



Date: April 5, 2019

To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.H.W.*

From: Kelly Colopy, Director of Health and Human Services *KC*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: Services Available to People Experiencing Homelessness

At its December 4, 2018 meeting, the City Council requested the City Manager, through the Health and Human Services Department (Health Department), to provide a report on the number of private, nonprofit, and public shelter beds that exist in Long Beach and to include in the report, the number of rehab, medical detox, sobriety, and other addiction-related beds available in Long Beach and the surrounding area. It was also requested that the report include an estimate of how many of these types of beds would be necessary to best serve the Long Beach homeless population and those suffering from addiction, and to also include in the report the feasibility of the City providing incentives to create additional homelessness and addiction-related beds, including medical detox beds. The findings are outlined below:

Emergency Shelter Beds

Within Long Beach, there are four agencies providing approximately 275 shelter beds. The populations and services provided at each differ. Of the 275 beds, 180 serve individuals, 69 are set aside for families, and 26 serve victims of domestic violence. In addition, the US VETS Initiative operates 174 beds of transitional housing for veterans.

Shelters are operated by Catholic Charities, Interval House, the Long Beach Rescue Mission, and The Women's Shelter of Long Beach. These are funded through a mix of sources, including the City's Continuum of Care, Los Angeles County, and private funding sources.

During the Everyone Home Long Beach analysis, it was determined the City would need 500 additional shelter beds to meet the need. The shelter site in North Long Beach is proposed to provide 125 additional beds, leaving a need for 375 shelter beds in the City. Beds available to youth (ages 15-24), families with young children, and older adults will be important as the City plans for this additional capacity.

Substance Abuse Services

The Los Angeles County Substance Abuse Prevention and Control Division (SAP-C) contracts with five nonprofit organizations in the City to provide an array of substance use services utilizing the Drug Medi-Cal benefit. Review of the contract information shows 196 residential treatment beds located in Long Beach. Providers include American Indian Changing Spirits, Behavioral Health Services, Safe Refuge, and Tarzana Treatment Center. These providers also provide intensive outpatient treatment opportunities for individuals who have housing and can participate in intensive treatment daily. An additional 300 residential treatment beds are contracted in the cities of San Pedro, Bellflower, Santa Fe Springs, Carson, Downey, and Bell.

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In Long Beach, the Salvation Army offers 124 residential treatment beds that require participation in their work program. These are funded by the Salvation Army and require a stringent compliance with their rules. SAP-C contracts with Behavioral Health Services to provide detox services for up to 20 people at one time. There is no waitlist as those seeking to access detox services call daily to determine availability. College Hospital also provides 18 beds of medical detox services; however, these are fee-for-service, so a person must have Medi-Cal or private insurance. SAP-C offers an online tool to determine the number and types of beds available on a daily basis. During a recent visit to the online tool, 16 female residential beds and 4 male residential beds were available in Long Beach. SAP-C requires that the service level meet the qualifications of medically-necessary as outlined in the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria.

The website for additional information on all services provided by SAP-C is <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/index.htm>.

Other substance use treatment providers in Long Beach and surrounding areas also provide a range of services, though few residential services. They generally do not take Medi-Cal, nor are they contracted through SAP-C, so they are not accessible for individuals experiencing homelessness. The Homeless Services team works closely with local substance use providers to support individuals who are homeless in getting the treatment they need, as well as to coordinate services upon treatment completion to assist with accessing housing.

Utilizing a substance use demand formula, it is estimated that Long Beach needs an additional 120-150 residential treatment beds overall, as well as another 100 detox beds. These are not specific to homelessness but could support homelessness prevention efforts. The Everyone Home Long Beach plan calls for 30 detox beds and a sobering center. SAP-C is currently engaging in a needs-assessment for all of Los Angeles County, including Long Beach. Health Department staff were interviewed for the needs-assessment.

Substance use services for individuals experiencing homelessness must either be contracted with SAP-C utilizing the Drug Medi-Cal benefit, or the provider must accept Medi-Cal through their primary provider network. To participate in the Drug Medi-Cal Program, providers must be certified through the State, a process that has been considered very difficult. SAP-C is developing trainings and support to assist potential substance use providers to effectively manage the certification process to support increasing the provider network.

The Health Department Director has been working to expand access to substance use services by outreaching to local behavioral health providers to determine interest in providing substance use disorders (SUD) services and contracting with SAP-C; meeting with managed care plans to determine requirements for SUD providers to provide services covered under their managed Medi-Cal benefit; and, engaging in conversations with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and SAP-C to identify possibilities for increasing treatment access for those in Long Beach, including the possible utilization of Long Beach Community Hospital as a service location.

New Homeless Services Programs Now in Pilot Stages

The Health Department's Homeless Services Division is partnering with other City departments to pilot several efforts to increase access to information and services during hours when the coordinated outreach team members (including homeless services, Quality of Life Officers, HEART team, and service providers) are not available. They are as follows:

- Homeless Services Outreach Worker located in 911 Dispatch: Available to answer calls from people with concerns about a person or family who is homeless. The Outreach workers respond to questions, provide information and gather information to inform outreach team members for further follow-up. The pilot is currently operating three evenings per week from 6:00-10:00 p.m.
- Standby Placement Beds: The City has contracted with a local motel for two rooms per night to provide standby placement beds to people temporarily unable to access emergency shelter or bridge housing beds in the community. Homeless Services contacts the person the following morning to provide information and access to the Coordinated Entry System for connection to additional resources and emergency or bridge bed placement.
- Transportation: The City will be contracting with a local nonprofit provider to provide transportation to a standby placement bed and other services when a person is willing to engage in those services during hours when the outreach team and City partners are not available, specifically during evening and late-night hours. This will support access to standby placement for people currently living on the streets.

The Health Department continues working to increase access to shelter beds, substance use services, and mental health services, as well as other housing and service options. The new Navigation Center (homeless property storage facility), which will be available next year, will allow for increased access to services, as well as storage opportunities for 100 individuals experiencing homelessness who are working toward permanent housing. Additionally, the RFPs for a Jobs Program, Safe Parking, and prevention services will be released by mid-April.

Please contact me at (562) 570-4016, if you have any questions.

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