



Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Campaign Progress Update

Issue #8

June 2011



The Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Campaign Steering Committee, which includes the Centre City Development Corporation, the San Diego Housing Commission, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Administration, and the VA San Diego Healthcare System, was a finalist for the CSH Supportive Housing Award at the San Diego Housing Federation's Annual Awards event on June 9, 2011.

Dear Campaign Supporters and Partners:

It was truly exciting to attend last week's San Diego Housing Federation (SDHF) Affordable Housing and Community Development Recognition Awards and realize how many individuals and organizations were being recognized for their outstanding efforts to end homelessness within our region!

The Downtown San Diego Partnership and all of the members of the Ending Homelessness in Downtown San Diego Campaign Leadership Team were proud to nominate the Campaign's Steering Committee, which features the collaborative efforts of the Centre City Development Corporation, the San Diego Housing Commission, the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Administration, and the VA San Diego Healthcare System, for the CSH Supportive Housing Award at the SDHF event. We were excited that these agencies were recognized as a finalist in this award category - but we especially wish to offer our heartfelt congratulations to the winner of the award, Suzanne Stewart Pohlman. Suzanne will retire this summer after serving 29 years as Interfaith Community Services' Founding Executive Director, and truly embodies the spirit of the CSH Supportive Housing Award, which recognizes outstanding leadership that has made a significant difference to the creation or operation of high quality supportive housing in San Diego.

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About Us

The Downtown San Diego Ending Homelessness Leadership Team is comprised of:

- Downtown Business Leaders
- Elected Government Representatives
- The County of San Diego
- City of San Diego
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- The San Diego Police Department
- 10-Year Plan Leaders
- Hospitals and Health Clinics
- Medical Services Providers
- Affordable Housing and Supportive Services Experts
- Homelessness Experts
- Veterans Advocates



Join our Mailing List to receive LDC's 1st of the Month Affordable Housing Technical Review!

We also want to congratulate Leadership Team member Brian Mainschein, from Home Again and United Way of San Diego County, for being a finalist for the Special Recognition Award for his efforts to end chronic homelessness. Townspeople and North County Solutions for Change were recognized as well for their permanent supportive housing programs, and were thrilled to join in the applause for Leadership Team member Clay King's recognition as Outstanding Advocate of the Year. See the article below for more information regarding Clay's award.



More important than any awards, however, is the continued progress toward ending homelessness downtown and toward achieving the Campaign's initial goal of moving 125 people from the streets to permanent supportive housing. See the Tracking Our Progress section below for the most current update!

In this edition, you will also find information regarding further progress for the Connections Housing Project, the upcoming San Diego hearing of the California Assembly's Select Committee on Homelessness, CCDC Board approval of funding for the COMM22 mixed-use affordable housing project, an update on funding to keep the Neil Good Day Center open, and other news.

Stay tuned for updates and news of the Campaign's progress in future editions of this newsletter!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robin Madaffer".

Robin Madaffer, Co-Chair
Ending Homelessness
Campaign Leadership Team

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jennifer LeSar".

Jennifer LeSar
Ending Homelessness
Campaign Coordinator

Tracking Our Progress

Moving Forward and Moving People "Home": When we write about moving people "home", we mean helping people to move into permanent supportive housing - housing that they can afford to remain living in, with continued access to the supportive services they need to address their challenges, end their homelessness, stabilize their lives, and set new goals. We mean more than just housing - we mean a new home that each person can make their own and can make central to their new lives. The partners involved in the Campaign's efforts have been making remarkable progress helping people find their way "home" - since our last report, at least 23 more people surveyed during Registry Week have moved into permanent supportive homes. As of mid-June:

- 88 people - 70% of the initial goal of 125 people - were off the streets and working with staff from the VA, Community Research Foundation, or Mental Health Systems to end their homelessness forever.
- 48 people - including 36 veterans - were all the way "home" - living in permanent supportive housing and continuing to work with services providers to address their challenges, achieve stability, and make progress toward their goals.

For an overview of the Campaign, and more information regarding the progress to date, please see our [Overview and Progress Report](#).

Potential Additional Resources for Veterans: We are also pleased to report that the San Diego Housing Commission has been invited by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to apply for an additional 75 HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers. Providing rental assistance through the Housing Commission and services through the VA, HUD-VASH vouchers are a vitally important resource for efforts to end veteran homelessness in San Diego.

Clay King Awarded Outstanding Advocate of the Year

Clay King, member of the Campaign Leadership Team and Chief of Social Work at the San Diego Veteran's Affairs Office, received this year's Outstanding Advocate Award at the San Diego Housing Federation's 16th Annual San Diego County Affordable Housing and Community Development Recognition Awards on June 9. Each year, the award is given to an individual who has contributed time, energy, leadership, and dedication to the cause of affordable housing. Nominated by the Corporation for Supportive Housing for his leadership in helping to end veteran homelessness in San Diego, Clay has worked tirelessly to house San Diego's homeless veteran population, managing and organizing the HUD-VASH rental assistance voucher program to ensure that participants receive their VASH Section 8 Vouchers as quickly and efficiently as possible. With efforts led by Clay, the VA has been crucial in helping to locate and engage the city's most vulnerable homeless veterans surveyed during Registry Week and help them access services and housing.



Clay King receiving his award from SDHF Board member Rebecca Louie.

Staying Informed

Connections Housing Project Recommended for Tax Credit

Allocation: The Connections Housing Project has been listed on the California Tax Credit Allocation Committee's preliminary recommendations for a Federal 9% Set-Aside Tax Credit Award, which will fund approximately half of the project's \$32.2 million in costs. The recommendation will go to the Committee on June 22 for a final decision. The Connections Housing Project, to be located in the former World Trade Center site downtown, will serve as a one-stop shop to help and house many of the city's most vulnerable people and will include 73 units of permanent supportive housing, 150 transitional housing beds, a comprehensive primary healthcare clinic, and an array of services designed to address the root causes of homelessness. Last March, the San Diego City Council approved \$16 million in redevelopment funds and \$2 million in other local housing funds to finance the facility.

Read the [TCAC preliminary recommendation list](#) for more information on the 2011 Set-Aside Tax Credit Allocations.

SDHC Commits Funding to Keep Neil Good Day Center Open: Since we reported last month on the possible closure of the Neil Good Day

Center, the San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) has approved a plan to revise its Fiscal Year 2012 Budget to include \$500,000 in unrestricted funds to provide interim funding that would keep the Day Center open through June 30, 2012. This funding will allow the Day Center to continue to serve the approximately 200 to 450 adults who utilize its services each day, including case management, laundry, showers, computer access, and medical and counseling services. The funding proposal goes to the Housing Authority for final approval on June 28. The Day Center, operated by Alpha Project, has been a crucial partner for the VA, MHS, and CRF as they have sought to locate and engage people surveyed during Registry Week and help them access services and housing.

To read more about SDHC's proposed budget revision, read the SDHC Executive Summary, [FY2012 Operating Agreement with Alpha Project for the Homeless for the Neil Good Day Center](#).

Funding Approved for COMM22 Project: On May 25, 2011, the Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC) Board of Directors recommended Redevelopment Agency and City Council approval of funding for COMM22, a mixed-use, transit-oriented affordable housing development planned for Logan Heights. If approved, CCDC will contribute \$8.225 million to the project on behalf of the City of San Diego's Redevelopment Agency, and has financially partnered with the San Diego Housing Commission (\$4.7 million) and Southeastern Economic Development Corporation (\$1 million) to make the project possible. COMM22 is envisioned as being a catalyst to spur future private investment in Logan Heights and will provide 128 affordable family rental apartments, including 13 permanent supportive units. In addition, the development will house 69 affordable senior rental apartments, a child care facility, and retail space.

To learn more about COMM22, please read CCDC's Press Release, [CCDC Board Approves Funding for COMM22](#).

Select Committee on Homelessness Will Hold Second Hearing in San Diego: The California Assembly's Select Committee on Homelessness will hold its second hearing in San Diego on July 20, 2011. The hearing, part of a series around the state dubbed "The Road Home", will focus on strategies for ending homelessness among veterans and other people experiencing chronic homelessness. The Select Committee is chaired by Assemblymember Toni Atkins (76th District) and also includes Assemblymember Nathan Fletcher (75th District).

For more information about the Select Committee, please contact Lindsey Masukawa in Assemblymember Atkins' office at Lindsey.Masukawa@asm.ca.gov or view the materials from the first hearing at [The Road Home](#).

Assembly Approves Bill to Create California State Interagency Council on Homelessness: On June 2, 2011, the California State Assembly approved bill AB 1167 (Fong), which would organize all of the state agencies that address homelessness on to the California Interagency Council on Homelessness. Requiring the Council to hold public meetings at least once a quarter, the legislation would authorize the Council to act as the lead for coordinating and planning the State's response to homelessness. According to the Sacramento Bee, the Council would include representatives from the Governor's Office, and the Departments of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Housing and Community Development, Mental Health, Social Services, and Veterans Affairs. The bill, sponsored by Housing California and the Corporation for Supportive Housing, now awaits approval by the State Senate.

For additional information about AB 1167, read the Sacramento Bee article, [Bill Centralizes Efforts to Address Homelessness](#), or track this legislation at

HUD Issues 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Report: On June 14, 2011, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) issued its 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress, which reports on the number of homeless persons in the U.S. based on data collected from thousands of local communities. According to the report, although the number of homeless persons remained unchanged between 2009 and 2010, there was a decrease by 1% in the number of persons experiencing chronic homelessness. The report looks at the impact of the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) in helping to house hundreds of thousands of homeless persons during the first year of the program.

To learn more about the report, read HUD's press release, [HUD Issues 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress](#).

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Annual Conference: From June 6-8, 2011, the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) held its annual conference entitled "Leadership: Implementing the Plan to End Veteran Homelessness" in Washington DC. The conference focused on best practices, partnerships, and tools available to implement Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. Key officials, including United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Executive Director Barbara Poppe, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan, and VA Secretary Eric Shinseki, addressed participants about the progress made toward ending veteran homelessness by 2015 and highlighted the work ahead.

Read USICH Executive Director Poppe's address to the NCHV Conference on the [USICH website](#).

Staying Connected and Getting Involved

VVSD Planning Annual Stand Down for mid-July: Veterans Village of San Diego (VVSD) is continuing to plan for its annual Stand Down event, a three-day program designed to help homeless veterans "combat life on the streets". First organized by VVSD in 1988, Stand Down has since been replicated in more than 200 cities nationwide, and provides a range of services to participants, including meals, clothing, showers, medical and dental services, counseling, 12-step meetings, employment counseling, homeless court, and recovery services. Last year, 947 total participants attended - the most ever! To learn more about 2010's Stand Down, see <http://www.vvsd.net/sdstats.htm>. To find ways that you can help support this year's event, visit www.vvsd.net/standdown.htm.

Help Support Homelessness Efforts in San Diego: Check out Volunteer San Diego at www.volunteersandiego.org and search with keyword "homelessness" to find additional volunteer opportunities to support efforts to end homelessness in San Diego.

If you have any questions regarding any of the information in this Campaign Progress Update, please contact Matthew Doherty, Principal, Housing Policy and Planning, LeSar Development Consultants, at matthew@lesardevelopment.com or 619.236.0612 x 102.