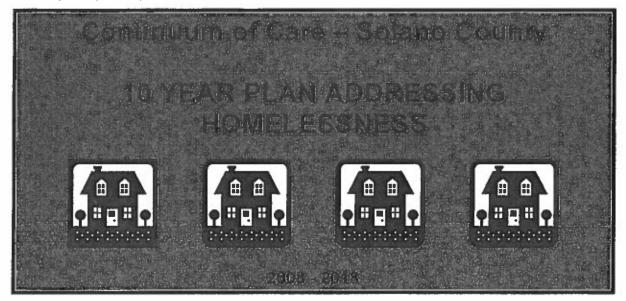
Attachment 2.



HOUSING

WITH

DIGNITY

A working plan to move people out of homelessness.

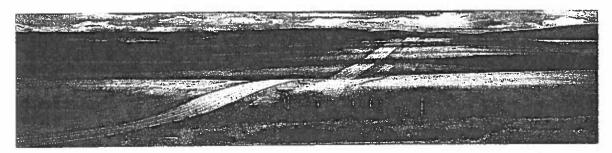
Revised January 22, 2008

HOUSING WITH DIGNITY

Solano County is unique in many ways. Each city shares the desire and accepts the responsibility to address moving people into housing.

Daytime population of 25,992 (total resident population of 26,865). Benicia's unemployment rate is approximately 3.2. Median family income is \$77,380 annually (1999 dollars).
Daytime population of 18,000 in the city and surrounding rural area Dixon's unemployment rate is approximately 4.2% Median family income is \$66,850 annually (2001 dollars).
Daytime population of 105,026 (2005) Fairfield's unemployment rate is approximately 5.8% Median family income is \$73,900 annually (2005 dollars).
Daytime population of 7,000 Rio Vista's unemployment rate is approximately 3.8% Median family income is \$44,534 annually (2006 dollars).
Daytime population of 26,000 Suisun City's unemployment rate is approximately 5.5% Median family income is \$72,149 annually (2005 dollars).
Daytime population of 88,625 Vacaville's unemployment rate is approximately 3.9% Median family income is \$63,950 (1999 dollars).
Daytime population of 119,593 Vallejo's unemployment rate is approximately 6.6% Median family income is \$56,805 annually (2000 dollars)

Solano County Unincorporated Area: The unincorporated area of Solano County encompasses 681.2 square miles and includes property touching all of the seven cities. The unincorporated portion of Solano County includes many of the locations where chronically homeless persons spend their nights. The unincorporated area of Solano County is governed by the Solano County Board of Supervisors.



*Information from State of California, Employment Development Department (2007)

HOUSING WITH DIGNITY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Executive Summary	4
Why Do We Need A 10 Year Plan?	5
How Will We Use Our 10 Year Plan?	9
History of Continuum of Care – Solano County	9
Current Picture of Solano County Homeless	15
The 10 Year Plan	18
Current Capacity - Projects	18
Strategies Addressing Homelessness	20
The Conclusion	30

The Committee - Continuum of Care Members:

Mary Frances Kelly Poh: Benicia CAC

Sandy Carson: Caminar, Inc. Ron Marlette: Mission Solano

Raymond Courtemanche: Mission Solano

Linda Mahoney: Interfaith Council of Solano County

Kari Rader: Vacaville Social Services Tess Childs: Catholic Social Services

Robert Sullens – Solano County Mental Health PJ Davis: Community Action Partnership of Solano

Executive Summary

The work of our Continuum of Care has encouraged us to take a serious and conscientious look at homelessness and all the issues involved. We have struggled in the past with just providing services to as many people as we could with the limited funding available. But since taking on the task of developing a solid Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in Solano County, we have emerged with new and optimistic ideas for our future. We no longer think of eliminating homelessness as an "out of reach" goal. Homelessness comes in many forms and includes a variety of people with their own unique barriers and abilities.

Our first step was to review and analyze what is currently being done in Solano County addressing homeless issues. We looked at permanent housing, subsidized housing, transitional housing, emergency shelters, and supportive services available in each city.

Next we looked at the need. The Point-In-Time Homeless Count done in January of 2007, combined with data from agencies and providers in Solano County, gave us the basic numbers and types of populations affected by homelessness.

We will continue to address affordable housing for those living in our community. New ways of including low- and very low-income housing into the general population of housing is important to our Continuum. Inclusionary Housing is one tool available to help address affordable housing units. Working with each city and their housing departments to the benefit of affordable housing projects is another focus.

Finally, we agreed that closing the door to homelessness is an important part of our work in Solano County. We also will continue to keep the doors open to strategic planning and services that will end homelessness. We have taken on the task of addressing Transitional Age Youth and Chronically Homeless Persons being discharged from medical facilities, corrections, and other residential facilities. We are determined to decrease the numbers of persons entering homelessness in Solano

County by actively working with stakeholders and partners to design systems that stop people from becoming homeless.

This plan will be presented to each of the cities in Solano County with the hope of encouraging discussion during periods addressing housing. The plan is designed to assist city and county government in their efforts to address the homeless population as well as other affordable housing.

Why Do We Need A 10 Year Plan?

According to our most current data (January 2007), Solano County has approximately 328 "street homeless" persons. These numbers do not include the over 172 homeless persons in correctional facilities being released to the streets. The Point-In-Time Street Count only captures homeless clients found during one 24-hour period of time. Though these numbers were down slightly from our first count of 407 in 2005, we are looking more to trends than at exact numbers. 328 homeless is still too high and we acknowledge that in Solano County.

According to the first annual report from the Healthcare for the Homeless Grant produced by Solano County Health and Social Services, 1,761 unduplicated homeless clients were served last year. We are aware there may be an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 persons who are homeless at any point in time in a year not captured in our point-in-time count. These numbers are based on agency information provided annually of those clients participating in services and who are homeless, but were not counted during the point-in-time count.

These persons may be staying with relatives or friends. We cannot say for certain that the two numbers do not have duplicated information. So, for the purposes of this document, we will show the data from each group separately.

Many of the people living on the street are doing so because the shelters and other programs are full most of the time. Those persons accessing services for Permanent and Transitional Housing programs have spent much time accessing services within the Solano County Continuum of Care system. The <u>street</u> count is mostly clients who are not currently in shelters, transitional housing or permanent housing projects.

Solano County has a bed capacity of:

Emergency Shelter: Transitional Housing: 179 beds year round both individual and family 118 beds year round both individual and family

Permanent Supportive

Housing:

99 beds year round both individual and family

Total beds available:

396 year round for both individual and family

Looking at the need for over 3,000 homeless clients at any one time in Solano County, the 396 beds are not even close to housing the homeless.

Homelessness, as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), identifies persons in the following manner:

General Homeless:

An individual who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence:

An individual who has a primary nighttime residence that is — A supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide temporary living accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill; an institution that provides a temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized; or a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings.

For the purpose of this definition, the term "homeless" does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to an Act of the Congress or a State law.

Solano County C of C has determined to include additional persons in our definition of homeless: persons living temporarily with family/friends; persons sleeping on couches or floors of other person's residences; at risk of becoming homeless due to eviction notice, or other possible loss of their current living situation

Homelessness is a devastating experience for individuals and families, severely impacting their health and well-being. Homelessness deprives us of the full engagement of people in our community. As the cost of housing in Solano County continues to increase dramatically, the rate of homelessness will also continue to rise. The cost of doing nothing to end homelessness is far too high.

Over the last 6 years local government, non-profit agencies, and dedicated individuals of Solano County have worked on developing a Continuum of Care, offering the following for the County's homeless population:

- ★ Emergency shelters for the homeless, with supportive services

- ♣ Permanent housing programs, with supportive services

Most of the above programs are designed to assist individuals with food, clothing, transportation, life skills training, child care and parenting classes, medical, mental health and substance abuse treatment, job counseling, training and placement, money management, and public benefit access.

These programs are subsidized by local, state and federal funding. Some programs receive contributions and donations of time and money from local organizations, churches and individuals. Through these various programs, hundreds of people have been able to transition to stable housing and self sufficiency. Although great strides have been made, much more needs to be accomplished in efforts to end homelessness in Solano County.

The Solano County Continuum of Care, created through efforts of the Community Action Partnership of Solano (formerly known as Solano County Safety Net Consortium), began meeting in 1998. At first, the Continuum met only around the HUD SuperNOFA annual application process. Recently, the Continuum has become formalized with elected officers. The Continuum is now a stand-alone entity comprised

of representatives from agencies working with low-income and/or homeless clients. We have added strength to our Continuum by bringing in new members from corrections, the medical community, and mental health. From the Continuum of Care, smaller focus groups were formed. These focus groups, which now meet on a regular basis, are the Shelter Collaborative and various committees including: General Membership Committee, Mainstream Committee, Housing Development Committee, Policies Committee and the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness Committee. Various approaches to meeting the needs of the local homeless population are continuously explored.

A long-term view of housing the homeless takes the highest priority in our efforts to end homelessness. A collaborative effort, with all cities and the County participating, will make the job successful.

Above all, the 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness will be the foundation upon which Solano County will build all efforts to end homelessness.

Some causes of homelessness:

- 1. A shortage of affordable rental housing
- 2. Housing in general is becoming more expensive
- 3. Poverty and low-income employment
- 4. Health care coverage not available and/or not accessed
- 5. Alcohol and Drug abuse
- 6. Mental illness
- 7. Other disabilities
- 8. Discharge planning not addressing the homeless
- 9. Domestic Violence
- 10. Legal difficulties
- 11. Family disintegration
- 12. Fair Housing issues
- 13. Decrease in Section 8 funding
- 14. Foreclosures
- 15. People with pets
- 16. People with large families

How Will We Use Our 10 Year Plan?

Housing with Dignity is intended to be used to direct the conversation of ending homelessness in Solano County

<u>Housing with Dignity</u> is intended to be an outline and guide for all stakeholders working to end homelessness. Each of the cities has a housing element requirement that directly addresses homeless issues. It is our intent that this document be used by the cities in their planning process.

Housing with Dignity is intended to be the strategic plan used by the Solano Continuum of Care when developing projects for funding. All projects brought through the Continuum of Care process will be reviewed and evaluated to reflect appropriate compliance with the needs and desires of the communities of Solano County.

County and city governments, and non-profit agencies may use this plan to address current levels of homelessness, and better define the needs in each community. Housing authorities and other organizations may use this plan when developing strategies for programs and projects regarding housing vouchers and requirements.

Building a strong, comprehensive support system within the 10-Year Plan is at the threshold of our endeavors. Without commitment by the stakeholders in Solano County, this plan is just a document left on a shelf. This plan is designed to be used and used often.

History of the Continuum of Care - Solano County

The Community Action Partnership of Solano (CAP Solano), with members representing the cities of Vallejo, Fairfield, Dixon, Suisun, Benicia, and the County, is the lead convener in addressing homelessness within Solano County.

The CAP Solano is a Joint Powers Authority umbrella agency, operating with strong subgroup and subcommittee participation. The CAP Solano sets policy, and provides oversight and technical assistance for the development of permanent supportive housing, the operation of homeless shelters, transitional housing, and homeless assistance centers. The CAP Solano conducts planning for mainstream and targeted programs to serve homeless people and those at risk. Achieving self-sufficiency for this population will eliminate homelessness in Solano County.

In 2004 a merger to streamline and improve Solano's planning process occurred. The Continuum of Care (C of C) and the Providers Group merged into one group of dedicated agency representatives and is called the Continuum of Care. The original provider group was established directly by CAP Solano to allow all agencies that serve low-income and/or homeless people to improve service and housing linkages between emergency shelter providers and the rest of the continuum, with the ultimate goal of providing service-enriched exits from homelessness. It also allows agencies the opportunity to collaborate to secure funding. The C of C creates and presents policy statements to the CAP Solano for approval. The C of C is also a forum for Solano County agencies and advocates to fecus focusing on developing an integrated service delivery response to homelessness through networking, resource development, professional training, and program design. The newly formed C of C process helps to seek out providers with projects ready for development to meet the goals identified in the plan.

The organizational structure of the C of C is supported by other key groups. Responsibility is allocated among the following groups and there is open communication and collaborations to ensure that the C of C planning process is well coordinated and free from duplicative efforts.

The Operation Hand Up, North Bay Stand Down Organizing Committee coordinates with the C of C to hold an annual Veterans' Stand Down and to explore developing a new VA homeless veterans' center. The Stand Down is a critical outreach event, not only providing the community with a better idea of how many hard-to-serve chronically homeless people live in the region, but also providing those individuals who attend the event with immediate access to a wealth of services, including benefits counseling, substance abuse services, mental health counseling, legal services, employment services, and housing placement. The Stand Down occurs every fall, and the Committee meets twice a month from May through September until the event.

The work of CAP Solano is supported by the Administrator and the Executive Director of the CAP Solano. CAP Solano staff is responsible for contract management and monitoring, program coordination, staff and program capacity-building and training, and linkage of homeless and safety net programs with mainstream services. Members of the **Tripartite Advisory Board** (formerly known as the **CAP Solano Advisory Board**) provide specialized expertise to the CAP Solano on basic safety net programs and actively participate as a member of the Continuum of Care. Members of the Tripartite Board serve on the Review & Rank Committee in prioritizing community projects for HUD funding and providing technical review to funding proposals.

Basic Needs Subcommittee of Fairfield-Suisun Healthy Start was established for the Solano Coalition for Better Health (SCBH), a collaborative which includes hospitals and other care givers, the Department of Health and Social Services, the Solano County School District, other government agencies, nonprofit social service providers, the faith community, and consumer and business organizations. Meeting monthly, the Basic Needs Committee strengthens the Continuum of Care by coordinating local resources to meet some of the basic needs of those who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Basic Needs of Vallejo is a collaboration of different nonprofit agencies, faith based organizations and transitional housing agencies with eleven active members and six peripheral members. The mission statement of this collaboration is "to effectively increase delivery of basic human needs services and resources to persons in the Vallejo area through networking, resource development and case management; focusing on housing, health care and employment". The collaborative started in July 2003 and meets every three months,

January, April, July and October, on the fourth Thursday of that month. The collaborative coordinates and updates the resources available to the needy and homeless in Vallejo.

Solano County Jail-Based/Community Services Intervention Network is dedicated to the development, delivery, and evaluation of a continuum of services for incarcerated men and women in the Solano County Jails, and those released to the community. As Solano County has a large number of jails and prisons, the Network's effects are especially important. The CAP Solano is working with the Network to improve our discharge planning measures. The Network creates inside and outside partnerships that are essential in preparing inmates for successful community re-entry. The network participates and supports the Continuum of Care by keeping the C OF C abreast of the discharge needs of this population and identifying appropriate resources to accommodate that task.

Interfaith Council of Solano County is a coalition of 12 local churches organized in 1999 to address issues of coordination and distribution of resources by the Fairfield and Suisun faith communities to people who are homeless or living at or near the poverty level. The Council runs Heather House, an emergency shelter and transitional housing facility. The Interfaith Council also takes a leading role in public education and engagement about homelessness in the community, not only informing the public about the issue of homelessness, but also providing many area agencies with a wealth of volunteers and donated supplies. The Interfaith Council is actively involved in the C of C and links with local agencies to provide for basic needs such as meals, clothing, and children's room/outdoor play area at Heather House. The Council meets monthly, and provides input into the Continuum of Care through the C of C, and by having an active role in assisting providers to meet the ongoing needs of homeless people.

The Solano County C of C planning process has evolved along with the needs of our homeless community members, in our shifting economic landscape. The County's efforts to address homelessness began in earnest in the 1980s. Faith-based organizations had been the county's primary responders to homelessness. Congregation members provided basic assistance to homeless individuals and those at risk of becoming homeless and opened their

places of worship to provide shelter beds for short-term stays. However, as it became clear that the number of homeless people living in the community was much larger than previously thought, both the County (through its social service programs) and the Community Action Agency began planning a more effective response to emergency needs.

By the early 1990s, planning focused on program development to meet the varying needs of the many different homeless subpopulations. As a result of these efforts, the community developed substance abuse programs, domestic violence programs, and programs targeting the special needs of homeless veterans. At the same time, as the California economy heated up, more and more individuals and families faced a housing crisis as fair market rents increased exponentially. The demand for affordable housing far outstripped the supply in Solano County and the ranks of the homeless population in the community increased as those at-risk became homeless.

In the late 1990s, C of C planning efforts of county and local governments recognized the urgency of the homelessness crisis in Solano County and invested substantial time, money, and effort in expanding both housing facilities and supportive services targeting homeless individuals and families. The County's Continuum of Care was formally named as such during this time. In addition, the County established 6 Homeless Assistance Centers (HACs), which continue to operate today and are instrumental in providing basic needs services and housing referrals to both homeless and at-risk individuals and families. The C of C started planning for long-term solutions to end homelessness in the community, urged on by the faith community and Solano County Health and Social Services Agency. Government officials convened a Homeless Task Force, and routinely discussed solutions in regularly scheduled meetings.

C of C planning efforts have made significant progress since 2000, addressing the housing and service needs of the homeless population in Solano County. The CAP Solano, Emergency Shelter Collaborative, and County Health and Social Services, hold regular, frequent meetings focusing on how best to serve homeless people while trying to end homelessness in Solano County. This includes assessing and prioritizing community need,

and working with all providers to ensure efficient use of available resources. Since 2003, the County has been holding annual homelessness summits to discuss current strategies and best practices. Solano County is holding it's its first-ever Affordable Housing Week this year, hosted by local housing advocates and county-wide organizations.

C of C planning efforts this year will continue to focus on chronic homelessness, homeless youth and children, and discharge planning. Last August, the CAP Solano held its first meeting of all key groups, including housing and service providers, government agency representatives, faith community activists, and other interested parties to commence the planning process to end homelessness in 10 years, now underway.

The C of C 10 year Plan effort has included information from the Homeless Point-in-Time Counts, conducted on January 27-January 28, 2005, and January 30 – 31, 2007. C of C members and community volunteers made a diligent effort to conduct a visual count of homeless people in the County as well.

Current (2007) Picture of Solano County Homeless

		····						
Age #	Adult	<u>s</u>		A.	ge	# C	<u>hildren</u>	
Under 18:	2 (u	naccompanied	ninors)	0-5			181	
18-21:	40		(6-11			136	
22-40:	242		1	2-17			114	
41-60:	202			otal			431	
Over 60:	11		-					
Total	497							
Total	407							
						#Adı	ılts	
Education L	evel:	#Adults	!	Insuran	ce	Yes	No	
Grade up to 8		14				241	219	
Grades 9 th -12	oth	142						
High School	2	162		Income		Yes	No	
		115		IIICOIIIG		172	284	
12+College		115				172	207	
		44.6.414						
		#Adult	1					
Chronic Hon								
Mental Ilines		72						
Substance A								
Domestic Vi	olence							
Veteran:		29						
Jail:		172						
	••		0011 (17.11.					2007

Information based on 500 identified homeless persons January 2007.

Homeless Population January 31, 2007 both surveyed and not surveyed:					
	Shelte Emergency		Unsheltered	Total	
Homeless Households With Dependent Children	81	32	362	475	
Number of Persons in Households	121	96	906	1123	
Homeless Households					

Total Homeless Persons	230	229	1499	1958	
Number of Persons in Households	109	133	593	835	
Without Dependent Children	91	93	472	656	

The Picture in 2005 of Solano County Homeless

Age	Male	/Female	Ethnicity	
Under 18:	1	0	Hispanic:	11
18-21:	4	10	Non Hispanic:	252
22-40:	55	63	Unknown:	24
41-60:	79	61		
Over 60:	7	6	Race	
Total	28	37	African American:	103
			White:	112
Children:	113	3	Multi- Race:	7
Ommar om	• • •		Other:	16
			Unknown:	49

Current Homeless Situation: How Long in Solano County: Less than 1 year: 124 Less than 1 year: 46

1-3 years: 61 1 - 3 years: 27
Over 3 years: 57 Over 3 years: 149
Unknown: 45 Unknown: 65

Reason for Becoming Homeless:

88 Alcohol/Drugs: Divorce: Mental Health: 31 Lack of Affordable Housing: 28 15 Eviction: Rent Raised: 5 Loss of Income: 41 8 Death in Family: 2 Poor Credit: 11 Jail: 42 Unknown: Domestic Violence:

Education Level: Katrina/Rita Victims:

Grade up to 8th 11
Grades 9th-12th 50 20
High School 76
12+College 82

Information based on 287 identified homeless persons October 2005.

The information gathered from 2006 differs from 2007 due to the format of the survey questions used. The 2007 survey is more in line with the HUD requirements.

Statistics from HealthCare for the Homeless

794

2006 Annual Report							
Age	Male	/Female	Race/Ethnicity				
0-5	149	151	Asian	129			
6-12	21	29	Pacific Islander	26			
13-17	27	23	Asian/Pac. Islander	155			

Black/African American 18-21 23 American Indian 22-40 652 542 795 White 41-60 482 644 Hispanic or Latino 822 Over 60 67 151 Unknown 493

3,082 Total

76

68

Users/patients best served in a language other than English: 1,651

STATS FROM 2005

Additional information was obtained from the Healthcare for the Homeless Grant data system that identifies an additional 1,761 homeless clients. The chart following pertains to information from the first annual report produced by the Healthcare for the Homeless Grant from Solano County Health and Social Services.

Age	Male	Female	Race/Ethnicity/Lar	iguage
Age 0-5	136	131	Aslan	61
6-12	28	23	Pacific Islander	14
13-17	34	28	Asian/Pacific Islander	75
18-21:	35	41	Black/African American	465
22-40:	277	220	American Indian	6
41-60:	314	287	White	483
Over 60:	59	148	Hispanic or Latino	453
Total	1,7	61	Unknown	279

	Users/Patients	best served	in a	language	other	than English	277
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The 10 Year Plan - Current Capacity Projects

One of the most important decisions our Continuum of Care made was to continue funding current projects moving people out of homelessness. It is critical that we do not add to the devastation already being felt by the homeless population in general. To lose any of the current projects would be unthinkable.

We pledge to continue to support the current projects of the Continuum of Care HUD SuperNOFA process:

MATRIX OF CURRENT HOUSING PROJECTS

NUMBER OF BEDS	AGENCY
65	Christian Help Center
24	Interfaith Council of Solano
49	Mission Solano
24	Vacaville Social Services
36	Safe Quest, Inc.
3	Caminar, Inc.
9	Solano County/ Youth & Family Services
33	Solano County/ Vacaville Social Services
	65 24 49 24 36 3

Building Better Lives	12	Fairfield-Suisun CAC
Lilac House (singe men)	6	Vallejo Lord's Fellowship
Trans. Housing Men	6	Mission Solano
House of Joy	11	House of Joy
Trans. Housing Men	6	Interfaith Council of Solano
New Ventures	14	Caminar, Inc.
Archway Recovery	18	Archway Recovery Services, Inc.
Laurei Creek	13	Caminar, Inc.
Hope Haven	18	Hope Haven, Inc.
Emani House (women)	16	Emani, Inc.
Nameste House (women)	6	Emani, Inc.
Men's Housing - Principles	6	Dante, Inc.
House of Acts	31	House of Acts, Inc.
Genesis House	18	Genesis House, Inc.
Reynaissance Family Center	16	Reynaissance Center
PERMANENT Sereno Village	6	Solano County/ Caminar, Inc.
STOP Project	12	Anka, Inc.
Master Leasing	50	A Place-2-Live
Laurel Gardens	42	Caminar, Inc. The Board and Care facilities in
BOARD AND CARE * Provide limited services		Solano County house many clients, some of whom have been homeless. Solano County Mental Health is currently working to enhance services formerly provided to the homeless clients with mental Illness, living in Board and Care.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES **		Solano County H&SS There are over 76 nonprofit and faith-based organizations in Solano
Homeless Assistance Ctrs	100 clients	County partnering in an effort to move people out of homelessness.

Strategies Addressing Homelessness

These strategies have been identified by the C of C and are in compliance with the HUD funding process knowsknown as the HUD SuperNOFA (Notice of Funding Availability). Each year the C of C reviews the strategies to determine progress and revise as appropriate. The C of C is responsible for and will be held accountable for review of progress and completion of strategies. The parties listed in these strategies have agreed to work on them and participate in a leadership capacity to insure successful completion of strategies.

STRATEGY ONE: DISCHARGE AND TRANSITION PLANING:

Strategy: Improve discharge planning and decrease the number of people being discharged into homelessness by 25%:

12 months-5% 5 years-10% 10 years-25%

Solano County has identified discharge and transition planning to be one of the highest priorities in our plan to end homelessness. To that end, the Community Action Partnership of Solano (CAP Solano) held two summits, one in 2005 and one in 2006. The 2005 Summit was on Discharge Planning in Solano County. Invited to this summit were representatives from social service agencies providing services to homeless clients, medical institutions, criminal justice institutions, health and social service departments for the county, and others.

Transitional Age Youth: The result of the 2005 summit was a focus on Transitional Age Youth (TAYs). These youth included not just youth aging out of Foster Care, but also those kicked out of their own homes at age 18, those in the criminal justice system turning 18, and others. The 2006 Summit focused in on the Transitional Age Youth. This summit was well attended and coincided with the efforts of the Solano County Board of Supervisors and Children's Network to focus on Transitional Age Youth. Subsequent meetings have taken place throughout the county, and a task force has been established dealing specifically with housing for Transitional Age Youth.

Recommendation: Identify all agencies working on supporting Transitional Age Youth. Draft a discharge plan for Foster Care and Criminal Justice to include early intervention and support for youth beginning at age 15. This plan should be coordinated with and approved by social service agencies in the Continuum of Care for Solano County. The Discharge Plan aligns appropriately with other Discharge Plans in Solano County, and holds all parties accountable for implementation in a timely manner.

Benefit: A decrease in the number of youth entering homelessness as a result of their transition from Foster Care and other situations.

Medical Facilities: The medical community is aware of the need to identify homeless clients who cannot be released to the street (or homelessness) and create a satisfactory protocol as appropriate. The medical community has convened a newly formed group addressing clients who are termed "frequent users" of the emergency rooms and other high cost medical services. The homeless population has been identified as comprising a portion of this group of "frequent users". In addressing "frequent user" issues, the group has enlisted the assistance of several of the agency representatives working with the homeless population.

Recommendation: The Frequent User Team, together with local nonprofit organizations is developing a system of care that will allow doctors to release clients (as appropriate) to the new Respite Care Facility. The facility will be similar to an emergency shelter, but the clients will be allowed to remain in the facility during the day. Regular emergency shelters require clients to leave the shelter in the morning and return in the late afternoon. The Respite Care Facility will keep clients safe and sheltered while they recover.

Benefit: A decrease in the number of patients entering homelessness as a result of being discharged from Medical Facilities.

Criminal Justice System: Current systems are becoming aggressive in making sure persons are not discharged into homelessness. It is clear there is a definite willingness on the part of the criminal justice system administration to release persons into an appropriate housing situation. A newly formed committee of jail personnel, agency personnel, CAP Solano staff and County staff are beginning the process to approach a system change from court sentencing to release. Chronically homeless persons in the jail system have mental health and/or substance abuse issues. Some require proper medication while in jail. Once released, especially if there is an early release, the medication may not follow the person. Steps are being taken to address this issue. Additional steps are being taken to obtain appropriate housing prior to release.

Recommendation: Identify all discharge plans currently in place and include them in the Continuum of Care documents for review and possible endorsement. The Discharge Plans should coordinate appropriately with other plans in Solano County around housing issues.









STRATEGY TWO: HOUSING:

Strategy: Create new permanent housing beds for homeless and chronically homeless persons – 12 months - 8 beds 5 years: 32 beds 10 years: 64 beds

We completed the Laurel Gardens project, adding 8 new chronically homeless permanent housing beds in 2006. Mission Solano will offer 10 new chronically homeless permanent housing beds. Caminar, Inc. is continuing their efforts to construct a senior complex that will add 16 permanent housing beds for chronically homeless seniors.

Development of permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals with substance abuse issues is a strategy currently being reviewed by the Continuum of Care including bringing in state and local funding sources, the Governor's Homeless Initiative, MHP, MHSA Housing Program and CHFA.

The C of C is educating providers in Solano County as to the availability of state funds for permanent supportive housing, and coordinating efforts with Solano County Mental Health through meetings and workshops.

We have begun the process for a full assessment of supportive housing needs for homeless households in each Solano County jurisdiction. This will include, but not be limited to, emergency housing, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and independent living in scattered site housing with subsides.

Specific sources of funding for affordable housing capital development to be utilized shall include: 1) State Prop 1-C bond funds (Emergency and Transitional Housing Assistance Program, EHAP-CD; Multi-Family Housing Program, both Transitional Age Youth set-asides and the General application as well; 2) Local sources of funding including HOME/CHDO, CDBG, Redevelopment, and General Fund; 3) Federal funding including the Section 202 (senior) and Section 811 (disability), and Section 8 project based rent vouchers; 4) Capital Development funding allocated under the Mental Health Services Act Community Support and Services quota; 5) Rent subsidies, including THP+Plus for Youth; Mental Health services act rent subsidies; and tenant-based Section 8 vouchers. Master leasing shall also be employed as a strategy for housing the homeless and special needs populations.

The C of C shall establish a timetable which will be used to monitor progress towards achieving these housing production goals. The C of C encourages governmental jurisdictions and funding sources to coordinate with funding, (application and escrow closing realities). Mutual analysis of appropriate "Systems Change" strategies to achieve this collaboration is called for.

We pledge to continue to support the projects in each of the cities moving people into affordable housing units.

Each city has developed a Housing Element that has been certified by the State of California. Within each of those Housing Elements, the cities have addressed housing that is not just for the fair market residents. Each city addresses, with dignity and care, the issues of affordable, low and very low-income residents requiring housing.

In addition to low income housing production goals, the C of C shall recommend inserting specific supportive housing production goals as a component of each revised Housing Element in Solano County and associated municipalities. The C of C shall assess what assistance might be provided to jurisdictions facing barriers in implementing their low-income and supportive housing production requirements.

City of Benicia:							
	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Upper	Total		
ABAG Allocation	7 0	49	90	204	413		
Actual	54	71	89	385	599		
Remaining to Construct	16	+ 22	1	+181	+186		
		OVER		OVER	OVER		
City of Dixon:							
	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Upper	Total		
ABAG Allocation	268	237	379	580	1,464		
Units to be Rehabilitated	10	15	-	-	25		
Households Assisted	10	20	-	-	30		
Households to be Conserv	/ed 141	-	-	-	141		
Remaining to Construct	127	232	379	580	1,268		

Other of Fallstin Id		e 2 e e	alika yasali na	ec (mil	1,50 mm II, Co		
City of Fairfield	37. 1	S 8 "	engle and a	11	T-1-1		
	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Upper	Total		
ABAG Allocation	761	573	972	1,506	3,812		
Units Constructed by 2000	0	0	308	729	1,037		
Revised Housing Need	761	573	664	777	2,775		
					•		
City of Rio Vista		N N HO		: Wight 15			
	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Upper	Total		
ABAG Allocation	357	190	342	502	1,391		
Units to be Rehabilitated	10	10	0	0	0		
Conserved	20	10	Ö	Õ	Ö		
Conserved	20	10	•		ŭ		
City of Suisun	- A 2 -	7 W	10 ₁₂				
City of Guisun	Vondlow	Low	Moderate	Linnor	 Total		
	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Upper			
ABAG Allocation	191	123	256 36	434 890	1,004		
New Construction	16 175	64 59	220	090	1,006 454		
Remaining to Construct	1/5	29	220	U	404		
City of Vacaville							
	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Upper	Total		
ABAG Allocation	860	629	1,172	1,975	4,636		
New Construction	78	238	1,225	6,946	8,487		
Additional or Rehab Units	186	613	20		819		
Additional Units Conserve	d 449	106			555		
Remaining to Construct	147	+328	+ 73	+4,971	+5,225		
•		OVER	OVER	OVER	OVER		
City of Vallejo	4.6/86-7/8777/						
	Very Low	Low	Moderate	Upper	Total		
ABAG Allocation	690	474	779	1,299	3,242		
Units Build/Approved	501	183	495	3,097	4,276		
% of Goal	72%	39%		297%	61%		
70 01 00al	1270	JU 70	O-170	20,70	affordable		
Balance of Units	189	291	284	0	764		
Remaining to Construct	100		201	•			

STRATEGY THREE: CLIENTS REMAIN IN PERMANENT HOUSING

Strategy: Increase percentage of homeless persons staying in permanent housing over 6 months to 71%: 12 months-30% 5 years-50% 10 years-71%

Assist permanent housing providers with formalizing Memorandums of Understanding with mainstream service providers.

The Continuum of Care will develop, adopt and maintain standards for permanent housing case-management.

Activity: Develop and implement incentive programs for clients who meet monthly, bimonthly, semi-annually and/or annually with case-managers to continue action plans for housing goals.

Activity: Clients shall be assisted in obtaining and retaining permanent housing: 1) through provision of a portion of the security deposit and move-in costs; and 2) by education in life skills related to getting and keeping an apartment, including basic financial literacy, tenant-landlord laws and practices, "how to apply for and get an apartment", and conflict resolution training.

Strategy: Increase percentage of homeless persons moving from transitional housing into permanent housing by 61%:

12 months-31% 5 years-45% 10 years-61%

Identify available units and secure funding in order to master lease apartments for use as permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless people in the County.

The Continuum of Care will conduct a county-wide analysis to determine why chronically homeless individuals are leaving permanent housing.

STRATEDY FOUR: EMPLOYMENT

Strategy: Increase percentage of homeless persons becoming employed by 11%: 12 months-1% 5 years-5% 10 years-11%

Members of the Continuum of Care will offer pre-vocational services to prepare chronically homeless individuals for the world of work and refer them to the Department of Rehabilitation.

The Continuum of Care will partner with job development agencies, such as Goodwill, Pride Industries, Employment Development Department Division, and Workforce Investment Board, to ensure that chronically homeless persons have access to and take advantage of county-wide job opportunities and training.

The Continuum of Care will work together with Community Action providers and Family Resource Centers to facilitate development of private sector employment opportunities for homeless persons, including job training and search programs.

STRATEGY FIVE: HMIS (Homeless Management Information System)

Strategy: Ensure that the Continuum of Care has a functional HMIS system with 90% of the shelters and housing projects actively participating:

12 months-50%

5 years-75%

10 years-90%

The Continuum of Care will continue implementing the software offered by the Community Action Partnership of Solano. Training will continue for new agencies to the system, and additional training will occur as the system adds functions such as program, action plans and annual reports.

The Continuum of Care has adopted and is implementing a uniform privacy statement and uniform code of conduct. Currently all HUD funded projects are entering data on homeless clients in Solano County. We plan to add supportive service providers not funded by HUD to our HMIS in 2007 and 2008. Our HMIS gathers demographic data and produces reporting documents to assist in analyzing the homeless situation in Solano County. The HMIS also identifies populations and subpopulations present in the homeless community.

The system will bring on action plans and program-specific, measurable outcomes for each of the clients in Solano County in 2008. The logic model from HUD has been incorporated into the system and will be running by the end of 2007. The logic model is a matrix of components clarifying the need, service, outcome and results all on one document.

The system is being supplied to agencies from CAP Solano. A maintenance agreement will be provided to each agency to cover new enhancements to the system, as well as technical support and training. The annual cost per agency runs approximately \$500.00.

STRATEGY SIX: MAINSTREAM RESOURCES

Strategy: Improve access to mainstream resources by 25%: 12 months-5% 5 years-10% 10 years-25%

Mainstream opportunities include but are not limited to Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), General Public Assistance (GA), Temporary Aid to Needy

Families (TANF), Veterans Benefits, Employment Income, Unemployment Income, Food Stamps, etc.

Partnerships with mainstream resource agencies will be improved by bringing mainstream agencies into the provider group and Continuum of Care meetings to discuss their programs. Utilize the new HMIS to automatically inform providers of mainstream opportunities in the community.

Each Homeless Assistance Center will be a one-stop source for mainstream and veteran benefits. The centers will work with County staff to determine eligibility and completion of the application process. Linkages between chronically homeless clients and no-cost legal assistance to obtain benefits will be increased. The North Bay Stand Down, an annual event providing shelter and access to services, over an extended period of time (usually three days and two nights), will engage/assist homeless veterans in accessing all available mainstream benefits for which they are eligible. Increase access for HUD project participants to local, state and federal resources related to supportive housing.

STRATEGY SEVEN: ENGAGED IN CONTINUUM OF SERVICES

Strategy: Chronically homeless individuals will be fully engaged in the continuum of services and housing available to them.

- 1. Increase the number of outreach workers conducting street and encampment outreach.
- 2. Train outreach workers on methods to effectively build trust and engage chronically homeless people.
- 3. Conduct outreach to at least 100 homeless individuals with serious mental illness and/or dual diagnosis, or multiple issues.

STRATEGY EIGHT: HOMELESS WILL NOT LIVE ON THE STREET

Strategy: Chronically homeless people will be forced to live on the streets until permanent housing or affordable housing is available.

- 1. Establish a one-stop service center for chronically homeless, providing safe housing and service accessibility.
- 2. Support construction of transitional housing units, particularly the projects of Mission Solano and Fairfield-Suisun CAC.
- 3. Initiate master leasing of at least 2 units per annum for sublease to transitional programs for homeless

- 4. Establish systems to deal successfully with homeless people who are unwilling to reside in shelter
- 5. Work in partnership with local law enforcement regarding outdoor camps
- 6. Educate and coordinate with law enforcement on successful and Best Practices regarding homeless living on the street

STRATEGY NINE: OUTREACH FOR AT-RISK INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

Strategy: Ensure sufficient outreach to homeless, at-risk families and non-chronically homeless individuals and provide for their basic needs.

- 1. Increase outreach to at-risk and homeless youth by recruiting volunteer youth outreach workers to work in locations such as schools, shopping malls, coffeehouses and other teen gathering locations.
- 2. Strengthen ties between housing and service providers to the Department of Education homeless youth liaison.
- 3. Together with Solano County Mental Health, develop and implement an outreach strategy to seriously mentally ill individuals at risk of homelessness to ensure they remain housed with wrap-around support services.
- 4. Increase outreach to the jail system to provide needed case management prior to release of inmates.
- 5. Establish computerized system that flashes a warning when inmates are being released early and are at risk of being homeless upon release.
- Establish computerized system that flashes a warning when inmates are being released who are on medication so that prior to release accommodations are made to obtain medication once released.
- 7. Market, inform and educate the entire community about homeless programs so they can make appropriate referrals to clients they work with

STRATEGY TEN: INCREASE FOLLOW-UP SUPPORT

Strategy: Further strengthen self-sufficiency supports for homeless people moving out of homelessness.

- 1. Expand voicemail services for homeless clients.
- 2. Identify and secure funding for healthcare for homeless youth and families, especially for pregnant women and for children.

- 3. Expand mail collection services for homeless individuals and families to conveniently use addresses for important paperwork and documents
- 4. Work with providers and agencies to increase their ability to follow clients for up to two years after completion of programs.
- 5. Work with providers and agencies to enter data on the HMIS that follows clients for up to two years after completion of programs.
- 6. Incorporate housing retention strategies into the client's Individual Service Plan and Case Management regime.



CONCLUSION

Homelessness in Solano County will continue to escalate unless all stakeholders come together and use this plan as part of their decision making process.

<u>Prevention</u> works. We must do all we can to fund projects that prevent people from becoming homeless. Re-allocation of current funding and human resources to support and strengthen agencies working on homeless prevention is option. Additional new funding sources will be identified.

<u>Communication</u> works. We must do all we can to improve communication between providers, county departments, nonprofit agencies and the faith based community.

<u>Understanding</u> works. We must do all we can to understand the homeless population, both chronic and non-chronic.

<u>Policy</u> works. We must do all we can to change policy to increase affordable housing for low, and very-low income persons.

The Members of the Continuum of Care have improved their ability to identify the street homeless. The most recent street count documented more accurately the number of chronically homeless people in Solano County.

The Continuum of Care does not have a valid count of the number of minimally housed homeless who are staying with family, friends or in substandard housing. Through our HMIS we will begin to get a glimpse of these numbers as they enter agencies for various supportive services.

There are many small non-profits trying to address the needs of the homeless. Some are very skilled at providing services locally and need to

be supported before going outside the county for service providers. The Continuum of Care will work to facilitate small agencies working together and sharing resources so they can put in joint applications for funding and compete with out-of-county agencies.

We need to support and grow affordable housing development and property management capabilities of local nonprofit housing developers and supportive service providers.

Though we have a good start with coordination between organizations trying to address the needs of the homeless populations, we recognize there is much more work to be done.

The majority of homeless services are available in the entitlement cities of Vallejo, Fairfield and Vacaville. A disproportionate number of the homeless are concentrated in the entitlement cities. Through the Homeless Assistance Centers, minimal services are available in the other cities in Solano County, including Benicia, Dixon, Rio Vista and Suisun.

A variety of housing options are needed to house the homeless, depending upon the circumstances of the homeless person. Often there is no way other than walking, for the homeless to get to the city where services are available. There is a lack of housing both new and rehabilitated in all cities for homeless people, and most especially for those with special needs such as Transitional Age Youth, the Mentally III, the Disabled, and Senior Citizens.

Consideration will be given to working with nonprofit, private, public and governmental agencies and how they can successfully participate in this process to end homelessness.

There isn't enough money available for the services which are needed by the homeless. There needs to be continued and aggressive support for the communication between the County, the Cities and the non-profits serving the homeless populations.

For some people, homelessness has ended. Our providers have success stories that prove we are ending homelessness, in a small way, every day. People do get housed and are no longer homeless. Solano County should be proud of the progress we have made in this area. Agencies are reporting daily the success their clients are having moving out of homelessness. Homelessness has ended for many individuals and families in Solano County.

We need to increase affordable housing for those living in our community. The future needs to focus on closing the door to homelessness. We need to review all discharge plans and establish sections targeting the homeless population. We need to decrease the number of Transitional Age Youth entering the homeless population. And finally, we need to increase affordable housing for all.

Our focus of providing "Housing With Dignity" will open doors to housing and close doors to homelessness.

January 22, 2008 34