



City Council Report

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File ID: 2018-01219

August 21, 2018

Discussion Item 16

Title: Update on Pathways to Health + Home Program [Oral Report]

Location: Citywide

Recommendation: Receive and file.

Contact: Emily Halcon, Homeless Services Coordinator, (916) 808-7896, Office of the City Manager

Presenter: Emily Halcon, Homeless Services Coordinator, (916) 808-7896, Office of the City Manager

Attachments:

1-Description/Analysis

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Issue Detail: In June 2017, the City of Sacramento was accepted into the State Department of Health Care Services' (DHCS) Whole Person Care (WPC) program, with a budget of approximately \$64 million over a four-year term, inclusive of local funding realigned to support WPC and federal matching dollars, to support development and implementation of the WPC program. WPC is a statewide Medi-Cal waiver program that allows communities to create a system of supportive services aimed to improve health outcomes and reduce utilization of high-cost services for vulnerable populations. In Sacramento, the WPC program is called the Pathways to Health + Home (Pathways) and it supports broader City strategies to reduce and prevent homelessness, by creating a robust system of outreach, case management and supportive services for those frequent users of health care, homeless services, and emergency services.

Pathways operates over the course of four program years which, except for program years one and two, generally match calendar years. Program year two ran from July 1 to December 31, 2017 and consisted of activities related to "standing up" the program and launching the six-month "early engagement" phase of Pathways to offer outreach, engagement, enrollment, and care coordination services for 125 to 250 clients. In May 2018, Pathways fully launched, with four collaborative "hub" teams consisting of clinical staff, assertive outreach staff, and housing staff to coordinate care for clients referred from multiple partners throughout the county. As of July 2018, over 500 people have been enrolled into Pathways and over 100 have been re-housed. This report provides an update on the implementation of the Pathways program.

Policy Considerations: The Pathways program aligns with the federal directive and City commitment that funding for addressing homelessness follow a "housing first" approach, which offers permanent housing as quickly as possible for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. In housing first programs, supportive services are offered (but not required as a condition of tenancy) to help people keep their housing and avoid returning to homelessness. This evidence-based approach is consistent with the strategies and funding priorities of the other public agencies working to end homelessness in Sacramento. Partnering with other agencies to leverage resources and improve livability is consistent with the City Council's past actions and current direction.

Economic Impacts: None.

Environmental Considerations: None.

Sustainability: Not Applicable.

Commission/Committee Action: None.

Rationale for Recommendation: Pathways is a critical component of the City's broader strategies to address homelessness. This report is provided as an update on the Pathways program and its impact on other homeless initiatives.

Financial Considerations: None.

Local Business Enterprise (LBE): Not Applicable