

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2021**

**MINUTE ORDER NO. 4**

**SUBJECT: RECEIVE UPDATE ON THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELESS SOLUTIONS AND EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES, ADOPT THE FRAMEWORK FOR ENDING HOMELESSNESS, AND DIRECT QUARTERLY REPORTS ON THE PROGRESS MADE ON IMPLEMENTING THE FRAMEWORK FOR ENDING HOMELESSNESS (DISTRICTS: ALL)**

**OVERVIEW**

Over the last several years, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors (Board) has demonstrated its commitment to housing and supportive services that address the needs of people experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. On April 6, 2021 (06) the Board established the Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities (HSEC) within the County of San Diego (County) Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). The new department launched on July 1, 2021, and consists of the Office of Equitable Communities, the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs and the Office of Homeless Solutions.

The HHS has developed a framework to operationalize the Board's guiding principles on homelessness that align the existing work throughout the region to assist people experiencing homelessness or at-risk of experiencing homelessness, with the ultimate goal of ending homelessness. The Framework for Ending Homelessness (Framework) is anchored in five strategic domains: Root Cause and Upstream Prevention, Diversion and Mitigation, Services, Treatment and Outreach, Emergency/Interim Housing and Resources, Permanent Housing and Support. Additionally, each of the five strategic domains is driven by five key commitments that guide the County's approach: Person-Centered, Data, Regional Collaboration, Sustainability, and Equity.

The Framework encompasses the County's ongoing work and provides a vision to support forward, collaborative and impactful progress. Today's action requests the Board to receive the update on the Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities and to adopt the Framework for Ending Homelessness.

This item supports the County of San Diego's *Live Well San Diego* vision of healthy, safe, and thriving communities by improving the lives of persons at-risk of and experiencing homelessness through enhanced funding, innovative new programming as well as creating a framework to guide existing and future regional efforts. In addition, this effort supports the Framework for Our Future which prioritizes communities and populations in San Diego that have been historically left behind.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

1. Receive the update on the Department of Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities.
2. Adopt the Framework for Ending Homelessness.

3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to report back to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors quarterly on the progress made on implementing the Framework for Ending Homelessness.

### **EQUITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

According to The Regional Taskforce on Homelessness, in 2020 there were at least 27,390 individuals who experienced homelessness in San Diego County. Additionally, the San Diego region conducts a Point-in-Time Count, which identifies the number of individuals living on the streets or in emergency shelters on one specific designated day of the year. In the 2020 count, 7,638 individuals were identified as living on the streets or in shelters throughout the county. Of those who were unsheltered, 58 percent reported having a disability and 27 percent were 55 years or older. Unified under a County of One approach, the County of San Diego is dedicated to addressing the root causes of homelessness and providing preventative and supportive services to the most vulnerable residents. The Framework for Ending Homelessness (Framework) outlines the path toward building the capacity to advance the San Diego County Board of Supervisors priority of addressing homelessness.

People of color are disproportionately impacted among those experiencing homelessness, with 27.2 percent identifying as Black or African American-roughly five times the proportion of African Americans in the region-3.4 percent identified as American Indian or Alaska Native-which is nearly three times the proportion in the region-and 2.8 percent identifying as Asian. Individuals at-risk of or experiencing homelessness, impacted residents, community partners and other key stakeholders will be engaged, and their feedback will be sought and incorporated when appropriate in implementing the Framework.

Ensuring racial and social equity in all aspects of homelessness prevention and response is one of the key principles that guide the Framework. Additionally, securing equitable homeless housing, supports and funding will assist those who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness throughout San Diego County. Therefore, it is anticipated that the Framework will provide needed housing and supports to residents who are disproportionality represented in the homeless system including justice involved individuals, individuals with a range of health and social needs, as well as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). In general, the incidence of Black, Native Americans and other persons of color experiencing homelessness mirrors the disparities found at the broader community levels.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

While there is no direct, immediate fiscal impact associated with today's recommendation to adopt the Framework for Ending Homelessness (Framework), items to expand and advance current efforts within each of the strategic domains will be brought forward for Board action as required in the future. The County of San Diego has made significant investments to address homelessness, including ongoing and increased funding for outreach teams, services and treatment, short-term beds including emergency shelter and bridge housing, and mid and long-term housing including much-needed rental assistance and affordable housing development. Investments will continue to increase with the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds specifically set aside for homeless services and interventions, as well as ARPA dollars allocated for efforts that touch upon upstream areas of the Framework's strategic domains including services such as eviction counseling and outreach/prevention and direct cash assistance. Also, new funding is available through the State that will aid in various areas of the Framework including Project Homekey to assist in purchasing and converting buildings into interim or permanent housing, and Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention funds that can be used flexibly to support homeless strategies across multiple strategic domains. These new resources will be coordinated with existing funding to maximize investments in alignment with the Framework.

**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**

N/A

**ACTION:**

ON MOTION of Supervisor Vargas, seconded by Supervisor Fletcher, the Board of Supervisors took action as recommended.

AYES: Vargas, Anderson, Lawson-Remer, Fletcher, Desmond

State of California)  
County of San Diego) §

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original entered in the Minutes of the Board of Supervisors.

ANDREW POTTER  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors



**Signed**  
**by** Andrew Potter