# COMPASSIONATE SIDEWALKS WORK SESSION

April 2, 2013

#### Council referral

- The demographics and causes of homelessness
- □ A survey of existing homeless services
- An assessment of potential funding needs and sources
- Existing laws and enforcement
- Best practices



## Our presentation

- Demographics
- Current services
- Promising practices
  - Targeted outreach, services & housing
  - Street outreach
  - Collaboration with law enforcement
  - Coordinated assessment
- □ Next steps



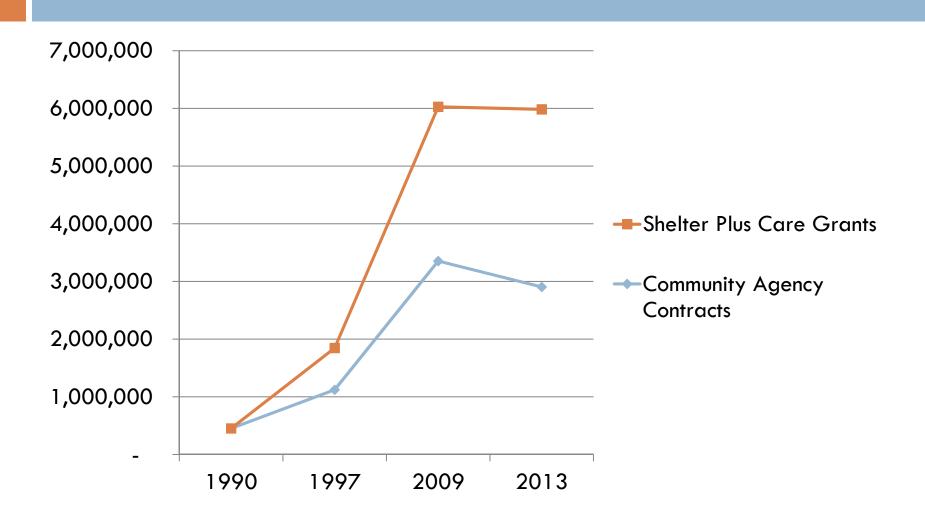
#### 2009 Homeless Count

- 680 literally homeless people
  - 276 chronically homeless people
- 144 hidden homeless people
  Total of 824 homeless people
- Half of Berkeley's chronically homeless population reported mental illness and substance dependence
- □ 59% African American; 24% White
- 63% aged 41 to 60 years

# City's investment in homeless services provided by community agencies

Category of Service	# of Programs	City Funding
Drop in centers	5	684,009
Emergency shelter	8	663,044
Prevention/rapid rehousing	2	348,156
Substance abuse treatment	4	340,032
Services in permanent housing	6	284,763
Legal services	2	213,379
Transitional housing	4	164,452
Permanent housing rental subsidy	2	110,000
Employment	2	90,558
Meal programs	2	87,009
Total		2,985,402

## History of compassionate response



# **Promising Practices**

# argeted Outreach, Services, and Housing

- Target interventions to specific individuals based on criteria such as needs or use of public services
  - Berkeley's Square One (PCEI)
  - □ DESC, Seattle, 1811 Eastlake
  - National 100,000 Homes campaign



### Street Outreach

- Providing mobile, street-based services and building trusting relationships with
  - □ City's Homeless Outreach Team
  - Seattle: DESC's HOST program
  - San Francisco: At the Crossroads



## Collaboration with Law Enforcement

- Combinations of social services approaches and law enforcement interventions
  - Ventura, Safe & Clean
  - Santa Barbara, restorative policing
  - City's Mobile Crisis Team
  - City's Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) (Memphis model)



## Crisis Intervention Team





## Goals of CIT

- Increase safety
- Divert mental health consumers away from the criminal justice system

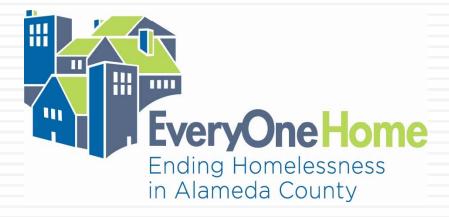


## CIT

- Self-selecting group
- 38-hour class
- 5% of patrol officers are currently CIT certified
- 2 CIT trained bicycle patrol officers
- Temporary full-time CIT Coordinator

# Coordinated Assessment

Elaine de Coligny, Executive Director



# everyone Home's Role

- Implementation of plan to end homelessness
- Coordinate adoption of new federal homelessness

regulations

- Homeless Count
- □ Continuum of Care application \$25M
- Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing
- Outcome measures for performance in homeless program contracts



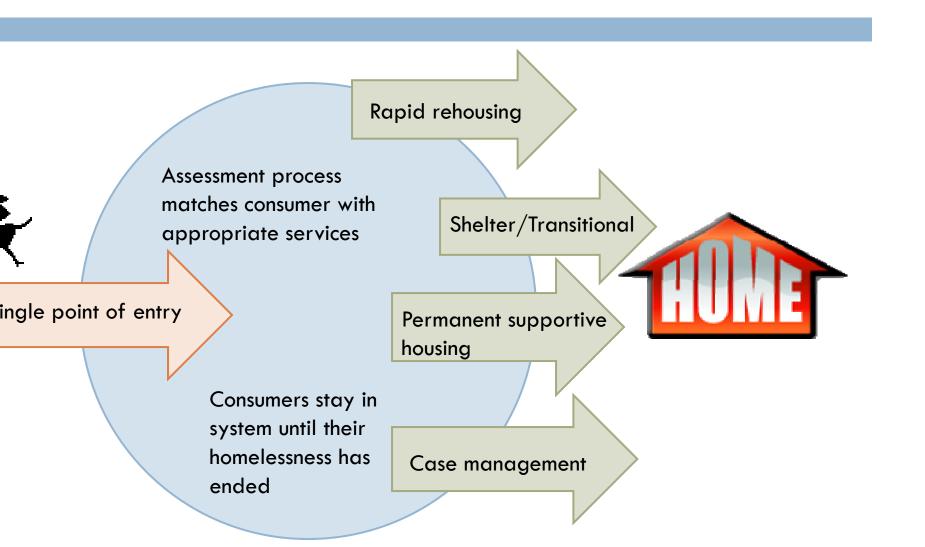
### Coordinated Assessment

- A place or means to request assistance
- A screening and assessment process
- Information about programs and agencies that can provide needed housing or services
- A process and tools for referral of the person to appropriate programs or agencies
- In some cases, a process and tools for making program admissions decisions.

# The current "system" is not one



# Coordinated Assessment



# Benefits of coordinated assessment for consumers

- Consumers don't have to go from agency to agency seeking help
- Family members and case managers trying to help consumers don't have to go from agency to agency
- More likely that consumers will get to the same end result no matter where they enter the system
- Consumer don't have to go through an intake process multiple times

# Benefits of coordinated assessment for providers

- Reduces duplication of effort in intake
- Once a coordinated system is in place, should reduce the amount of time each case manager has to spend searching for resources
- Resources are matched with the most appropriate consumers, so people are not over-served or underserved

# Benefits of coordinated assessment for everyone

- System is more accountable to people once they are in it
- Resources are used more efficiently
- It is a HUD mandate, related to the \$25 million

in McKinney Vento funds receive

every year

## Challenges of coordinated assessment

- Setting up a coordinated system will take resources
- Need to change system priorities, admissions process, and/or resources available for meaningful change
- Real-time coordination will require ongoing staffing and attention
- Need functional technology for support
- No single entity can make it work



# Next Steps



# Strengths: A Caring Community

- Significant investment of General Funds in homeless programs
- Experienced Police Department with a history of coordination with social services
- City's Mental Health Division
- Mobile Crisis Team
- Established community agency infrastructure

# Challenges

#### esources are spread too thin

- System was developed when more staff were available
  - Community agency staff
  - HHCS staff
  - Homeless Outreach Team
  - Law enforcement

#### "No right door"

- It is very difficult for consumers and providers to find and access resources
- Affects police and merchants too

# Opportunities for Development

# Invest in Coordination

- Design a front door
- Realign resources

### Target Resources

- Ability to allocate resources
- Triage consumers

#### Increase Outreach

Meet people where they are

# AB would prohibit enforcement of:

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Penal Code 352: No urinating in public;
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Penal Code 647(e): No lodging overnight in a public place without

permission;

BMC 6.32.020: No lodging overnight in City parks;

BMC 12.76.020: No living in a vehicle modified for human habitation;

BMC 13.36.015: No lying down on commercial sidewalks during certain

business hours;

BMC 13.36.065: No remaining inside City buildings such as City Hall or on the front steps thereof without business to conduct there;

BMC 13.37.020: No aggressive panhandling and ATM panhandling;

BMC 14.48.020: No placing large or numerous objects on sidewalks that cannot be readily moved;

BMC 14.48.210 and inherent police power: Allowing the City to remove unattended property left on sidewalks and in parks, respectively; and Health and Safety Code 114395: Restrictions on food giveaways in public.

# What would AB 5 do? (1 of 4)

- Amend the Unruh Civil Rights act to include the homeless. That means equal access to restaurants, businesses, etc.
- Add Civil Rights for the homeless as follows:
  - Right to rest, sleep, or lie down in any "public spaces," which is defined very broadly and includes public buildings, public transportation, and private property that is open to the public such as courtyards and parking lots. However, malicious and substantial blocking of pedestrians on the sidewalk will still be prohibited.
  - Right to leave one's personal property in said spaces.

# What would AB 5 do? (2 of 4)

- Right to share food in said places.
- Right to urinate in said places.
- Right to collect recycling materials.
- $\blacksquare$  Right to clean and safe bathrooms 24/7.
- $\blacksquare$  Right to clean and safe showers 24/7 or hygiene kits.
- Right to clean water for washing.
- Right to solicit for donations in said places.
- Right to fully staffed shelters 24/7 that can accommodate any special need.
- Right not to utilize homeless services.
- Right to live in a legally parked vehicle.

# What would AB 5 do? (3 of 4)

- Right to medical care/mental health care.
- Right to a lawyer on any "failure to appear" or commitment proceeding.
- Right to compensation for unlawfully confiscated personal property.
- Right to offer food or any other assistance to homeless persons in public place.

# What would AB 5 do? (4 of 4)

- Law enforcement agencies must compile stats on all enforcement of ordinances and infractions against homeless persons, and an annual report to State Attorney General is required.
- Right to sue any person or entity for injunction, damages, punitive damages, and attorney's fees for any violation of the above.
- Amend other "civil rights" provided in state law to include homeless persons as a category for which discrimination is prohibited.