

June 2019



A MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER TO
INFORM, EDUCATE, AND
PROVIDE UPDATES ON
HOMELESSNESS IN
FULLERTON

The Helping Hand

Homeless Services Update

this issue

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TONY GETS A HOME

What does it take to get someone who is experiencing homelessness to be housed?

In June 2018, a City Net case manager met Tony, a 45-year-old who became homeless after falling ill with an incurable disease, which prevented him from working.

Tony had been utilizing the winter shelter services at the California National Guard Armory. He realized that his health was continuing to decline as he braved the elements of spending his days on the streets and in parks and evenings at the armory.

With no family nearby, he accepted services from City Net, and was interested in getting connected to housing. City Net helped Tony with paperwork so he could access housing resources within the County's Continuum of Care. A few days later he was transported to Bridges at Kraemer Place. City Net attended a County of Orange match meeting where they matched Tony for a Section 8 housing voucher. City Net assisted him in completing the paperwork for his housing voucher and transported Tony to his housing appointment where he received his Section 8 housing voucher.

From November through March 2019 a Housing Navigator assisted in locating suitable units, transporting him to apartments interview appointments and preparing multiple apartment applications.

In April he moved into an apartment and through a community contribution to City Net's Hope Fund they were able to furnish Tony's apartment with a bed, bed frame, fridge and table. This turned his apartment into a home. City Net's Housing Navigator continues to follow up to ensure Tony's transition is as smooth as possible.

ORANGE COUNTY HOUSING FINANCE TRUST

On March 19, 2019, City Council approved a Joint Powers Authority Agreement for the City to become a member of the Orange County Housing Finance Trust (OCHFT).

Since the region's housing prices have risen and the quantity of units has not kept up with demand, Orange County's cities have seen an increase in persons experiencing homelessness. Some are chronically homeless, meaning that they have a disabling condition and have been homeless (sheltered or unsheltered) for at least twelve consecutive months OR they have had at least four episodes of homelessness in the past three years with a total duration of at least one year of homelessness. As a result, there is a greater number of visible homeless.

In 2017 and 2018, policy makers around the county started discussing a goal of providing up to 2,700 units of supportive housing across the region. The number was developed in part from data from the 2017 Point in Time Count. The goal of increasing the supply of housing is directly tied into addressing the County's homeless crisis. Thus, the "housing pipeline" – where a real homelessness solution involves transitioning the chronically and other homeless from the streets to emergency or bridge shelters to transitional housing and finally to supportive housing, is a critical step in solving our homeless crisis. Without enough units and beds at each step – including supportive housing – the system and solution fails.

In 2018, the Association of California Cities – Orange County worked with local legislators (including Assembly Members Daly and Quirk-Silva and Senators Bates, Moorlach, and Nguyen) to pass AB 448. This bill was intended to allow the cities of Orange County and the County of Orange to work together to secure additional competitive public and private funds for building permanent

supportive housing units, as one large region AB 448 allows the County to compete alongside the Cities of Los Angeles and San Diego to secure state bond funds, grants, and private contributions to leverage other local or Federal funds in order to construct supportive housing.

The OCHFT is fashioned to enable OCHFT to secure primarily funds from State Housing Bond vehicles (such as Prop 1), SB 2/Documentary Transfer Tax funds willingly provided by a member city, developer fees willingly provided by a member city (ensuring that the appropriate nexus remains), and private donations. Cities could also provide general fund allocations to the Trust should they choose. The County of Orange has discussed ensuring that the County's Proposition 2 MSHA funds (estimated at up to \$70M) would be made eligible for Trust-funded projects as well.

The OCHFT will provide a stronger voice for the Orange County region to secure the region's share of State and other funds (including private grants) to help address longer-term housing for persons formerly homeless. It is envisioned that supportive housing developers would go hand-in-hand with a supportive city to the OCHFT governing board to apply for a portion of OCHFT funds to overcome any remaining funding gap in order to complete their project.

On June 27, 2019, the first meeting of the OCHFT was held with 16 cities and the County to elect officers, appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to review and recommend final OCHFT Bylaws, appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to review and recommend OCHFT entity formation options, adopt an OCHFT Conflict of Interest Code. An overview and status presentation was given on the Housing Funding Strategy Update and the Legislative Funding Strategy was discussed. The frequency of meetings will be determined at a later date.

McKINNEY-VENTO ACT

McKinney-Vento Education of Homeless Children and Youth Assistance Act is a federal law that ensures immediate enrollment and education stability for children and youth experiencing homelessness. It requires all local educational agencies (LEA) to ensure that students have access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschools.

McKinney-Vento Act provides federal funding to states for the purpose of supporting district programs that serve homeless students, authorizes the funding for the federal Education for Homeless Children and Youth Programs and requires every school district to have a homeless education liaison to help children have a smooth transition into school and receive the support services for academic achievement they are guaranteed under the law.

Every LEA must designate a liaison who is able to carry out their duties under the law. The Act requires liaisons ensure that "homeless children and youth are identified by school personnel through outreach and coordination with other entities and agencies."

To be eligible for services, a student must meet the Act's definition of **homeless**. The McKinney-Vento Act defines "**homeless** children and youths" as "individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." Lacking any one of these three conditions would make a child eligible.

This definition is different than that of the homeless definition used by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that uses a much more narrow definition than the one used by public schools and early care programs. For the most part it excludes families and youth who are staying with other people because they do not have anywhere else to go, as well as families and youth who are staying in motels that are not paid for by government agencies, or charities.

Many times, the family will not identify themselves as homeless. Therefore, schools must ensure that families and youth are aware of the Act, who it covers, and what is provided.

For more information, please go to www.fullertonsd.org and under "Departments" select "Personnel Services Division" and then "Child Welfare and Attendance." From the menu on the right, select "Homeless and Foster Youth."

JAMBOREE CELEBRATES COMPASS ROSE GRAND OPENING



On April 30, 2019, Jamboree Housing Corp. held a grand opening to celebrate the completion of Compass Rose, its first project in Fullerton. Compass Rose is a 46-unit family affordable housing community located in the Richman Park neighborhood, near the heart of downtown.

Compass Rose is a scattered site development consisting of 10 individual parcels, merged into five lots during the acquisition process from the City of Fullerton. The project contains 14 One-bedroom, 20 Two-bedroom, and 12 Three-bedroom units that are now fully occupied by families and individuals, some of which had previously been homeless.

The units are affordable to extremely low, very low and low income households making from 30% Area Median Income to 60% AMI. More than 500 applications were received during the application period. A priority was given to households living and/or working in Fullerton.

The project was designed in a way that makes the separate community center's interior and exterior amenities the focal point of the community. The result is a beautiful 3,500-square-foot center for the community that features flexible indoor/outdoor recreational space, onsite management offices, kitchen facilities and space for free onsite resident services. Just outside the community room are picnic tables, barbecues, and a tot lot for families to enjoy.



Jamboree's Community Impact Group helps create a strong healthy community that provides opportunities and resources for residents as well as those living in the surrounding neighborhood to enrich the quality of family life. Activities such as homework assistance and tutoring for young people, plus health and wellness programs for families and seniors are provided.

Resident services are specifically tailored to meet the unique needs of the Compass Rose community and the surrounding area. California State University Fullerton's Center for Healthy Neighborhoods, St. Jude Neighborhood Health Center, and Richman Connect are working together with Jamboree to form the Compass Rose Collaborative. Together, they have established a multifunctional community center open for residents of the community that focuses on improving academic success of children through programs like the REACH Kids after-school program, and in bettering the emotional and physical health of residents by offering workforce development seminars, health and wellness classes, nutrition education, group fitness activities, and by hosting neighborhood safety and community-building events.



Fullerton Joins Ten North Orange County Cities in Federal Homeless Settlement

On June 28, 2019, the City of Fullerton and ten cities from north Orange County appeared in Federal Judge David O. Carter's courtroom to announce the finalization of a Settlement Agreement with the plaintiffs in the *Catholic Worker* federal court case involving homelessness. The Settlement Agreement covers various issues surrounding homelessness to include providing consistency when cities municipal

ordinances can be enforced and how encampment cleanups can be conducted. Most importantly, the agreement provides the cities protection under the federal Judge for future lawsuits related to homelessness. For more information, go to the City's website:

www.cityoffullerton.com/homeless

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