



## City Council Report

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**File ID:** 2018-00250

**February 27, 2018**

**Discussion Item 21**

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**Title:** Winter Triage Shelter Midseason Report [Oral Report]

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Receive and file.

**Contact:** Emily Halcon, Homeless Services Coordinator, (916) 808-7896; Andrew Geurkink, Program Analyst, (916) 808-7816, Office of the City Manager

**Presenter:** Andrew Geurkink, Program Analyst, (916) 808-7816, Office of the City Manager

**Attachments:**

1-Description/Analysis

## Description/Analysis

**Issue Detail:** The crisis of unsheltered homelessness is one that impacts an entire community, both those experiencing homelessness and the broader community of housed residents, businesses, and neighborhoods. According to the most recent Sacramento County Homeless Deaths Report, death rates among the unsheltered homeless population are four times that of the general population. While these deaths are spread essentially evenly over the course of a year, people experiencing homelessness are especially vulnerable during the cold, wet winter months. In response, the City opened the Winter Triage Shelter which added 200 seasonal shelter beds accessible by referral through the City's Police Impact teams and City outreach partners through the City's Pathways to Health + Home program. In addition to the Council motion to approve a funding agreement with Volunteers of America to serve as the Winter Triage Shelter operator, Council also approved the inclusion of a data and reporting package that would provide weekly updates on the triage shelter. City staff have produced a weekly data report which provides up to date program outcomes and an overview of guests enrolled. While the weekly data presents the community with some information on the progress of the triage shelter, a midseason report and final report will provide more extensive information on the triage shelter and its impacts to the community.

**Policy Considerations:** The contract for the Winter Triage Shelter requires active coordination with the homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) and participation in the community's coordinated entry and assessment program as well as the City's Pathways to Health and Home (Whole Person Care) pilot program. These programs align with the federal directive that funding for addressing homelessness follow a "housing first" approach and a part of a larger strategy to lowering barriers to accessing services. Housing first principles ensure that emergency shelter be provided with few to no barriers to access and focus on linking clients with permanent housing as quickly as possible. In housing first programs, supportive services are offered (but not required as a condition of tenancy) in shelter and ongoing to help people keep their housing and avoid returning to homelessness. This evidence-based approach is consistent with the strategies and funding priorities of the other public agencies working to end homelessness in Sacramento.

**Economic Impacts:** None

**Environmental Considerations:** None

**Sustainability:** None

**Commission/Committee Action:** None

**Rationale for Recommendation:** On October 24, 2017, Council approved a funding agreement with Volunteers of America (VOA) to serve as the operator for the City's Winter Triage Shelter. In addition to approving the funding agreement with VOA, Council requested that staff return after the program opened to provide an update on the program's status. Presented to Council is a status report on the Winter Triage Shelter spanning program operations from December 8, 2017 to February 16, 2018. This report provides an initial overview of activities and outcomes connected to triage shelter which have been coordinated through the City and its partner agencies through Pathways to Health + Home, Volunteers of America, and Downtown Streets Team, and the City's Front Street animal shelter. These activities and outcomes have been coordinated to address the needs of the triage shelter guests and the broader community.

**Financial Considerations:** None

**Local Business Enterprise (LBE):** Not applicable