



SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE MARY KREBER VARIPAPA LISTENS AS A PUBLIC DEFENDER AND HOMELESS OUTREACH COURT PARTICIPANT SHARE UPDATES ON THE HOMELESS INDIVIDUAL'S PROGRESS.

Office of Care Coordination Newsletter DECEMBER 2017



Homeless Outreach Court Delivers Encouragement, Support and Successful Outcomes

"I'm glad to see you here."

"One step at a time."

"Don't get discouraged."

"Keep up the great work."

These may not be phrases you'd expect to hear in a courtroom handling charges such as low-level misdemeanors, but this encouragement is all part of the Homeless Outreach Court sessions each Wednesday in Orange County.

Homeless individuals facing infractions, low-level misdemeanor offenses and outstanding warrants have a unique opportunity through the Homeless Outreach Court – to participate in a supportive framework that walks them through performing a required eight hours of community service, connecting with permanent housing and finding a stable income – rather than face traditional court sanctions such as fines and custody.

To have cases accepted into Homeless Outreach Court, homeless individuals first have an intake interview with a paralegal from the Public Defender's Office, reviewing their past, what led them to homelessness and what their ultimate goals are. Once accepted into the program, participants are expected to come to court every two to three months to discuss their progress, struggles and achievements.

Each session begins with a raffle of \$5 restaurant gift cards and bus passes, creating an engaging and welcoming environment.

"Getting people here is half the battle," said Julie Doran, OC Superior Court Collaborative Court Coordinator. "Once homeless individuals are here at Homeless Outreach Court sessions, then the major focus is on connecting them with the services they need."

Next, each program participant is called to the front of the courtroom. As Public

Homeless Outreach Court is a Collaborative Court program offered by the Orange County Superior Court, in collaboration with the Public Defender, the District Attorney, the Health Care Agency, the Social Services Agency, the Public Law Center, the Veterans Administration, the County Department of Housing and Community Services, and several homeless service providers.

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Homeless Outreach Court (Continued)

Defenders provide updates on each person's case, the entire courtroom erupts in applause – whether to welcome new program participants, to recognize milestones such as finding jobs or housing, or to celebrate cases that are dismissed upon program completion.

"This homeless court is one of the best things that has happened to me," said a veteran working through the court's partner organization to obtain Social Services and Veteran Administration benefits.

Seeing Homeless Outreach Court participants successfully complete the program – and not return to her courtroom – is what drives Superior Court Judge Mary Kreber Varipapa, who presides over the court.

"You just don't see this kind of success anywhere else," said Judge Kreber Varipapa, noting that the recidivism rate for Collaborative Court program graduates are far lower than in traditional courts. "When you see the individual success stories of people pulling their lives together, it's amazing."

Anyone interested in getting involved with the Collaborative Courts can visit the website for the Collaborative Courts Foundation

(<http://www.collaborativecourtsfoundation.org/>), which donated the items raffled off at the beginning of each court session and provides funding assistance for additional supportive services such as dental needs, educational needs, job skills and more.

Find out more about the Homeless Outreach Court by reading the Collaborative Courts 2016 Annual report (<http://www.collaborativecourtsfoundation.org/media/rte/2016%20Annual%20Report.pdf>) or by visiting the Collaborative Courts webpage (<http://www.occourts.org/directory/collaborative-courts/>).

HUD Assistant Deputy Secretary Tours OC Homeless Shelters

On Wednesday, December 6, 2017, Supervisor Andrew Do, First District, hosted a tour of Orange County's homeless shelters for the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development Assistant Deputy Secretary Ralph Gaines. This was in follow up to Supervisor's Washington D.C advocacy trip last month, where he met with officials and elected representatives to discuss issues pertinent to Orange County.

The tour showcased the Courtyard Transitional Center in Santa Ana and Bridges at Kraemer Place in Anaheim, each being the first shelter of their kind in Orange County. Both of these facilities were opened within the last two years as part of the County's response to the growing homelessness crisis facing Southern California. These facilities were the first that Assistant Deputy Secretary Gaines had seen with wraparound and linked services like mental health services, housing navigation, public health nurses and employment opportunities.

This is the second of many meetings to come to continue working together on finding solutions to homelessness in Orange County.



2017 Point In Time Estimates Show Significant Geographical Variations in Our Progress Toward Ending Homelessness

By Matthew Doherty, Executive Director of United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

On Wednesday, December 6, 2017, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released its report summarizing the data from communities' 2017 Point In Time (PIT) Counts, reporting a mix of results. The estimates provided by this data indicate there was continued progress in many parts of the country, but finds indications of stalled progress or significant increases in some communities. Further, the data documents important progress in ending homelessness for families with children, but stalled progress for veterans, and significant increases for people with disabilities who are experiencing chronic homelessness. These results appear to have been impacted significantly by limited supply and increasing rents in many large urban areas across the country.

Estimates

The estimates for different populations experiencing homelessness include:

- The estimate of the total number of people experiencing homelessness on a single night was 553,742 people. **This represented an increase for the first time in seven years** - up a little less than 1 percent (or 3,814 people) - after declining 14 percent between 2010 and 2016. This increase is driven entirely by a 9 percent increase in unsheltered homelessness.
- The number of families with children experiencing homelessness was reduced by 5 percent (or 3,294 households) between 2016 and 2017, contributing to an encouraging 27 percent reduction between 2010 and 2017.
- Estimated homelessness among veterans ticked up slightly - by 1.5 percent or 585 veterans - stalling the 47 percent reduction in veteran homelessness between 2010 and 2016.
- The number of individuals estimated to be experiencing chronic homelessness went up by 12 percent (or 9,476 individuals), after declining 27 percent between 2010 and 2016, which appears to be both driven by worsening conditions and by efforts in many communities to more accurately determine which people meet the definition of chronic homelessness.
- There were an estimated 40,799 unaccompanied youth under the age of 25 experiencing homelessness. This number will serve as the baseline for assessing progress on youth homelessness within the PIT counts in the years ahead.

Regional Variations

There is a great deal of local and regional variation in the data this year, with a small number of communities having a large impact on the national totals and with continued indications of progress in much of the country.

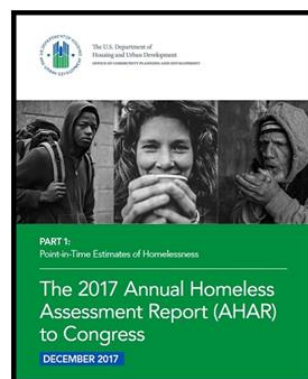
- Sixty percent of Continuums of Care (237 CoCs) reported that they had reduced total homelessness, while 40 percent (162 CoCs) reported increases.
- 30 states and the District of Columbia reported that they had reduced total homelessness, while 20 states reported increases.
- The increase in homelessness nationwide has been driven primarily by increases in unsheltered homelessness among individuals in some communities, especially along the West Coast, that are facing significant challenges within their rental markets. For example, if we remove the data from just a few high cost/low vacancy rental markets that reported large increases, the rest of the country reported an estimated 3 percent reduction in total homelessness, a 7 percent reduction in homelessness among families with children, a 6 percent reduction in homelessness among veterans, and a smaller increase of 4 percent in chronic homelessness.

But we also know that we can't overlook the challenging issues within many parts of the country that this data documents. It is clear to us that many of the forces that appear to be driving increases in homelessness in some communities cannot be solved by the agencies and programs dedicated to ending homelessness alone. High costs and low vacancy rates are putting more people at risk of entering homelessness and are making it harder and harder for people to find housing as they strive to exit homelessness.

Addressing those challenges requires a broader, community-wide response, engaging the efforts of many different jurisdictions, systems, agencies and sectors. Otherwise, our homelessness services systems will be increasingly bottlenecked by the lack of housing in which people can afford to live. We're seeing such bottlenecks forming already in some communities.

To read the 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress visit:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2017-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>



Service Planning Areas

NORTH

Stand Up for Veterans Event

On Friday, November 17, 2017, Mary's Kitchen in Orange hosted the Stand Up for Veterans Event. The Stand Up for Veterans Event served as a resource fair for veterans experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness in Orange County. 2-1-1 Orange County and other homeless service providers, including Volunteers of America, 1736 Family Crisis Center and Working Wardrobes were on site to provide resources and information on how to access their program. Veterans in attendance received survival kits containing basic hygiene items and other donations from the community.



SOUTH

Ending Homelessness: Proven Strategies to Solve our Local Crisis

On Wednesday, November 15, 2017, a sold-out crowd of 200 business and civic leaders gathered at the OC Forum luncheon to hear from Andrae Bailey, CEO of Lead Homelessness Initiative, and his success with ending homelessness in Orange County, Florida. President and CEO of Orange County United Way Sue Parks made introductory remarks and Orange County resident Keith Morrison from NBC's "Dateline" moderated the talk, asking questions about helping the homeless and how best to do it. County of Orange Board of Supervisor Lisa Bartlett, Fifth District, representatives from Supervisor Andrew Do, First District, and Supervisor Shawn Nelson, Fourth District, and Director of Care Coordination Susan Price were in attendance. Bailey discussed his experience in addressing homelessness in Central Florida and how engaging top leaders in the community and changing perceptions of homelessness made an impact in his community.



CENTRAL

State Delegation

On Wednesday, December 6, 2017, the County of Orange and Supervisor Andrew Do, First District, hosted a Briefing on Homelessness to a State delegation including representatives from the offices of Senator John Moirlach, Senator Josh Newman, Senator Pat Bates, Senator Tony Mendoza, Assemblyman Phillip Chen, Assemblyman Travis Allen and Assemblyman Steve Choi. The briefing highlighted the ongoing work being done to build a System of Care and included a visit to the Courtyard Transitional Center and Bridges at Kraemer Place.



Progress on Homelessness in the News!

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

- Huntington Beach decides against evicting homeless service provider after outcry – Greg Mellen, OC Register
- Gift of Giving: These two men launched a group that is a safety net for Orange County's homeless – Theresa Walker, OC Register
- Should Anaheim keep belongings storage facility for homeless near La Palma Park? – Alicia Robinson, OC Register
- Newport Beach council asks for update on city's response to the homeless – Louis Casiano, OC Register
- What can the Orange County in Florida teach its West Coast counterpart about homelessness? Plenty, says one advocate – Theresa Walker, OC Register
- Young and homeless in America: Survey says the problem is worsening – Edsource, OC Register
- Dozens of Dana Point residents plead with city to get control of growing homeless population – Erika I. Ritchie, OC Register
- 2 Laguna Beach homeless musicians are opening for Eric Burdon and the Animals at the Irvine Bowl – Theresa Walker, OC Register



Ongoing Volunteer and Donation Opportunities

Thank you for your ongoing support and willingness to serve those most in need. The Courtyard Transitional Center has Christmas Eve and Christmas Day meals booked and to be provided by community and faith-based organizations. If you are interested in donating your time and/or goods during the holiday season, please visit <http://citynet.org/#> for other opportunities in the community.



HOMELESS PERSONS' INTERRELIGIOUS MEMORIAL SERVICE

*The First Day of Winter. The Longest Night of the Year.
National Day of Remembrance*

December 21, 2017
7:00 p.m.

Each year, thousands of individuals experiencing homelessness die on the streets of our nation due to illness, exposure or violence. Many from our very own community of Orange County.

Please join us as we honor and acknowledge their lives as part of the human family.

Religious Leaders:

Bishop Tod D. Brown	Dr. Gurmeet S. Ahuja
Rev. John Huffman	Fr. Ashur Elkhoury
Rabbi Richard Steinberg	Pastor Cole Beshore
Rev. Nichelle Madrigal	Dr. Imam Moustafa Qazwini
Elder Ruben Acosta	

In the Arboretum at Christ Cathedral
13280 Chapman Avenue
Garden Grove, Ca 92840

To provide the name of someone you know who has lost their life on the streets in Orange County (so they can be acknowledged in the service) or to RSVP, contact Esther Ramirez at (714) 282-6001 or by email at eramirez@rcbo.org

Organized by:



ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF ORANGE



Fullerton Armory Shelter Information

Location

400 South Brookhurst Road, Fullerton, CA 92833
Nearest cross street is West Valencia Drive

Doors open at 7 p.m.

Bus Pick Up Locations

200 block of East Santa Fe Avenue, Fullerton, CA 92832
South side of the street between South Pomona Avenue and North Lemon Street

Additional Information

Serving adult clients only (must be 18 years of age or older)
No weapons, drugs or alcohol are permitted in or around the shelter
Clients are required to have their photos taken upon intake
Clients must exit the shelter at 6 a.m.

For More Details Contact

Armory Information Line at 714-836-7188 ext. 170
Santa Ana Armory 657-720-9620
Fullerton Armory 657-283-9925

Second Cold Weather Shelter Now Open

The County of Orange in partnership with Mercy House opened the second seasonal Armory Emergency Shelter in Fullerton on Friday, December 1, 2017. The Fullerton Armory will provide up to 200 beds for individuals experiencing homelessness along with a nutritious meal, warm showers and an opportunity to connect with support services provided by service partners.



Location	Courtyard Transitional Center	Bridges at Kraemer Place
Total Inquiries for Services	374	27
Type of Request*		
CalFresh Applications	38	0
General Relief Applications	57	2
Medi-Cal Applications	17	1
CalWORKs Applications	2	0
Inter-County Transfers	9	0
EBT Card Distribution	75	3
Bus Passes	62	0
Beneficiary Identification Card Distribution (Medi-Cal card)	66	5
Redeterminations	14	4

The Social Services Agency (SSA) deployed staff to Bridges at Kraemer Place twice and its Mobile Response Vehicle to the Courtyard Transitional Center five times during the month of November 2017.

SSA received 401 inquiries for services including eligibility determinations and re-determinations, as applicable for CalFresh, Medi-Cal, CalWORKs and General Relief.

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

Going Home to Texas

A man in his mid-50s first became homeless in Southern California after losing his employment opportunity that brought him here from Texas. After having exhausted his limited resources and support network in Southern California, he stayed along the flood control channel. Through the Flood Control Channel Engagement Initiative, he went to the established City Net access point seeking shelter in late-November. The City Net case manager referred him to the Courtyard Transitional Center, where he would stay for a few days. The City Net case manager continued working with him and determined the homeward bound program would be most beneficial for him as he had a support system waiting for him back home in Texas.

Thanksgiving Day

Throughout the week of Thanksgiving, the Courtyard Transitional center enjoyed numerous Thanksgiving-themed meals provided by community and faith-based organizations. Thank you to Serving People In Need (SPIN), Orange County Low Riders Association, Kumar's 7-Eleven, Hands to Hands, Principe de Paz and Orange County Rescue Mission for volunteering your time and serving the Courtyard Transitional Center. The Orange County Low Rider Association surprised the individuals at the Courtyard with a showing of 12 old-school low-rider vehicles performing various functions that seem to defy gravity. The Courtyard Transitional Center also received an abundance of donations that included cookies, sweatshirts, blankets, clothing and hygiene kits.



Pathway Home

A woman in her late-50s experiencing homelessness sought shelter at the Fullerton Armory during the last winter season. At the closing of the Fullerton Armory, she transitioned to the Courtyard Transitional Shelter where she connected with City Net case managers. With City Net's assistance she connected with the County's Health Care Agency Program of Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) in Fullerton which was able to assist her in locating housing. In early November, the woman moved into her own apartment.

From Finding a Medical Home to Moving into Their Own Home

A Public Health Nurse (PHN) assisted a couple while at the Courtyard Transitional Center with resolving a Medi-Cal problem, finding a source of medical care, accessing specialty care and obtaining housing. The PHN accompanied the couple to their first medical appointments to make sure all their medical needs were addressed. The PHN continued to meet with the couple for several months after which the individuals expressed their appreciation for the nurse's help with linking them to needed specialty care. The PHN also connected the couple to resources, which resulted in them being housed. The PHN will continue to follow up with the couple as needed to ensure continued access to medical care and community resources.

185

Individuals have increased their housing stability since the opening (10/5/16) of the Courtyard Transitional Center.

96

Individuals at the Courtyard Transitional Center are employed.



Successes to Celebrate

Employment Successes

- A participant at Bridges at Kraemer Place was able to obtain a teaching position at a local elementary school. His salary as a teacher will be sufficient income to live comfortably in a one-bedroom apartment.
- Through Second Chance, a nonprofit that helps adults recovering from alcohol or substance use integrate back into society by providing job skills training, interview skills, one-on-one coaching, mentoring and job placement, an individual staying at Bridges at Kraemer Place was able to secure employment.

Housing Successes

- With assistance from Mercy House, an individual staying at Bridges at Kraemer Place was able to obtain employment as a resident coordinator in Newport Beach. Shortly after securing employment, the individual was able to secure housing as well.
- Two individuals were able to obtain employment as live-in caregivers. Their employment positions as caregivers will provide housing arrangements, allowing them to move out of Bridges at Kraemer Place.

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

25 Participants of Bridges at Kraemer Place have secured employment.

Thanksgiving Day

Bridges at Kraemer Place had a professionally catered Thanksgiving dinner courtesy of the combined contributions of several individuals and agencies, including North County Project, Cultivating Growth, Grace Ministries, Senator Newman's Office and former Assemblywoman Young Kim. Ninety-six individuals at Bridges at Kraemer Place were served with the assistance of volunteers from Well of Life Church and received a bag of donated items from St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church of Anaheim.



Thanksgiving at the County Shelters was very positive with abundant donations and foods. Thank you very much for your support and contributions.



Flood Control Channel

Thanksgiving at Home

Two individuals experiencing homelessness first met along the flood control channel. They both lost their housing after having medical conditions that impacted their ability to work and pay rent. One of the individuals was awarded a Housing Choice Voucher from the County of Orange and was actively searching for an apartment and landlord that would accept the vouchers. Given their circumstances, the couple was having trouble securing an apartment in an already difficult housing market. Through the Flood Control Channel Engagement Initiative, City Net met the couple in July 2017 and was able to provide them bridge housing in partnership with Illumination Foundation. Having their basic needs met, the couple was able to focus their efforts and receive assistance from a housing navigator. Their persistent search and efforts paid off when they received a call from an apartment complex in Irvine accepting their application and voucher. The couple moved into their apartment just in time to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday.



Anaheim Community Triage Day

The City of Anaheim will be hosting a Community Triage Day on Tuesday, December 19, 2017, to provide supportive services and resources to individuals looking to break their cycle of homelessness and transition from the Santa Ana River Trail.

The Community Triage Day will bring together the County of Orange, the City of Anaheim, service providers and faith-based groups. For more information visit www.Anaheim.net/Homeless.

Bridging to Permanent Housing

In mid-November through the Flood Control Channel Engagement Initiative, City Net case managers met a couple. Through ongoing engagement and outreach, City Net became aware that the couple had been approved for a Project-Based Housing Voucher through the City of Santa Ana and was only weeks away from moving into an apartment. City Net in partnership with Illumination Foundation was able to place the couple into bridge housing until they were able to move into their new apartment.

125 Individuals have exited the Flood Control Channel and have connected with housing resources.