



September 20, 2022

Honorable Erick L. Larsh, Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California, County of Orange
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO 2021-2022 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT
“HOW IS ORANGE COUNTY ADDRESSING HOMELESSNESS?”**

Dear Judge Larsh:

The City of Los Alamitos (City) has reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury Report titled “How is Orange County Addressing Homelessness?” As required by California Penal Code §933 and §933.05, the City is responding to the findings and recommendations included within the report. The required responses are contained below:

Findings and Responses:

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: Disagree

The collaboration between the County of Orange (County), Orange County Continuum of Care and cities in Orange County has resulted in the creation of several shelters and services that better address unsheltered homelessness.

Specifically, the twelve (12) North Service Planning Area (NSPA) cities have collaborated together with the County of Orange to construct and operate two (2) Navigation Centers to provide shelter and comprehensive wraparound services to our unsheltered residents of North County. The City of Los Alamitos believe this model has demonstrated to be effective at addressing the regional nature of homelessness within the North SPA.

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: Partially Agree

While progress is being made, there continues to be a growing deficit of affordable and low-income housing specifically allocated for those individuals leaving shelter environments. This deficit has been further exacerbated by terms/conditions that many individuals experiencing homelessness cannot meet (background check, credit check, 3 times/rent amount, etc.) There is also a lack of services to help individuals retain their housing once they move in. Many individuals who experience homelessness need ongoing high level, case management/wrap around support services for a period after moving into a permanent home.

Recommendations and Responses:

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

Response: Recommendation has been implemented

The 2022 Housing Inventory Count identified 2,793 units of permanent supportive housing. The Housing Funding Strategy has established a target for the development of 2,700 new supportive housing by 2025. The development of new permanent supportive housing and affordable housing is an existing and ongoing collaborative effort between the City of Los Alamitos, NSPA, and the County of Orange.

R5. By July 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: Recommendation has been implemented

The City of Los Alamitos, NSPA, the County of Orange, and the Orange County Continuum of Care have been working together to encourage the development of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing that supports the needs of people experiencing homelessness and accessing the system of care. This includes the development of housing opportunities that support participants exiting from emergency shelters into permanent housing.

To date, over 2,600 units of affordable and supportive housing have been completed. This number is being bolstered by different projects that are currently under construction or in progress of development throughout Orange County with the support and collaboration between the County of Orange and Cities. The City of Los Alamitos will continue to work with the NSPA, the County of Orange, and the Orange County Continuum of Care in order to develop additional affordable housing and permanent supportive housing units as part of the system of care.

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: Recommendation has been implemented

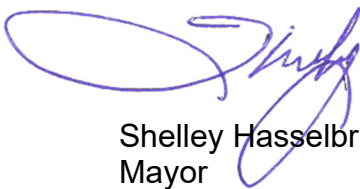
Since June 2020, County's Office of Care Coordination has worked to improve the homeless service delivery for transitional aged youth experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. The County provides oversight over the Coordinated Entry System and has worked to implement a separate process for transitional aged youth to be prioritized for available housing resources in Orange County. This has resulted in the implementation of a Transitional Aged Youth Registry, composed of youth participants experiencing homelessness in Orange County regardless of their household composition. Transitional aged youth service providers are invited to attend a collaborative case conferencing meeting to discuss individual cases, available housing resources, and dynamic prioritization through the Coordinated Entry System to ensure that the most vulnerable participants are receiving the most appropriate housing referrals.

The City of Los Alamitos supports the further deployment of housing resources, along with the solicitation of new housing resources, specifically designed to meet the needs of the transitional aged youth experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness in Orange County.

In the event that you need additional information regarding the City's responses, please contact City Manager, Chet Simmons, via email at csimmons@cityoflosalamitos.org.

Sincerely,

CITY OF LOS ALAMITOS


Shelley Hasselbrink
Mayor

