



County of San Mateo

Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Department: COUNTY MANAGER

Board Meeting Date: 1/29/2019

Special Notice / Hearing: None
Vote Required: Majority

To: Honorable Board of Supervisors
From: Michael P. Callagy, County Manager
Subject: County Manager's Report #1 of 2019

RECOMMENDATION:

Accept this information report.

BACKGROUND:

This report will provide you with updates on a variety of County initiatives focusing on Public Safety, Health and Human Services, Community Services and Performance, in addition to reports on legislation and issues that require your action. We also will keep you and the public informed about new services, upcoming events and general updates.

DISCUSSION:

Public Safety

Court awarded state grant for DUI program

The San Mateo Superior Court was awarded a \$300,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety to support its Multiple Driving Under the Influence (MDUI) Court, the most recent of our county's collaborative court programs. This is the second year the MDUI Court received a grant from the state office. The program, which is a collaboration between the court and County departments including the District Attorney's Office, Probation and Behavior Health and Recovery Services, is in its second year. The program provides intensive supervision to second and third time offenders while connecting them with substance abuse recovery resources. So far, the court has served more than 225 participants and has an 82 percent graduation rate with only two individuals re-offending while under supervision.

Health and Human Services

Human Services Agency to lead biennial homeless count

The San Mateo County Human Services Agency and more than 300 volunteers will fan out across the county early Thursday morning for the Biennial One Day Homeless Count, a federally-mandated collection of data about those experiencing homelessness. The point-in-time snapshot data is compared with historical counts and is required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The team of volunteers include community-based providers, members of the

public, and County staff, assisted by community guides with current or former experience of homelessness. The volunteers will also survey those they count, collecting the data via a new mobile app. A final report will be published in June.

Community Services

County Census efforts launches key committee, chosen for national presentation

The County's Census team has been busy - and recognized. The County's Office of Community Affairs mobilized the Complete Count Committee, a group of nonprofit, community and business partners who are working to ensure a complete and accurate count of county residents. The committee, which is co-chaired by the County, SAMCEDA and Thrive Alliance, held its first meeting this month to lay the groundwork for how to reach hard to count and least likely to respond populations.

The Office of Community Affairs also learned that the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) chose it to present on local Census efforts at its 2019 annual conference in Nashville. OCA's proposal on the County's innovative approach will draw on case examples, strategies and tools that local government professionals can use to ensure a complete Census 2020 count while building civic engagement and community efforts.

Revenue Services launches new collection website

The County's Revenue Services division recently launched a new, more easily navigated website to help the public when they need to understand their billing and make a payment for a wide variety of services including fees and/or fines for the courts, medical billing, probation, environmental health and public assistance overpayments. The new site, [revenueservices.smcgov.org](http://www.revenueservices.smcgov.org) <<http://www.revenueservices.smcgov.org>>, offers all pages in Spanish as well as English and also includes information about establishing realistic repayment plans for those who need that assistance. The goal of the redesign is to better serve both County department clients and the community with clarity and compassion.

News, Updates & Events

County seeing impacts of federal shutdown on local services

As the federal government shutdown stretches into its latest week (as of this publication) County departments with programs tied back to its funding and/or services are preparing for local impacts.

The County's Housing Authority and some of our housing development activities rely on a fully functioning Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Prior to the shutdown, HUD staff front loaded enough funding for the months of January and February which will keep the major Housing Authority programs intact until March 1. For example, the Housing Authority is able to keep paying the landlords for voucher rent to 4,300 households through the end of February. The amount of subsidy required to assist those households is approximately \$6 million dollars per month. Other programs like HOME or CDBG grants are not immediately affected with most being funded through June 30, 2019. The Housing Authority is developing contingency plans for the month of March and beyond if this stalemate continues.

Your Board acts as the Board of Commissioners for the Housing Authority and will need to approve any program or policy changes required if this situation continues past the end of February. Another concern, is that with most of HUD's staff on furlough, some administrative tasks often crucial to closing affordable housing development financing may cause delays and as a result increased cost to projects currently in our pipeline.

The Human Services Agency reports that the state issued February CalFresh benefits to 19,399 active local clients by Jan. 20, 2019 as an early workaround to the shutdown but that there will be none issued in March or beyond once the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/CalFresh) exhausts all federal funding. HSA has also been working with the CMO's Communication team on social media posts directing these clients and federal employees in need of food assistance to core agencies and the Second Harvest Food Bank.

The Health System is keeping an active eye on WIC (Women, Infants and Children) which provides support for breastfeeding mothers and nutritional support for children. The program is federally funded, state managed and locally implemented. Health WIC services remain open and available currently.