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March 19, 2019

Board of Supervisors  
County of Ventura  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, California 93009

**Subject: Receive a Presentation on the Ventura Countywide Continuum of Care  
2019 State of Homelessness including the 2019 Homeless Count**

**Recommendation:**

Receive a presentation on the Ventura Countywide Continuum of Care 2019 State of Homelessness including the 2019 Homeless Point-in-Time Count

**Fiscal Mandates/Impact:**

There are no additional fiscal mandate/impacts associated with this item.

**Discussion:**

**2019 State of Homelessness:**

An annual review of data and system performance is conducted each year following the Point-In-Time Homeless Count. This annual review includes analyzing the data from the annual Homeless Count, programs and services for persons "at-risk of homelessness", overall system performance and an inventory of shelter and housing. Recommendations are developed as part of this annual process and presented to the Continuum of Care Board and other stakeholders.

**2019 Point in Time Homeless Count:**

The number of persons recorded during the 2019 count conducted on January 22nd increased by 28.5% from the previous year. The 2019 overall count number is 1,669 which included 1,258 unsheltered individuals and 411 sheltered persons (emergency or transitional housing). The 2019 increase represents the second consecutive annual increase since 2009. The cities of Ventura and Oxnard account for nearly 2/3 (66.1%) of the total homeless population in Ventura County.

The 2019 increase is believed to be a result of more thorough survey efforts throughout the county including improved efforts to survey persons in homeless encampments and in vehicles. Thirty-four persons reported that they are homeless in 2019 because of a natural disaster (wildfires), a significant increase from the 15 reported in 2018. Thirty-five percent of persons surveyed in 2019 reported they became homeless for the first time within the past 12 months.

This year's Point-Time Count included efforts from over 250 volunteers including nonprofit partners, County agencies and programs, City staff, law enforcement agencies, faith communities, community groups and volunteers. The United Way assisted in recruiting community volunteers through Volunteer Ventura County. The survey was administered for the second year using a mobile app where surveys were collected on a cellphone or other mobile device. This method of collecting data was more efficient in remote areas and resulted in improved data quality over previously employed paper surveys. This year's efforts included improved coverage and surveys of encampments countywide and surveying persons living in vehicles. The mobile technology also provided GIS mapping of the locations where each survey took place.

#### Conclusion

All subpopulations continue to require housing assistance; from families with children, veterans, transition-aged-youth, seniors and persons with disabilities. The greatest success in combatting homelessness countywide continues to be in the effort to shelter and house families with children. In 2019's survey there were 6 unsheltered families with 11 children counted. Despite an overall decline in unsheltered homeless families, the service system remains challenged by the limited housing inventory which includes a small number of year-round shelter beds, few affordable rental units and a lack of available supportive housing units. This limited inventory slows the process of finding permanent housing options for these families and other subpopulations of people experiencing homelessness. New shelter and housing resources becoming available in 2019 will assist the service providers in transitioning more individuals and households from homeless to housed.

If you have any questions about today's item, please don't hesitate to contact Christy Madden, or Tara Carruth of my staff, at 654-2679 and 654-3838 respectively.

Sincerely,



Christy Madden  
Sr. Deputy Executive Officer



Michael Powers  
County Executive Officer

m.p.