



CITY OF POMONA COUNCIL REPORT

August 6, 2018

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Linda Lowry, City Manager

Submitted by: Benita De Frank, Neighborhood Services Director

Subject: **Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of \$357,700 in Mental Health Services Act Funding from Tri City Mental Health Center to Reserve 28 Beds Annually to Eligible Homeless Clients at the Homeless Services Center and Amending the FY 2018-19 Emergency Shelter Operating Budget to Appropriate Said Funds for Operations, Equipment, and Administrative Costs**

OVERVIEW

Recommendations - That the City Council adopt the attached resolution:

1. Authorizing the acceptance of \$357,700 in Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding from Tri City Mental Health (Tri City);
2. Approving the City of Pomona to enter into an agreement allowing Tri City to reserve and pay for its exclusive use of 28 beds annually to eligible homeless clients at the new Homeless Services Center;
3. Amending the FY 2018-19 Operating Budget by receiving and appropriating \$321,930 in MHSA funding to Fund 215-1791-XXXXX-58681 for operations and \$35,770 in MHSA funding to Fund 215-1702-XXXXX-58681 for administrative costs; and
4. Authorizing the City Manager to execute the agreement and any other documentation requested for acceptance of the award subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

Fiscal Impact- Adoption of the attached resolution will bring \$357,700 in Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding to be used in the operation of the Homeless Services Center. This action will amend the FY 2018-19 Operating Budget by receiving and appropriating \$321,930 in MHSA funding to Fund 215-1791-XXXXX-58681 for operations and \$35,770 in MHSA funding to Fund 215-1702-XXXXX-58681 for administrative costs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On July 18, 2018, the Tri City Mental Health Governing Board authorized the Executive Director of Tri City to enter into an Agreement with the City of Pomona to reserve and pay the sum of \$357,700 for Tri City's exclusive use of 28 shelter beds in the City's Year-Round Emergency Shelter beginning on September 1, 2018. These shelter beds will be used to accommodate approximately 100 eligible homeless adults annually, providing a bed, food, case management and other coordinated services identified to assist homeless persons in obtaining permanent housing.

BACKGROUND

Annually, Tri-City expends approximately \$500,000 in Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Full Service Partnership (FSP) funding, to provide housing assistance to approximately 100 homeless individuals, experiencing serious mental illness, that meet program eligibility criteria.

As part of the MHSA program, Tri City operates under the “housing first” philosophy and, historically, at the start of FSP treatment services, places homeless clients, aged 18+, in local motels, sober living homes, and at the Pomona Armory Winter Shelter when there is available space. Placing individual persons who are early on in treatment in motels and sober living homes presents various challenges and in general is not conducive for many in helping them to achieve stability in order to most effectively engage in on-going treatment services. While the Winter Shelter is the preferred choice under many circumstances, currently the 115 beds of the Shelter are filled on a ‘first come, first serve’ basis creating limited access for Tri City clients at times.

With the opening of the City of Pomona’s Year-Round Shelter, Tri City will now have an optimally effective choice in providing housing to individual clients who are 18 and older and enrolled in its MHSA programs.

DISCUSSION

From July 2016 through November 2017, over 300 homeless adults from Pomona were assessed through the County’s Coordinated Entry System (CES). 27%, of those assessed, reported having mental health issues. On June 1, 2018, the results of the 2018 Homeless Point-in-Time Count for San Gabriel Valley supported these numbers, reporting a 30.5% occurrence of serious mental illness among single adult who were homeless. With this in mind, the City has been actively working with Tri City, as the local Mental Health Authority and a Homeless Services Center Site Partner, to develop programming and planning for the opening of the Homeless Services Center.

Because demographics show that approximately 1 in 3 of the homeless individuals who will be utilizing the Homeless Service Center will be experiencing a serious mental illness, Tri City approached the City early on with a plan to reserve 28 beds at the new Emergency Shelter. They proposed to pay \$35 a day for each bed or \$357,700 annually. The original term of this agreement will be for 10 months (\$296,940) from September 2018 to June 2019, however, the additional \$60,760 will be used by the City in startup costs to buy the actual beds, the partitions and storage units for each bed, and office furniture for the three reserved service offices once Phase II of the Homeless Service Center is built. On average, emergency shelter programming has a length of stay of 3-4 months per client. Thus, 28 beds will serve approximately 100 Tri City clients per year.

Reserving these beds will allow Tri City to refer directly to the Homeless Service Center and remain actively involved with treatment services and case management. In addition, it will decrease Tri City’s reliance on motel vouchers and sober living units to meet the need of housing their clients who are unsheltered. Finally, as a Site Partner of the Homeless Service Center, Tri City will be onsite 5 days a week to provide qualified personnel to develop mental health programming and curriculum to be implemented on site for all shelter participants.

In return, the City has contracted with Volunteers of America, as the Homeless Service Center Site Operator, to provide the following services directly to all participants in the shelter program, including Tri City's MHSA referred clients:

- a. Twenty-four (24) hour bed operation of facility,
- b. General Case Management,
- c. Residential Supervision,
- d. Crisis Intervention,
- e. Security,
- f. Meals,
- g. Restrooms & Showers.

Tri City's Governing Board has already approved the use of \$357,700 in MHSA funds to purchase 28 shelter beds and if City Council authorizes the City to enter into an agreement with Tri City, these reserved beds will be available once the Homeless Services Center is opened.

Attachment: Resolution

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