

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Social Services	(2) MEETING DATE 2/26/2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Laurel Weir 781-1833	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the 5Cities Homeless Coalition authorizing them to operate a Warming Center at the Department of Social Services Building in Arroyo Grande during inclement weather.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the 5Cities Homeless Coalition to use a room at the Department of Social Services Building in Arroyo Grande to provide temporary, overnight shelter to homeless persons during inclement weather.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) N/A	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$0.00	(9) BUDGETED? N/A
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. _____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A Date _____	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Emily Jackson			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Social Services / Laurel Weir 781-1833

DATE: 2/26/2013

SUBJECT: Request to approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the 5Cities Homeless Coalition authorizing them to operate a Warming Center at the Department of Social Services Building in Arroyo Grande during inclement weather

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of Supervisors approve a Memorandum of Understanding with the 5Cities Homeless Coalition to use a room at the Department of Social Services Building in Arroyo Grande to provide temporary, overnight shelter to homeless persons during inclement weather.

DISCUSSION

During particularly cold or rainy weather, persons sleeping unsheltered are at increased risk of hypothermia or related health problems. During periods of extended rain, unsheltered homeless persons may have difficulty drying out wet clothes. Wearing wet clothes may increase heat lost from a person's body by as much as eight times the normal rate.

There currently is no overnight shelter in the South County for homeless individuals. A Warming Center is available in San Luis Obispo, but persons who are homeless in South County may have difficulty getting to the shelter in San Luis Obispo or may be afraid to leave the area in which they are staying. The 5Cities Homeless Coalition has polled a small sample of homeless persons in the South County and the majority of respondents indicated they would stay at a Warming Center in South County if one were available, but would not go to a Warming Center in San Luis Obispo, even if transportation were provided.

To create a warm and dry place for homeless persons in South County during inclement weather, the 5Cities Homeless Coalition approached the Department of Social Services (DSS) and requested to use the conference room and adjacent restrooms at the DSS building in Arroyo Grande. 5Cities offered to provide staff and volunteers for the Warming Center and to oversee all operations of the Warming Center at no cost to the County. In addition, both 5Cities and the County have contacted the City of Arroyo Grande to inform the City of the County's intent to allow the use of the Department of Social Services building in Arroyo Grande as a temporary, overnight shelter during cold weather or periods of rain expected to last for at least two days. The City did not express objections to the shelter, but did request that following the approval by the County, the 5Cities Homeless Coalition seek approval through the local city process as well.

The terms of the MOU developed between the County and 5Cities include the following:

- The MOU will be in effect until December 31, 2013.
- The Warming Center will be opened only on nights where 1. the temperature is forecast to be 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below; or 2. there is forecast a 50% chance of rain for the night and the subsequent night.
- The Warming Center will operate from 5:30 pm to 7 am on nights when it is open.
- The DSS Arroyo Grande Conference Room (including adjoining restrooms) may be used as the location of the Warming Center and there shall be no entry into other portions of the DSS Arroyo Grande building. Designated staff members, contractors and volunteers shall ensure that all rules and regulations of the DSS Arroyo Grande Office are complied with during use of the Warming Center.

- The 5Cities Homeless Coalition is responsible for notifying DSS Arroyo Grande Staff of the intent to open the shelter on any given night. Set up, cleaning and restoring rooms to original conditions will be the responsibility of the 5Cities Homeless Coalition.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The Memorandum of Understanding was negotiated between the Department of Social Services and the 5Cities Homeless Coalition. It has been reviewed by the County Counsel's office and the County Administrative office. The Office of Risk Management has reviewed the 5Cities Homeless Coalition's insurance policy to ensure that it provides adequate coverage for this arrangement. Both the County and 5Cities Homeless Coalition have consulted with the City of Arroyo Grande regarding this request.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations associated with this item. The 5Cities Homeless Coalition will provide the staff and volunteers to operate the Warming Center. The Coalition will also be responsible for ensuring the room and bathrooms are clean each morning and addressing any plumbing or other issues that may occur during the operation of the Warming Center.

RESULTS

The immediate results of the action requested today will be to provide shelter from the elements on nights when the weather poses a danger to unsheltered homeless persons.

ATTACHMENTS

1. MOU Warming Center