

MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF PLACER

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Jim Holmes, Supervisor, District 3
By: Michael J. Boyle, Assistant County Executive

DATE: September 18, 2007

SUBJECT: Presentation from The Gathering Inn - A Non-Profit Organization
providing Homeless Assistance in Placer County

Issue

It is requested that your Board receive a briefing on the types of community services provided by the Gathering Inn. The Gathering Inn is a faith based non-profit organization providing a variety of necessary community services in Placer County. The presentation will be made by Suzi deFosset, Executive Director of the Gathering Inn.

Background

The Gathering Inn operates with an emphasis on assisting the homeless population in Placer County. This assistance takes the form of housing assistance as well as offering other services that address the causes of homelessness. Operating intake sites in Roseville and Auburn, the Gathering Inn offers individuals access to showers, clean clothes and a place to relax. With the assistance of a case management team, individuals can also access healthcare, housing and employment opportunities.

Types of Services Provided

Examples of services provided by The Gathering Inn are: substance abuse treatment; vocational training; domestic violence and anger management; and, an on-site twelve step program. In addition to the above services, working in coordination with the Placer County Health and Human Services Department, The Gathering Inn also provides the following services to the homeless population: screening and referral; medical and mental health services; health education through the Placer Hearts Program; free flu shots; and, TB testing. The attachment from HHS provides more detailed information on the homeless support provided by Placer County.

Move towards Year-round Homeless Shelter Services

The Gathering Inn has operated a winter and fall shelter program that rotates among area churches. Recently, the Board of Directors of the Gathering Inn announced plans to extend its current service to a year-round operation.

Fiscal Impact

Although there is no direct fiscal impact from this presentation, in the past your Board has supported the services provided by the Gathering Inn via contributions from Revenue Sharing funds in addition to the HHS services noted in the attachment.

- c: Suzi de Fosset, Executive Director, The Gathering Inn
Richard Burton, MD, Director of Health and Human Services
Maureen Bauman, HHS, Director of Adult System of Care



Placer County

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Fact Sheet

County Homeless Services and Programs

Placer County spends approximately \$4 million each year on services for the homeless and people at risk of becoming homeless. These are state, federal and local government funds.

The Placer County Health and Human Services Department and its partners continue to develop a continuum of services for homeless residents that includes prevention, emergency housing, transitional supportive housing, and permanent supportive housing. Among the services provided are food, clothing, medical care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, childcare, transportation, education and assistance with rent and/or utilities.

- The County is contributing to the Salvation Army's Homeless Winter Voucher Program that is shared among various providers to address a range of housing and emergency assistance issues.
- The Placer County Community Services Commission awards Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) funds to seven local organizations that provide emergency services or shelter, transitional housing or nutrition. Grants were awarded for calendar year 2006 and may be renewed for an additional year at the same level, based on organizational performance. The awardees were the Gathering Inn, the Lazarus Project, Lighthouse Counseling and Family Resource Center, PEACE for Families, the Salvation Army/Auburn, Tahoe Women's Services, and Truckee - Tahoe Seniors Council.
- The Placer County Health and Human Services Department now is providing social, public health and mental health services at The Gathering Inn's multi-service center in Roseville, the Gateway, during intake hours on weekdays.
- The Homeless Assistance/CalWORKS program provides housing assistance to eligible families. All qualified residents can obtain temporary assistance, which generally includes motel vouchers. Homeless Assistance/General Relief also provides housing assistance to persons in the process of eviction. This relief can come in the form of motel vouchers, payment of overdue rent or utilities, and assistance in relocation. Longer-term housing issues may be referred to appropriate partnering agencies, e.g., the Salvation Army, Home Start or the Lazarus Project.
- The County-administered Voucher Choice program, also known as "Section 8," provides rent subsidies to low-income families who meet federal eligibility criteria.
- The County Children's System of Care provides shelter in the middle of the night in the form of motel vouchers. Their ACCESS intake program also can provide transient families with homeless emergency services and/or transportation services to their destinations.
- Through the Domestic Violence Trust Fund, the County Health and Human Services Department contracts with PEACE for Families and Tahoe Women's Services for counseling, case-management and shelter services for victims of domestic violence.
- The Adult System of provides mental health services that target persons who are chronically homeless who are severely and persistently mentally ill. These services can include emergency, transitional, supportive and permanent housing.
- The Adult System of Care also receives and administers federal McKinney-Vento Continuum of Care funds to provide permanent supportive housing for mentally ill adults and their families. These services may include permanent supportive housing with rent subsidies up to 12 months and intensive-case management services. The Shelter Plus Care Program offers one-year rental subsidies for mentally ill adults and their families receiving services through the Adult System of Care.

