



County of Santa Cruz

0213

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 500, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060-4069

(831) 454-2200 FAX: (831) 454-3262 TDD: (831) 454-2123

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AGENDA: 6/15/99

June 8, 1999

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: APPOINTMENT OF A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE REGIONAL
TASK FORCE ON REDUCING HOMELESSNESS

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is a letter from Kathy Espinoza-Howard, Chair of the Regional Task Force on Reducing Homelessness, inviting our County to make an appointment to the Task Force. I believe that the Board should take the opportunity to make an appointment to this position.

For the past year staff of the Human Resources Agency has been working on increasing Santa Cruz County's collaboration and cooperation with regional efforts to end homelessness, including the Bay Area Regional Initiative. As a result of these efforts, the Regional Task Force on Reducing Homelessness, which directs the work of the Regional Initiative, would now like to formalize Santa Cruz County's participation by inviting the appointment of a representative to the Task Force.

Launched in 1996 by a one-time, seven million dollar federal homeless demonstration grant, the Bay Area Regional Initiative supports and initiates regional, collaborative approaches to helping homeless people and reducing homelessness. In the first 24 months of the Initiative's operation, a number of innovative demonstration projects were funded, including a centralized regional network and information base, a multi-county training and enterprise partnership for the homeless, a holistic homeless youth service system, and a regional employment collaborative. These programs and projects have had a measurable impact in reducing homelessness in the Bay Area, and have provided a

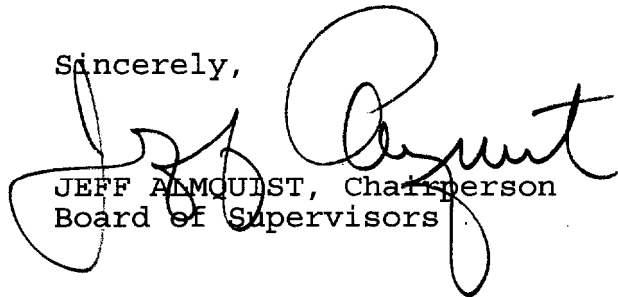
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
June 8, 1999
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foundation for maximizing existing resources and expertise. By adding a representative from Santa Cruz County, the Regional Task Force hopes to increase the opportunities for participation and collaboration between the communities in our region. The Task Force is also currently seeking continued federal funding both for existing projects and in order to expand the work of the Initiative and its projects where appropriate throughout the entire region.

The Regional Task Force is composed of staff from nine participating Bay Area counties and four cities, representatives from federal departments interested in homelessness and members from private foundations, the business and banking sector, the homeless community and organized labor. Clearly, the ideal Regional Task Force member from Santa Cruz County would be an individual with broad knowledge of homeless issues and concerns who will represent a regional point of view and be willing to inform the community and service providers about the opportunities and successes of the Regional Initiative. Based on the existing representation on the Task Force and the activities of representatives, I believe it is most appropriate for the appointment to be at a staff level. Sue Gilchrist, Human Resources Senior Analyst, has acted as the primary initial contact on regional collaboration efforts and acts as staff to the Continuum of Care Coordinating Group. Thus, I believe Ms. Gilchrist would be the appropriate person to represent the County on the Regional Task Force.

Representation on the Regional Task Force to Reduce Homelessness offers the opportunity for the County of Santa Cruz to benefit from the information and expertise of this innovative, regional partnership. In addition, our participation will ultimately result in the direction of additional resources towards our local community's efforts to address the complex and challenging problem of homelessness. Accordingly, I recommend that the Board appoint Sue Gilchrist of the Human Resources Agency as the Santa Cruz County representative to the **Regional Task Force** on Reducing Homelessness.

Sincerely,



JEFF ALMQUIST, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

JA:ted
Attachments

cc: Cecilia Espinola, Human Resources Agency Administrator
Sue Gilchrist, Human Resources Agency
Kathy Espinoza-Howard, Northern California Council for the
Community



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL for the COMMUNITY

"Leadership in Community Building"

000215

May 28, 1999

Board of Supervisors
Santa Cruz County
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Invitation to Appoint a County Representative to the Regional Task Force on Reducing Homelessness

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

For the past year, we have been working with Sue Gilchrist of the Santa Cruz County Human Resources Agency to incorporate Santa Cruz County in the Bay Area Regional Initiative (BARI). The Task Force that works to keep BARI going would like to formalize Santa Cruz County's participation by inviting your appointment of a Santa Cruz County representative to the Bay Area Regional Task Force on Reducing Homelessness (Regional Task Force).

The Regional Task Force is the guiding body of the Bay Area Regional Initiative (BARI). Launched in 1996 by a one-time, \$7 million federal homelessness demonstration grant, BARI initiates and supports regional, collaborative approaches to helping homeless people and reducing homelessness. Attached is a one-page fact that provides more detail about BARI and its successes to date.

Presently, the Regional Task Force is composed of 27 people, including representatives from federal departments interested in homelessness, nine participating Bay Area counties and four cities, the homeless community, private foundations, the business and banking sector, and organized labor. By adding a member from Santa Cruz County, we hope to bring the benefits of BARI to your community, and, to boost the collaboration on homelessness that is already building between our communities.

The ideal Regional Task Force representative from Santa Cruz County would be a Member of your Board of Supervisors who is particularly interested in homelessness, a local government staff person responsible for homelessness, or a homeless service provider coalition representative with a county-wide and regional perspective. To assist you in your choice, a list of ideal qualifications is attached.

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In guiding BARI, key functions of the Regional Task Force are to:

- award funds to existing and emerging regional, collaborative projects;
- monitor BARI projects;
- help develop new resources for BARI from federal, state, local, private, and other sources; and,
- the community participation needed for effective regional collaboration on reducing homelessness.

In the next year or two, we expect Regional Task Force membership to require attendance at four to five meetings per year, which typically take place in Oakland or San Francisco. Meetings usually last four or five hours, from 10 a.m. to 2 or 3 p.m. The next meeting is set for June 24, 1999.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new Members at the June 24 meeting, so we would appreciate your acting on this invitation as soon as possible. Please forward your appointee's name, title, organization, address, and phone number to:

Laura Escobar, BARI Administrator
 NCCC
 50 California Street, Suite 200
 San Francisco, CA 94111
 (415) 772-4380
 Fax #: (415) 391-9929

Thank you very much for your anticipated appointment. Adding Santa Cruz County to the nine counties and four cities that are already working together on BARI will definitely help us all defeat the scourge of homelessness that we all face together.

If you have any questions or need any further information, Laura Escobar or BARI Staff Member Tony Gardner, of HomeBase, at (415) 788-7961, x20, will be happy to help you.

Sincerely,

Kathy Espinoza-Howard

Kathy Espinoza-Howard
 Chair, Regional Task Force on
 Reducing Homelessness

Attachments

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List of Qualifications for Regional Task Force on Reducing Homelessness Member Bay Area Regional Initiative (BARI)

Participation on the Regional Task Force will involve:

- **attending 4-5 meetings per year (and possibly more). Next meeting is set for June 24;**
- **reading and ranking a large number of letters of intent and full proposals from applicants;**
- **articulating varying perspectives on proposed projects;**
- **working toward group consensus;**
- **assuming a regional point of view rather than the view of particular jurisdiction or constituency;**
- **recognizing, assessing, and choosing truly innovative, landmark projects;**
- **working with staff and consultants to raise resources to sustain BARI; and**
- **informing communities about the work and success of BARI.**

Regional Task Force staff support and technical assistance will be available as needed.

The Bay Area Regional Initiative 2 18

Executive Summary: Communities Working Together to Reduce Homelessness

The nation's first truly *intermetropolitan* homelessness strategy—the Bay Area Regional Initiative (BARI)—is now gathering speed in the San Francisco Bay Area. Eleven counties and four cities are working together. More than 15 nonprofit agencies are collaborating. A public-private Regional Task Force on Reducing Homelessness is providing vision and direction. Homeless and formerly homeless people helped create it. And HUD enthusiastically supports it—in 1996 with a two-year, \$7 million demonstration grant; in 1998, with a “Best Practices” award, naming it one of the top homeless plans in the nation.

BARI is supporting coordinated action that is regional ... that is collaborative ... that fills holes in local homeless “continuaums of care” ... that is innovative ... that really helps homeless people. Such as:

▼ **Earning, Income & Assets**

- Building for-profit, homeless-operated businesses.
- Employing homeless people in good wage, good benefit jobs.
- Gaining disability benefits for severely disabled homeless people.
- Creating Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) to help homeless people build assets.
 - ⇒ 1,542 homeless people got permanent jobs, most averaging \$8.47 per hour!
 - ⇒ 4,097 received employment help.
 - ⇒ 351 received disability benefits, saving counties \$4.54 million in relief and health costs! (all outcomes are for the first 24 months)

▼ **Home & Community**

- Converting NIMBY opposition to homeless housing into community support.
- Structuring perpetually revolving funding to catapult new housing and services.
- Composing Integrated Service Teams to keep disabled homeless people housed.
- Linking zoning and redevelopment planning among all communities.
 - ⇒ 942 disabled homeless people were aided with services in housing from 12 service teams.
 - ⇒ 10 new housing projects (379-person total capacity) were embraced by communities.
 - ⇒ 6 housing projects (171-person total capacity) were evaluated for revolving funding.

▼ **Life & Health**

- Speeding region-wide information and referral (I&R) onto the Internet Superhighway.
- Coordinating youth providers so that all homeless kids receive what they need.
- Pioneering outreach tactics to bring the hardest-to-reach homeless into services.
- Turning health care barriers into health care opportunities.
 - ⇒ 1,831 homeless youth got shelter, crisis intervention, and services.
 - ⇒ 1,037 youth received stable housing or family reunification.
 - ⇒ Region-wide, Internet-based I&R began revolutionizing how people receive help.

Local Agency Participation

BARI supports your local homeless service providers in the context of collaboration with their peers from across the region. Funding they receive through BARI allows them to fill gaps in the direct services they provide to homeless people in your community, while regional collaboration builds their capacity to respond to homelessness through access to cross-training and technical assistance, “best practices” and model program replication, joint policy change efforts, new technology and information, and better coordination. In this way, your local agencies may be benefiting from: replication of Integrated Service Teams and homeless enterprises; technical assistance and trainings on serving homeless youth, accessing disability benefits, setting up IDAs, and countering the NIMBY syndrome; access for clients to region-wide employment opportunities; and structural reform of the SSI application process. This and much, much more. BARI “raises all boats together,” strengthening the ability of each community to better serve homeless people.

The Need:

\$11.5 million per year for 10 years...

To show how a whole region can work together to solve a major social problem.

To demonstrate commitment to agencies' participation in BARI.

To meet the required HUD match.

To show what really works.