



Ribbon cutting ceremony at HomeAid Family CareCenter, first resource established utilizing Senate Bill 2, in the City of Orange.

Office of Care Coordination Newsletter AUGUST 2017



Solution to Homelessness Requires Real Multi-Sector Collaboration and an Integration of Those Efforts

By: Susan Price, Director of Care Coordination, County Executive Office

Homelessness is front and center in Orange County. Almost every city in our County is experiencing more visible homelessness. The commentary about homelessness has never been more polarized than now, given an increase in a seemingly service-resistant population that is also nonconforming to the traditional service/shelter/housing model of assistance.

It is unrealistic to think that the traditional model of homeless services can respond to this growing issue without the partnership from all sectors. As the population demographics change, this growing divide between the streets and appropriate options for housing will need to evolve. Constituencies' perspectives are on both ends of the spectrum, grappling with how best to respond to the crisis, but all agree that homelessness affects all of us, in every segment of our community.

The County of Orange is leading the effort in regard to homelessness. The Board of Supervisors is responding

directly with a multitude of initiatives like creating the Director of Care Coordination "Homeless Czar" position, opening the Courtyard in Santa Ana and Bridges at Kraemer Place in Anaheim, funding Crisis Stabilization Units, obtaining grants for the Whole Person Care Pilots for high utilizers of the Emergency Medical System, providing Affordable Housing Request for Proposals (RFP) and leading the annual Continuum of Care programs for homeless services. The Board is providing a diversified response to changing needs.

As the Director of Care Coordination, the Board created my office to build a system of care, and we are doing just that, each and every day. County departments are working together and coordinating efforts. We are engaging with cities through the creation of regional Service Planning Areas (SPAs) to work together in smaller sectors to provide an effective outreach response and facilitate the development of housing. We are

(Continued)

In Case You Missed It!

Below is a list of articles pertaining to homeless issues that were released in the last month:

- [Who are the homeless living in the shadow of the Big A? Here are 11 stories](#) by Bill Alkofer, Orange County Register
- [Dana Point increasing a magnet for homeless, and frustrated residents want city to get control](#) by Erika I. Ritchie, Orange County Register
- [New Shelter in Orange helps homeless find footing](#) by Jonathan Winslow, Orange County Register
- [Orange County needs temporary and permanent housing solutions for the homeless](#) by Scott Larson and John Moorlach
- [Regionalizing the Way on Homelessness](#) by Heather Stratman, Governing

Solution to Homelessness Requires Real Multi-Sector Collaboration and an Integration of Those Efforts

By: Susan Price, Director of Care Coordination, County Executive Office

(Continued) engaging with cities through the creation of regional Service Planning Areas (SPAs) to work together in smaller sectors to provide an effective outreach response and facilitate the development of housing. We are partnering with healthcare, law enforcement, faith-based organizations, nonprofits, philanthropy, business and neighborhoods in the process. While this momentum continues to build, we are working to align a vast, countywide system of resources and engage more organizations to contribute to and invest in this work.

Building a System of Care takes time, political will, money and expertise. Within the County of Orange, all the ingredients are present, but we need to collectively be moving in the same direction to have the real impact we all seek. We need a system that is both responsive and sustainable, and that effort takes tangible commitments from every sector: healthcare, public safety, businesses, faith-based organizations, nonprofits, city and county governments.

Through education and engagement, participation in sustainable solutions will emerge. We must work together, assembling to “pull from the same end of the rope” to create a responsive System of Care for Orange County.

To learn more about the work the County of Orange is coordinating, including funding of programs that directly benefit individuals experiencing homelessness, and learn how you can help, visit the County’s Care Coordination website at www.ocgov.com/care.

Orange County Voter Survey on Homelessness

Probolsky Research released the results on Orange County Voter Survey regarding Homelessness in Orange County on July 14, 2017.

Probolsky Research conducted a survey among Orange County, California voters from Monday, June 10 to Wednesday, June 12, 2017. A total of 300 voters were polled via live telephone interviews on landlines and mobile phones and online surveys. Below are some of the findings from the study:

What would you say is the most important issue facing Orange County?

1. 18.7 percent say Affordable Housing/Living
2. 18.7 percent say Homelessness/Poverty

76 percent say homelessness is a problem in Orange County

In the last month, how often did you think about homelessness in Orange County?

- 32.7 percent almost every day
- 23.7 percent once a week
- 23.3 percent once or twice a month

In general, who do you think should be responsible for addressing the needs of homeless people in Orange County? Choose as many as you want.

- 61.2 percent the County
- 60.9 percent State government
- 56.1 percent Cities
- 44.9 percent Federal government
- 43.2 percent non-profit organizations
- 37.8 percent churches, synagogues and mosques

Which of the following, if any would you be willing to do to help homeless people in Orange County?



For more information on the Orange County Survey on Homelessness visit - <http://www.probolskyresearch.com/2017/07/15/orange-county-survey-on-homelessness/>

After Nearly a Decade of Decreases in Homelessness in the United States 2017 May reveal a Reversal of Fortune

A brief prepared by Joe Colletti, PhD, Hub for Urban Initiatives - <https://www.urban-initiatives.org/briefs/after-nearly-decade-decreases-homelessness-united-states-2017-may-reveal-reversal-fortune>

Every two years, between 2007 and 2015, there has been a decrease in the total number of persons homeless in the United States according to point-in-time homeless count information provided to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) by Continuums of Care (CoCs). The 400+ CoCs are required by HUD to conduct a sheltered and an unsheltered homeless count every two years, which falls on odd number years.

A comparison of the 2017 point-in-time homeless count information to the 2015 count information may reveal a reversal of fortune when this year's homeless count information is released by HUD in the fall. This reversal is true in Southern California and likely for the State of California as noted in the tables below.

Thanks to the Southern California Alliance of CoC Leaders, a comparison of their 2017 homeless counts was made to their 2015 homeless counts. The Alliance consists of 13 CoCs that cover the entire area of Southern California.

There is a 20.1 percent increase in the total number of persons reported by the Southern California CoCs between 2015 and 2017 as noted in table below. The increase is largely due to the significant increase in Los Angeles County. However, the significant increase in Los Angeles County is in line with increases that some other California CoCs are reporting in 2017.

Proposition 47 Questions in Point in Time

During their 2017 homeless counts and surveys, five Southern California counties asked unsheltered adults questions that focused on recent release from jail or prison. Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside conducted a survey that involved a sample of the total number of unsheltered persons counted. San Bernardino and Ventura conducted a survey that involved asking all of the unsheltered persons counted.

Table 1:

One in five unsheltered adults in the three of the counties — Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside — answered yes to being released from jail or prison after serving a court-ordered sentence during the last 12 months.

One in four unsheltered adults in two of the counties—San Bernardino and Ventura — answered yes to being released from jail or prison after serving a court-ordered sentence during the last two years.

Table 2:

All five (5) counties asked the same subsequent question, which was, "If yes, were you released as a result of resentencing & your charge downgraded under Proposition 47, the Reduced Penalties Initiative?"

Southern California Continuum of Care	Total Number of Persons Counted in 2015	Total Number of Persons Counted in 2017	Difference (+/-)	
			#	%
Glendale	208	168	-40	-19.2
Imperial County	554	1,071	+517	+93.3
Kern County	953	810	-143	-15.0
Long Beach	2,345	1,863	-482	-20.6
Los Angeles County*	41,174	55,188	+14,014	+34.0
Orange County	4,452	4,792	+340	+7.6
Pasadena	632	575	-57	-9.0
Riverside County	2,378	2,406	+28	+1.2
San Bernardino	2,149	1,866	-283	-13.2
San Diego County	8,742	9,116	+374	+4.3
San Luis Obispo County	1,515	1,125	-390	-25.7
Santa Barbara County	1,445	1,489	+44	+3.0
Ventura County	1,417	1,152	-265	-18.7
Total:	67,964	81,621	+13,657	+20.1

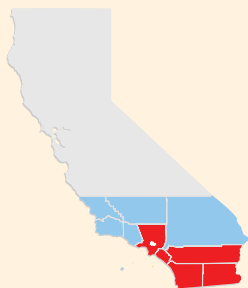
Table 1 – Released from jail or prison after court-ordered sentence

During the last 12 months	Estimated # of Unsheltered Adults	# who answered "yes"	% who answered "yes"
Los Angeles	36,095	5,676	15.7
Orange	2,518	729	28.9
Riverside	1,625	312	19.2
Total:	40,238	6,717	16.7
During the last two years	Total # of Unsheltered Adults	# who answered "yes"	% who answered "yes"
San Bernardino	1,154	307	26.6
Ventura	640	187	29.2
Total:	1,794	494	27.5

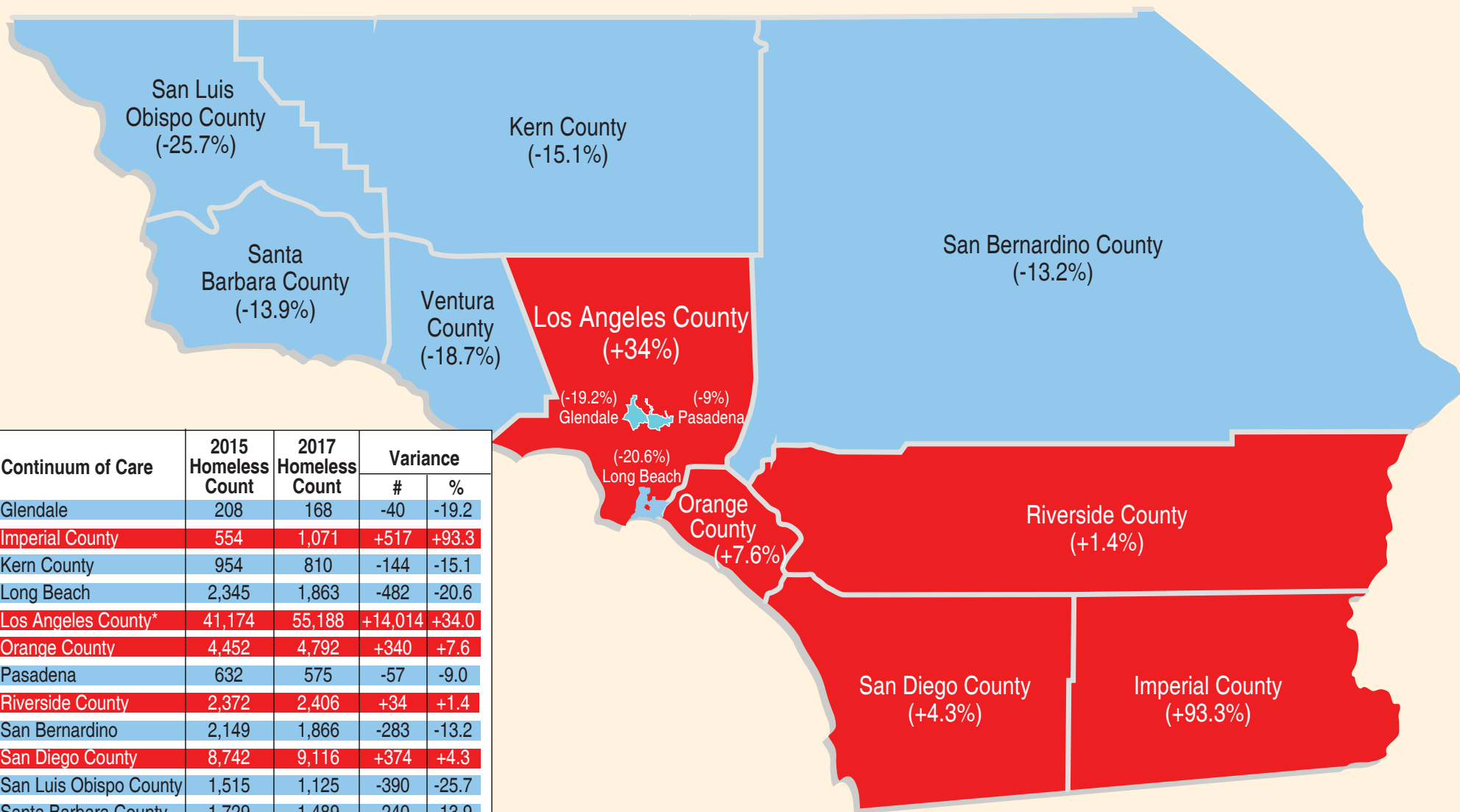
Table 2 – Released as a result of Proposition 47

County	Estimated # who answered "Yes" to being released as a result of resentencing & charge downgraded under Proposition 47, the Reduced Penalties Initiative?	
	#	%
Los Angeles	943	16.6
Orange	205	28.1
Riverside	73	23.4
Total:	1,221	18.2
County	Total # who answered "Yes" and released as a result of resentencing & charge downgraded under Proposition 47, the Reduced Penalties Initiative?	
	#	%
San Bernardino	76	24.7
Ventura	33	17.6
Total:	109	22.1

Southern California Continuums of Care: Comparison of 2015 and 2017 Homeless Counts



■ CoCs with % of decrease in total persons between 2015 and 2017
■ CoCs with % of increase in total persons between 2015 and 2017



Continuum of Care	2015 Homeless Count	2017 Homeless Count	Variance	
			#	%
Glendale	208	168	-40	-19.2
Imperial County	554	1,071	+517	+93.3
Kern County	954	810	-144	-15.1
Long Beach	2,345	1,863	-482	-20.6
Los Angeles County*	41,174	55,188	+14,014	+34.0
Orange County	4,452	4,792	+340	+7.6
Pasadena	632	575	-57	-9.0
Riverside County	2,372	2,406	+34	+1.4
San Bernardino	2,149	1,866	-283	-13.2
San Diego County	8,742	9,116	+374	+4.3
San Luis Obispo County	1,515	1,125	-390	-25.7
Santa Barbara County	1,729	1,489	-240	-13.9
Ventura County	1,417	1,152	-265	-18.7
Total:	67,964	81,621	+13,657	+20.1

*not including Glendale, Long Beach, and Pasadena

Service Planning Areas

NORTH - Anaheim Approves Homeless Service Center

On Tuesday, July 11, 2017, following a public hearing the Anaheim City Council voted unanimously to approve a \$1 a year lease for the Illumination Foundation to use a vacant historic home for the creation and operation of the Anaheim Service Center, a homeless service center. The property located at 883 South Anaheim Boulevard, owned by the city's Housing Authority, has recently undergone significant rehabilitation, including upgrades to address accessibility issues, and configuration for service provision.

The Anaheim Service Center will function as the headquarters for the Homeless Assistance Pilot Program (HAPP) and the Chronically Homeless Individuals Pilot Program (CHIPP), which both provide rental assistance, case management and supportive services for persons who are homeless in Anaheim. Illumination Foundation staff will be available to assist families and/or individuals to navigate through the myriad of services that are available through city, county and local social service agencies, in the hopes of connecting persons to the appropriate services, based on individuals' need.

Under the proposed agreement, the building will be leased for an initial two-year term with the option to renew the lease up to two more times, in one-year increments.



NORTH - HomeAid Family CareCenter opens in City of Orange

On July 20, 2017, HomeAid Orange County held the dedication ceremony for the HomeAid OC Family Care Center, an emergency shelter for families experiencing homelessness.

Supervisor Todd Spitzer, Third District, and Supervisor Andrew Do, First District, proudly joined HomeAid Orange County for the dedication ceremony of the new Family CareCenter in Orange. Supervisor Spitzer spoke at the lunch honoring the sponsors and community members who helped make the Family CareCenter possible. He acknowledged the importance of the new facility in helping families receive care to help get them back on their feet. Supervisor Do, a member of the Children & Families Commission and a member of the Commission to End Homelessness, spoke to the attendees on the importance of projects such as this and how partnering with cities is vital in the fight to end homelessness.

This facility is located in the City of Orange and will serve families from throughout Orange County who are struggling with homelessness. Mercy House will be operating the 56-bed facility with the goal to serve 10 to 15 families, all with at least one minor child, who will sleep safely and connect to rapid rehousing resources within 30-45 days.

The HomeAid OC Family Care Center is a 10,000-square foot building that offers the amenities designed just for them to focus on housing. This includes an intake area for referral services, dining and kitchen facilities, a child development play area, outdoor recreational area, laundry and a technology learning center.

For 28 years, HomeAid Orange County has been the nonprofit helping other nonprofits assist the homeless as they move toward self-sufficiency. After supporting 60 successful developments, HomeAid dedicated the Family CareCenter as the first project of their own. Attendees of the dedication ceremony donated books, educational games and toys for the children to use during their stay at HomeAid Family CareCenter.

Picture Below: *Façade of HomeAid Family CareCenter in the City of Orange.*

Picture to the right: *Items donated by attendees of dedication ceremony.*



Service Planning Area

SOUTH

South Orange County Economic Coalition's Panel on Homelessness in Orange County.

On Friday, July 28, Orange County Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, Fifth District, and Director of Care Coordination Susan Price participated in the South Orange County Economic Coalition's Panel on Homelessness in Orange County alongside representatives from the Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC), Orange County United Way and University of California, Irvine.

The South County Economic Coalition serves as a business advocacy organization focused on the south Orange County region. Coalition partners include organizations such as



OC Business Council, Building Industry Association of Orange County, Orange

County Association of Realtors and local city Chambers of Commerce.

SOUTH – DANA POINT

On Wednesday, July 26, 2017, the Orange County Director of Care Coordination Susan Price participated in discussions regarding homelessness in the City of Dana Point. The day consisted of a meeting with local faith-based leaders followed by the Homeless Task Force Meeting lead by the Mayor Pro Tem Paul Wyatt. New City Manager, Mark Denny, participated in the day's event.

. To learn more about the Dana Point Homeless Task Force meeting contact Ursula Luna-Reynosa at uluna@danapoint.org or visit their website at: <http://www.danapoint.org/departments/commissions-subcommittees-boards>

National Alliance to End Homelessness

The Orange County Director of Care Coordination and a delegation of seventeen individuals from the Orange County Continuum of Care attended the 2017 National Conference on Ending Homelessness hosted by the National Alliance to End Homelessness from July 17 to 19, 2017 in Washington, D.C. The 2017 National Conference on Ending Homelessness saw more than 2,000 service providers, government leaders, advocates, and consumers convened to work together, learn from one another, and collaborate in their efforts to end homelessness.

Attendees included staff from Orange County Community Resources, Families Forward, Friendship Shelter, Family Assistance Ministries, Mercy House, Pathways of Hope, Jamboree Housing and Grandma's House of Hope, 2-1-1 Orange County, and Serving People In Need.



Whole Person Care (WPC) Initiative

Please visit www.ochealthinfo.com/WPC or email WPC@ochca.com

The County of Orange, under the leadership of the Orange County Board of Supervisors, continues its efforts to coordinate resources, efforts, and expertise regionally to address the complex issues of homelessness here.

The OC Health Care Agency (HCA) was approved last year through the State of California's Department of Health Care Services to implement a five-year pilot known as Whole Person Care (WPC). This innovative program promotes increased communication between hospital emergency rooms, CalOptima, community clinics, HCA's Behavioral Health Services and Public Health Services teams as well as local Recuperative Care (RC) providers through data sharing to improve access and navigation of treatment and support for medically fragile Medi-Cal beneficiaries experiencing homelessness.

Great news!

- While the official start date of the WPC was July 1, 2017, a number of participating hospitals and community clinics were able to launch services sooner. As of June 30, 2017, 391 individuals have been reported as receiving outreach and navigation services.
- RC services for the WPC began on July 1, 2017; and as of July 27, 2017, there were seven participants admitted to Illumination Foundation facilities, with 13 pending evaluation from the Courtyard Transitional Center. The WPC team continues to solicit applications from other providers interested in providing RC to Medi-Cal beneficiaries who are homeless and who are too ill or frail to recover from physical illness or injury on the streets, but are not ill

enough to require hospital or skilled nursing level care.

Participating Hospitals:

- Hoag Hospital
- Orange Coast Memorial Hospital
- Saddleback Memorial Medical Center
- St. Joseph Hospital
- St. Jude Hospital
- UCI Medical Center

Participating Community Clinics:

- Buena Park Community Clinic
- Families Together
- Hurtt Family Medical Clinic
- Korean Community Services
- Livingstone
- North Orange County Regional Center
- Serve the People
- Share Our Selves
- Southland Integrated Service

The WPC Collaborative, a group that consists of all the WPC participating entities and other interested community partners, will be very busy over the next few weeks putting various processes in place, some of which will be interim, pending the development of software to assist in ease of data sharing and coordination to more effectively treat clients (to the extent allowable by law). However, all processes will be evaluated and updated or modified as we learn more about what is working and what could use improvement. Some of the key activities members are focusing on currently include:

- Data and information sharing infrastructure
- Care coordination and referral infrastructure
- Noticing of WPC services
- Recuperative Care referrals and authorizations

Ways the Community Can Assist Those Experiencing Homelessness

- Conduct a community drive for hygiene products (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush), laundry soap, sunscreen, new socks and bus passes. Drop off the donated collection to a local community organization that serves those experiencing homelessness.
- If you are a doctor, lawyer, dentist, optometrist, hairdresser/barber, etc. volunteer time to provide pro-bono services to someone in need.
- Donate time and/or money to a local community organization that provides food, clothing, or other services that promote self-sufficiency.



Volunteer and donation opportunities contact:

Midnight Mission

<http://www.midnightmission.org/program-services/thecourtyard/>

City Net

<http://citynet.org/courtyard/>



For more information on the program contact Mercy House

<http://mercyhouse.net/portfolios/bridges-at-kraemer-place/>



Public Health Nursing Division

The Public Health Nursing Division's Comprehensive Health Assessment Team-Homeless (CHAT-H) public health nurses (PHNs) are available Monday through Friday to assist individuals with health needs and to provide ongoing case management. Individuals are seen in the Civic Center, Courtyard Transitional Center, and other locations as needed. The PHNs are also in the Courtyard Transitional Center on Thursday mornings to see individuals on a drop-in basis.

Civic Center

- Two brief encounters with referrals or linkages
- 10 intensive encounters with case management
- 12 total monthly client contacts

Courtyard Transitional Center

- 78 brief encounters with referrals or linkages
- 58 intensive encounters with case management
- 136 total monthly Client Contacts

Behavioral Health Services

Civic Center

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) staff members work Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Civic Center. BHS is working directly with Santa Ana Police Department and Sheriff's Department to provide support and follow up to any homeless individuals they encounter.

- During the month of July 2017, BHS Outreach & Engagement staff reported 480 outreach contacts resulting in 113 referrals for services being made and an additional 14 confirmed linkages to services.

Courtyard Transitional Center

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) are located at the Courtyard Transitional Center Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mental Health Association (MHA) was contracted by the Orange County Health Care Agency to provide outreach during evenings and weekends at the Courtyard Transitional Center.

- BHS Outreach & Engagement staff reported 783 outreach contacts resulting in 76 referrals for services being made and an addition 53 confirmed linkages to services.
- MHA contracted outreach for evening and weekends report 385 outreach contacts resulting in an additional 126 referrals and 20 linkages to services.
- BHS Outpatient clinic clinician reported contacts with 119 clients. Two clients were referred to medical detox and two clients were assessed for outpatient clinic services.
- The BHS Substance Use Disorder outreach clinicians reported contacts with 23 clients. Five clients were referred to medical detox and six clients were referred to a substance use disorder program.

Bridges at Kraemer Place

Behavioral Health Services (BHS) provides two outreach staff at the Bridges at Kraemer on Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

- BHS Outreach & Engagement staff reported 55 outreach contacts resulting in 16 referral for services being made and an additional four confirmed linkages to services.
- BHS Substance Use Disorder outreach clinician reported contacts with four clients. Two clients were referred to BHS Outpatient Services and two were referred to substance use disorder programs.



Location	Courtyard Transitional Center	Bridges at Kraemer Place
Total Inquiries for Services	333	37
Type of Request*		
Medi-Cal Applications	18	0
CalFresh Applications	38	1
General Relief applications	54	10
Inter-County Transfers	8	0
EBT Card Distribution	66	0
Beneficiary Identification Card Distribution (Medi-Cal card)	50	3
Redeterminations	17	2
Bus passes	47	3

The Social Services Agency (SSA) deployed its Mobile Response Vehicle (MRV) to the Courtyard Transitional Center and Bridges at Kraemer Place during the month of July 2017.

SSA received 370 inquiries for services including eligibility determinations and re-determinations, as applicable for CalFresh, Medi-Cal, General Relief and CalWORKs.

The chart to the left provides a brief summary of the SSA program requests received.

*This does not add up to the total number of inquiries as the total number of inquiries reflects each individual that approached SSA staff, regardless of the inquiry.



Successes to Celebrate

Godmother Offers Housing and Support

A young man was experiencing homelessness in the City of Huntington Beach when he was connected to Build Futures, a nonprofit that focusses on providing immediate housing to 18 to 24 year olds experiencing homelessness. Build Futures was able to do a same day placement into their program. With a safe place to sleep, the young man focused on finding employment and was continuously working towards his housing plan. Unfortunately, he lost his job and came to the Courtyard Transitional Center seeking further assistance. At the Courtyard Transitional Center, the young man connected to available resources that helped him explore all available housing options to him. He expressed his interest in connecting with his godmother in North Carolina. City Net Staff helped him get in touch with his godmother and were able to pay for a bus ticket to North Carolina to be reunited with his support network.

Employment Opportunities Awash

The power washing company who regularly services the Courtyard Transitional Center was awarded a new contract with a local city. The power washing company offered this employment opportunity to individuals at the Courtyard Transitional Center. Over 20 individuals interviewed and were offered positions. These individuals are preparing for their first day of work in late August.



130 Individuals have graduated to housing options since the opening of the Courtyard Transitional Center.

78 Residents of the Courtyard Transitional Center are employed.

Returning to Indiana

A couple drove from Indiana to California after hearing one of their family members had been in a serious car accident. On their car trip to California, the couple was also involved in a serious accident and lost all possessions. The couple shared their situation on social media asking for help getting home to Indiana. The couple stayed at the Courtyard Transitional Center and sought additional help. A community member reached out to Anaheim Police Department and City Net for assistance. City Net staff met with the couple and arranged transportation back home for them within a week.

Whatever-It-Takes Works

A father of two found himself homeless in Orange County after completing a rehabilitation program. He initially sought shelter at the Salvation Army Hospitality House and after a few weeks ended up seeking shelter at the Courtyard Transitional Center. At the Courtyard Transitional Center the man connected with City Net for case management. City Net staff worked with the man to develop a housing plan and explore all available housing options. The man expressed his desire to reunite with his two daughters in New Jersey. Using the Whatever-It-Takes Fund, City Net was able to pay for a plane ticket back to New Jersey. The man was reunited with his family on July 21, 2017.



Successes to Celebrate

14 Individuals have moved into permanent housing since the opening of Bridges at Kraemer Place.

15 Participants of Bridges at Kraemer Place have secured employment.

Rapidly Rehoused once Housing Plan Established

A 55-year-old man entered Bridges at Kraemer Place after having been experiencing homelessness on the streets for two years. While in shelter he began receiving Social Security Disability Income. After a few weeks of ongoing progressive engagement, the man was willing to engage his housing navigator and after continuous motivation he began to focus on his housing plan. The man's two primary goals were to find housing and part-time employment. When onsite, the man connected with Career Wise to assist in developing his resume and guiding his employment search. The gentleman was connected to a rapid rehousing program through Mercy House and was able to secure housing after three days of being deemed eligible for the program.

One Step at a Time

A 57-year-old man with a disability entered Bridges at Kraemer Place after having been homeless and sleeping in his vehicle for over a year. The man met with Mercy House staff and drafted a housing plan. Through his stay, he remained focused on completing his goals as outlined in his housing plan despite coping with his mother passing away in July. While in the program, he was able to save money and pay outstanding fees to recover his recreational vehicle. Having transportation facilitated his progress towards accomplishing his next goals. He was able to locate housing, just three days after being connected to a rapid rehousing program through Mercy House. Through the rapid rehousing program, Mercy House will offer some financial assistance to pay for rental deposits and supportive services as needed as he transitions to being housed.

On-Site Supportive Services

In the month of July 2017, Bridges at Kraemer had 13 service provider teams provide 141 services and referrals over the course of 61 onsite visits.

South Dakota Volunteers

In mid-July, Mercy House welcomed a group of volunteers, ages 13 to 17, from The Beacon Church. The youth, accompanied by their Pastor and his wife, travelled all the way from Sioux Falls, South Dakota to California to attend a Youth Conference at Chapman University. These outstanding volunteers were connected to Mercy House through The Beacon Church in Orange and graciously spent the week assisting.

After cleaning, serving meals, greeting people, detailing walls and furniture, and building ping-pong tables, the kids created inspirational flyers with encouraging messages for clients to enjoy. Mercy House expressed gratitude for their new friends from Sioux Falls and are appreciative of Trinity Baptist Church and The Beacon Church for their generous assistance.

