been implemented. However, CAP Solano JPA will work with the Department of Health & Social Services and Housing First/Continuum of Care to develop such a guide.

Finding 13

The Community Action Partnership of Solano Joint Powers Authority does not have a current 10-year action plan at this time.

Response to Finding 13

CAP Solano JPA does not agree with this finding. The Continuum of Care (CoC) drafted "Housing with Dignity: A working plan to move people out of homelessness", a 10-Year plan effective 2008-2018.

Recommendation 13

The Community Action Partnership of Solano Joint Powers Authority develop and implement the 10 year plan expeditiously.

Response to Recommendation 13

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not appropriate. In 2015, CAP Solano JPA conducted a comprehensive county-wide Needs Assessment comprised of information on homelessness, poverty, and housing for Solano County. Further, a CoC Strategic Planning Committee was formed, and discussions were held at the CoC Board and CAP Solano JPA Board meetings. After evaluating the CoC's existing 10-Year Plan, the Strategic Planning Committee decided that, rather than update the existing 10-year plan that was not comprehensive of all appropriate stakeholders nor did it contain an implementation plan, it would be more effective and efficient to conduct a regional 5-Year Strategic Plan in collaboration with CAP Solano JPA, the CoC, local jurisdictions, and other relevant stakeholders leveraging the information gathered in 2015.

That regional strategic planning process began in May 2016 and is expected to be completed by late 2016. CAP Solano JPA, the CoC, local jurisdictions, and other regional stakeholders all have representatives on a planning committee who are assisting in the design and draft of the outline, and later to implement the final strategic plan. The plan will serve as a guiding document for all coordinating agencies, including CAP Solano JPA, Housing First, non-profit service providers, stakeholders, the County, and all Cities within the County to implement and have measurable results.

Finding 15

There is minimal outreach to enlist and engage support from the business community within the county to address homeless issues.

Response to Finding 15

CAP Solano JPA agrees the JPA has had minimal outreach to enlist and engage support with the business community to address homeless issues.



COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP SOLANO
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Recommendation 15

Department of Health and Social Services in conjunction with the Community Action Partnership of Solano-Joint Powers Authority and Continuum of Care collaboratively implement a robust outreach campaign to solicit financial support from the business community and foundation to address homeless concerns and issues.

Response to Recommendation 15

CAP Solano JPA plans to implement this Recommendation beginning in 2017 and will work with the Department of Health and Social Services and Housing First/CoC to research how regions are creating public/private partnerships to address homeless concerns and issues.

Finding 18

There appears to be a significant difference between the *Point in Time* count number and the self-reported number of homeless or at risk of being homeless individuals.

Response to Finding 18

CAP Solano JPA agrees with this finding and is aware of the difference between the 2015 Point-in-Time count and the numbers provided by Health & Social Services. However, these numbers are not intended to be comparable to one another.

Recommendation 18

Department of Health and Social Services and the Joint Powers Authority identify the discrepancies and reconcile the PIT, HMIS and H&SS numbers.

Response to Recommendation 18

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not appropriate. While CAP Solano JPA is not aware of how Health & Social Services calculates its numbers, CAP Solano JPA uses a very specific HUD mandated "point-in-time" figure. HUD requires each county that receives homeless housing funding to conduct an annual count – a physical count of individuals on the streets or in shelters on a single day in Solano County. It is a snap shot in time, and could vary each day and year. This number is then reported to HUD and used to calculate the amount of HUD funding each county throughout the country will receive each year. In addition, HUD requires that a specific definition and criteria for homeless be used. CAP Solano JPA is not aware of the definition of homeless used by Health & Social Services. Therefore, the numbers are not intended to be comparable to one another.

Respectfully,

Dawn M. La Bar, Chair

cc: Darrin Davenport, 2015-2016 Solano County Grand Jury Foreperson