



Bringing Our Community Home

March 19, 2007

Dear Ten-Year Plan Committee Members and Interested Stakeholders,

Thank you for your involvement in the development of Santa Barbara County's Ten Year Plan to End Chronic Homelessness. We would like to take this opportunity to update you on the progress of the implementation of this plan titled, "*Bringing Our Community Home*" (The Plan).

The goals and processes described in "*Bringing Our Community Home*" is a paradigm shift and in other communities, Ten Year Plans have proven to be a cost-effective and more efficient way to house chronically homeless persons rather than managing the problem. The momentum is there; however implementing the strategies outlined in The Plan will require the **coordination** and **collaboration** of all parties involved, including business, philanthropy, services, housing providers, law enforcement, medical community, faith community and governmental jurisdictions.

The Plan was adopted by the Leadership Council in September and subsequently approved by the County Board of Supervisors, City of Santa Barbara, City of Lompoc, City of Santa Maria and the City of Carpinteria. It will be presented to the City of Goleta in the next few weeks.

There are six major strategies outlined in The Plan:

- **Prevention and Intervention;**
- **Outreach, Engagement and Supportive Services;**
- **Permanent Supportive Housing;**
- **Economic Self-Sufficiency;**
- **Financial Sustainability;** and
- **Implementation and Coordination.**

These strategies are the direct result of the hard work of each committee. Details of each strategy are described on the attached Fact Sheet.

To start the implementation process, the Leadership Council appointed a Transition Team to work on specific implementation tasks. In February, the Leadership Council approved the Transition Team's initial recommendations, which includes developing the Plan's Governing Board structure and appointing the hiring committee of the Plan's first Executive Director. Additional implementation details include:

- Seeking initial funding for the staffing of two key positions, an Executive Director and a Fund Development Coordinator. Transition Team members have met with a number of local foundations and have applied for various grants to cover the initial costs of implementation.





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- Recruiting members to the new Governing Board;
- Establishing a memorandum of understanding that will serve as a fiscal umbrella for The Plan; and
- Devise an initial marketing plan.

“*Bringing Our Community Home*” will only be as strong as the leaders who oversee the Plan’s implementation. Strong participation and diverse representation in the initial Governing Board is essential towards our success. To that end, a matrix of board member categories was developed (see attached). Please contact us if you are interested in filling one of these slots. We anticipate that the Governing Board will establish working committees to carry out the strategies outlined in The Plan. These committees will consist of Governing Board members as well as other interested stakeholders.

For more detailed information, we invite you to link onto the Plan’s new website: <http://www.bringsbcohome.org> – this site contains the full Plan document, an executive summary and other basic resource information. This website will be continually updated after the Executive Director is hired.

Thank you again for your interest and participation in this Plan. We hope to continue working with you in our commitment to ensure that homelessness becomes a rare and preventable situation for the people in our community. Please feel free to contact any member of the Transition Team with questions and/or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Bringing Our Community Home Transition Team

Helene Schneider, Co-Chair
Sylvia Barnard, Co-Chair
Kathleen Baushke
John Buttny
Jeannette Candau
Sue Ehrlich
Mike Foley
Eric Friedman
Sue Gray
Geoff Green
Roger Heroux
Jim Laponis
Nancy McCradie
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Don Olson
Mike Sederholm
Tracy Taylor
Susan Warnstrom

cc: Leadership Council

