



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

File Number:
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Agenda Item Number: 2

Agenda Date: May 26, 2022

In Control: Planning and Community Development Committee

DEPARTMENT: Department of Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

Briefing and update on the strategic plan to respond to homelessness in San Antonio and Bexar County.

SUMMARY:

Staff will provide a briefing and update on the Strategic Plan to Respond to Homelessness in San Antonio and Bexar County. The Homeless Strategic Plan was presented to City Council in December 2020, with implementation ongoing over the next five years.

An update was last presented to the Planning and Community Development Committee in October 2021. An overview of the Homeless Response System and its connection to housing was also provided to the Committee on May 9, 2022. This briefing item will include an overview of the plan's priority recommendations, status on actions taken to date, and next steps.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In December 2020, City Council approved the Strategic Plan to Respond to Homelessness in San Antonio and Bexar County. This plan was a result of a months-long process, coordinated by consultant Homebase, to analyze community data and gather input from a wide range of stakeholders. The plan is intended to be a five-year vision with actionable steps for our community to reduce homelessness in San Antonio.

The Homeless Strategic Plan is an effort to coordinate the work of the many nonprofits, government agencies, congregations, and community members who are dedicated to alleviating homelessness. The strategic plan was adopted by the South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH) as the community's strategic plan. SARAH and the DHS will continue reporting on progress of the plan's goals and coordinate system-level policies, while community agencies continue to work on implementing the following key recommendations.

- Expanding and improving street outreach
- Developing affordable and supportive housing options
- Increasing consumer engagement and equity
- Improving public awareness and reducing stigma
- Engaging the judicial system to develop diversion programs

ISSUE:

Key focus areas for implementation in 2022 include the following: expanding and improving street outreach; developing supportive and affordable housing options; increasing focus on consumer engagement and equity; improving public awareness of the homeless response system to reduce stigmas; and further engage the judicial system to develop diversion programs.

Since the last update to the Planning and Community Development Committee in October 2021, staff and community partners have made progress in key areas of the strategic plan priorities and recommendations. This briefing item will include a status update on actions taken to date and short-term and long-term goals.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for discussion purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for discussion purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for discussion purposes only.