



Memorandum

TO: PUBLIC SAFETY, FINANCE AND
STRATEGIC SUPPORT COMMITTEE

FROM: Jacky Morales-Ferrand

**SUBJECT: HOUSING AND CHILDCARE
OPTIONS FOR GENDER-BASED
VIOLENCE SURVIVORS REPORT**

DATE: November 1, 2021

Approved

Date

11/10/2021

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the update on housing and childcare options for gender-based violence survivors.

BACKGROUND

On April 29, 2021, at a joint meeting of the City's Public Safety, Finance and Strategic Support Committee and the County's Children, Seniors and Families Committee, the members received a report from the County of Santa Clara Office of Supportive Housing, City of San José Housing Department, Destination: Home and Community Solutions relating to housing options and opportunities available for survivors of gender-based violence and child sexual abuse. The Administration recommended the formation of a working group ("Committee") comprised of City, County, and nonprofits serving survivors of gender-based violence to develop a set of recommendations to increase housing and childcare options.

ANALYSIS

The Committee, called "Housing Work Group" is comprised of the following organizations: County Office of Supportive Housing, City of San José Housing Department, County Office of Gender-based Violence, the County Human Trafficking Stakeholder Group, YWCA, Next Door Solutions, Community Solutions, Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) and Maitri. The primary objective is to ensure a continuum of culturally responsive policies, services, and support that prioritize survivors' wellbeing from crisis to long-term stability. The outcome of the Committee is to develop a set of recommendations that ultimately increase housing and childcare options.

The Committee’s kick-off meeting was May 26, 2021, and it was primarily introductory to establish key themes, challenges, opportunities and develop a preliminary work plan. Below is a summary of the challenges and opportunities the Committee discussed;

Challenges

- Funding: most funding available is for permanent housing; it takes time to get new development underway, complicated financing, and California Tax Credit Allocation Committee requirements;
- Confidentiality: ensuring confidentiality in compliance with Violence Against Women Act;
- Framing: the philosophical local system framing for housing is to address homelessness, not to serve survivors of gender-based violence; and
- Systems: addressing systems challenges such as ensuring the confidentiality of referrals between the coordinated assessment in the homeless system and the confidential queue for survivors of gender-based violence.

Opportunities

- Funding: there is funding available with State sources such as Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention and local sources such as City Measure E and County Measure A;
- Systems: there is a coordinated housing system countywide with existing opportunities for survivors of gender-based violence.

During the initial meeting, the Committee also identified additional data needs it will work on, specifically:

- understanding the average household size to inform the appropriate unit sizes needed for future affordable developments;
- quantifying demand for shelter beds in the confidential queue and identifying the unmet need.

The Committee also created three subcommittees: 1) emergency shelter, 2) transitional housing and 3) permanent affordable housing. Each subcommittee focuses on identifying policy recommendations or funding opportunities to increase emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent affordable housing. Each of the subcommittees have met at least once over the summer or fall.

Below is the Committee’s preliminary work plan:

| Meeting | Purpose | Timeline |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Housing Work Group Meeting #1 | Kickoff, develop work plan | May 2021 |
| Subcommittee Meetings | Identify needs, opportunities, and focus areas | August – November 2021 |

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| Housing Work Group Meeting #2 | Report out from subcommittees; Discuss childcare needs | November 4, 2021 |
| Affordable Housing Developer/County/City/DV Provider Meetings | Identify opportunities for permanent housing | November – December 2021 |
| Subcommittee Meetings | Refine data/research, develop initial recommendations | January – April 2022 |
| Housing Work Group Meeting #3 | Develop initial recommendations | April – May 2022 |

Next Steps

The Committee has not yet identified a work plan to address childcare needs and opportunities, however, the meeting on November 4, 2021 will have a focus on the topic. Finally, the Committee anticipates having a preliminary set of recommendations in Spring 2022.

COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the City Attorney's Office.

/s/
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Director, Housing

The primary author of this memorandum is Ragan Henninger, Deputy Director. For questions, please contact ragan.henninger@sanjoseca.gov.