

7800 Katella Avenue
Stanton, CA 90680



P | (714) 890-4277
F | (714) 890-1443



HShinheydorn@StantonCA.gov
www.Stantonca.gov

Date:
September 13, 2022

**Presiding Judge of the
Superior Court**

700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Honorable Judge Erick L. Larsh,

The City of Stanton received the 2021-2022 Orange County Grand Jury report entitled "How is Orange County Addressing Homelessness?". As required by California Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, the City of Stanton is responding to the findings and recommendations included in the report.

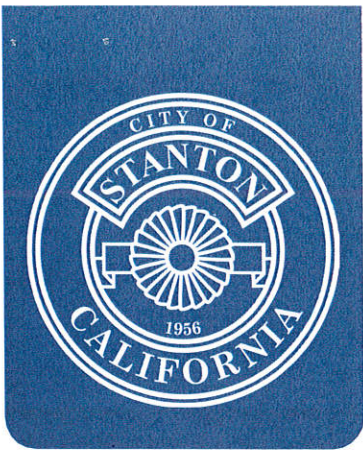
Findings

F3: The County of Orange and cities within Orange County have been inconsistent in collaboration for support of shelters and services, which has resulted in missed opportunities to end homelessness.

Response: The Respondent disagrees with the findings.

The thirteen (13) North Orange County Service Planning Area cities, which includes the City of Stanton, have designed a system of care for support of outreach and shelter activities to address homelessness. Efforts included coordinating the different network systems of resources and services:

- Developing one network system through the implementation of a regional street homeless outreach and engagement services program across the 13 cities utilized for referrals and case management.
- A warm hand-off between public safety and community-based organizations to ensure the right resources are being provided for the right person at the right time.
- Spring 2018: Inaugural month-long, by-name Homeless Census Report resulting in a census of 1,837 in North Orange County, of which 1,324 provided their individual unique identifiers to track their progress (By-Name Registry).
- Spring 2021: From the 2018 1,324 By-Name Registry, over 628 exited homelessness and entered into housing and 581 have engaged in case management.
- The By-Name Registry allowed service providers to utilize a software application - Outreach Grid - to effectively streamline support for transient homeless individuals to match them with relevant care and housing.



- Significantly reduced the amount of time public safety officers or service workers searched for resources and decreased the inability to find a client.
- Shared responsibility with a common agenda and vision by entering a Memorandum of Understanding amongst the participating cities to determine governance, cost sharing and operational responsibilities in the creation of two regional Navigation Centers.
- Established the first-of-its-kind bed shelter reservation management system application to coordinate availability in Navigation Centers to ensure that beds are available and ready for use in real time.
- The City of Stanton also hosted Project Roomkey with 72 units in a non-congregate setting during the State's pandemic-driven operation of the project through a collaborative effort with the County and community-based organizations.

F4: There are an insufficient number of rental units available to those exiting Emergency Shelters, resulting in the majority returning to homelessness when leaving the shelter.

Response: The Respondent partially agrees with the findings.

The County's Coordinated Entry System is intended to streamline access and referrals to housing opportunities to support people experiencing homelessness in accessing permanent housing. In addition to constraints in the housing market, additional barriers such as lack of income, criminal backgrounds, and lower credit scores add another layer of complexity, delaying housing and more importantly stabilization. Within that context, the City of Stanton was the first city in Orange County to collaborate with the State's Homekey Program, resulting in 132 non-congregate interim housing units which are now transitioning to permanent supportive housing units. During the second round of Homekey Program funding, the City of Stanton will add an additional 20 permanent supportive housing units serving the chronically homeless, veterans and those with mental health-related issues. This would not have been possible without the long-standing partnerships with the County, community-based organizations, and the City Council supporting the funding of such coordinated endeavors.

Moreover, the City of Stanton has also invested in the hiring of four full-time Homeless Outreach Coordinators to conduct street-level homeless outreach and engagement services including the coordination of case management and housing navigation resources to prevent a return to homelessness.

Recommendations

R4: By July 1, 2024, the County of Orange and cities should collaborate to open facilities that can house people with severe and persistent mental illness and addiction issues in a secure setting.



Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

The City of Stanton, through its Homekey participation and investment, will be contributing 152 permanent supportive housing units which will also serve those with severe and persistent mental illness by late summer of 2023.

R5: By July 1, 2023, the County of Orange, cities and CoC should collaborate to encourage the development of housing affordable to individuals exiting the emergency shelters in Orange County.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

Since August 2020, the City of Stanton has been a paragon for the collaborative model in the development of affordable housing and has inspired other cities to participate in the second round of Homekey funding opportunities. Dedicated staff from the City of Stanton, County, and community-based organizations created a new model of unified responsibility with a single-entry point for communication, coordination of tasks, and integration of disparate data to obtain State funding to produce permanent supportive housing units.

R6: By December 1, 2022, the County of Orange, cities and CoC should collaborate to increase the number of housing opportunities for Transitional Aged Youth.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

Currently, through its participation in the North Orange County Public Safety Collaborative as its fiscal agent, the City of Stanton funds community-based organizations such as HIS-OC that operates 8 male beds for Transitional Aged Youth.

Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Hannah Shin-Heydorn, City Manager, at (714) 890-4277 or via email at hshinheydorn@StantonCA.gov.

Respectfully,

David J. Shawver
Mayor

Cc: Orange County Grand Jury | 700 Civic Center Drive West, Santa Ana, CA 92701