



Downtown Community Planning Council San Diego

## **SOCIAL ISSUES SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY PLANNING COUNCIL**

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

4:00-5:30PM

Alpha Square 550 14<sup>th</sup> Street, San Diego, CA 92101

1. Chairperson Monica Ball opened the meeting with a reminder about “why we are here” all working together to end homelessness in San Diego.
2. Bahija Hamraz, Executive Director of Clean and Safe, described the increased numbers of homeless on the streets and the accompanying negative quality of life results. Clean and Safe is not a service provider but does provide 3 homeless outreach workers; does a monthly homeless count; and has programs to help homeless individuals work their way back home.
3. The Community Conversation panel included multiple service providers from the Homeless Outreach Team (HOT); Alpha Project; HHSA (behavioral health services); San Diego Housing Commission; The Salvation Army; Catholic Charities; Veterans Village; Think Dignity; PATH; St. Vincent de Paul Villages; and Rescue Mission.
4. Each agency described the services they provide and their collaboration with other providers to maximize efficiency in determining benefit eligibility and housing the homeless. Waiting lists are the norm for shelter/housing providers. If funding were no issue virtually all the service providers would like to see more affordable housing options for very low-income persons and help with services for recently placed Residents to retain their housing.
5. (It was noted that CalFresh provides \$198 in food assistance; individual disability income is less than \$900/month; and – for those who receive it - General Relief is approximately \$330/month).
6. On a positive note, the County Board of Supervisors approved mid-year enhancements through the Mental Health Services Act, resulting in over \$2.5M for homeless services. In addition, they have also embraced “Project One for All” to create a partnership between communities, the local housing commission and nonprofit organizations to give homeless people facing mental illness access to housing and a full spectrum of services.
7. The San Diego Housing Commission announced earlier this month its 1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative (along with the city of San Diego) which includes multiple strategies to incentivize landlords to make units available to veterans.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.