

AGENDA ITEM #4

POSTING LANGUAGE: Briefing and possible action on the strategic plan update to respond to homelessness in San Antonio and Bexar County. [Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager; Melody Woosley, Director, Human Services]

MEETING: Planning and Community Development Committee

DATE: October 28, 2021

DEPARTMENT: Human Services

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Melody Woosley, Director

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City-wide

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

The briefing will include an overview of the plan's priority recommendations, status on actions taken to date, and next steps toward full plan implementation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In December 2020, the Department of Human Services (DHS) presented to City Council 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 and actionable steps for our community to reduce homelessness in San Antonio.

The plan's key recommendations are: expanding street outreach efforts and coordination; increasing affordable and supportive housing options; coordinating a leadership impact group; connecting unsheltered populations through low-barrier options; increasing consumer engagement and equity; and conducting a frequent user system engagement study.

The goal of San Antonio's homeless response system is to ensure that homelessness is rare, brief if experienced, and nonrecurring. No single agency can accomplish the goal alone, and 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 seeing this vision become reality. The strategic plan was adopted by the South Alamo Regional Alliance for the Homeless (SARAH) as the community strategic plan. SARAH will report on progress in achieving the plan's goals and coordinate system-level policies, while the City and all community agencies work to implement key recommendations.

ISSUE:

This briefing will include an overview of the plan's priority recommendations, status on actions taken to date, and next steps toward full plan implementation.

ALTERNATIVES: This item is for briefing purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT: This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION: This item is for briefing purposes only.