



To: ACC-OC Homelessness Task Force
From: ACC-OC Homelessness Planning Group
Subject: Framework for Work Plan
Date: March 24, 2016

It has been six months since the ACC-OC Homelessness Task Force was inaugurated in September 2015. Significant progress has taken place in this brief amount of time, and the forward momentum ought to continue. Consequently, it is in the best interest of the Homelessness Task Force to ratify a Work Plan to guide its actions and frame discussions going forward. What follows is a framework that can be added to or pared back, subject to the Task Force's recommendations.

1. **State Advocacy.** With the passage and ratification of Assembly Bill 109 and Proposition 47, the State of California unwittingly worsened homelessness across the state. Released from state prisons, criminal populations are now free to roam the streets and face dim prospects in both the job and housing markets. Reports confirm that this population has intermingled with the traditional homeless population, affecting it negatively in myriad ways. The Task Force recognizes that responding to the homelessness population will require resources beyond what Orange County and its cities can currently marshal and seek to advocate for legislation and funding from the state level.
2. **Research and Data.** Quantifying and researching the issue of homelessness in each of Orange County's communities is a vital step forward in concocting effective remediation strategies. Cities, in concert with non-profit organizations and academic institutions, should gather and analyze data on their homeless populations so that precious resources can be utilized to their fullest extent.
3. **Outreach and Sharing Knowledge.** It is clear that policies ratified by the State of California affect homeless communities throughout the state. While it is a truism that a policy solution for Orange County may not be an appropriate fit for municipalities and organizations in other parts of the state and vice versa, the Taskforce and our partners should communicate its knowledge and best practices to interested

organizations throughout Orange County. Similarly, the Taskforce should become acquainted with the solutions and initiatives from organizations outside Orange County in furtherance of alleviating homelessness.

4. **Housing Options.** The Taskforce acknowledges and commends Orange County's decision to build and sustain its first year-round homeless shelter. This positive step forward notwithstanding, the shelter constitutes a temporary reprieve for homeless residents, rather than a long-term solution. In one of the most expensive counties in the state in which to reside, it is increasingly becoming clear that the current supply of housing is inadequate for average residents, to say nothing of the homeless community. For those homeless residents who are able and willing to rise above their current condition, permanent affordable housing options must be made available.
5. **Communication to Constituencies.** The Taskforce recognizes that communication with various constituencies—especially the voting public—is a prerequisite for the creation and eventual execution of sound public policy solutions. The Taskforce will be transparent and forthright with the public on policy matters related to homelessness, seeking suggestions, improvement, and buy-in.