

Countywide Summit on Homeless Solutions

On Thursday, February 22, 2018, Supervisor Keith Carson hosted a Countywide Summit on Homeless Solutions at the San Leandro Library. Staff from the City's Housing Authority and Police Department attended this day-long summit. The summit was an inspiring and thought-provoking day. Activities included listening to individuals who have experienced homelessness, exploring best practices, and participating in a hackathon to develop new ideas to tackle homelessness.

Highlights from the day included:

Facts and Figures:

- Panel of homeless individuals reminded the audience that stability is different for each person and providers shouldn't set goals based on their idea of stability.
- 70% of Alameda County's homeless population are in Berkeley or Oakland.
- Suburban poverty is increasing and now putting a strain on non-profit service providers with long distances between clients.

Themes, New Ideas, and Best Practices:

- Business community needs to step up as homelessness impacts their bottom line – Oakland and San Jose challenged businesses to use their savings from the new federal tax rates to provide low-interest loans for affordable housing development.
- Social and Human Service Facility Fee – Livermore has done a nexus study and implemented this fee.
- Co-location of services is critical; homeless individuals often do not have access to transportation to get to a number of different offices/appointments.
- San Francisco and Santa Rosa have developed express partnerships with Public Health Departments to focus on highest users of medical services.
- We must better explain the resource challenge to communities and the personal stories of how people become homeless.
- Living wages are important for those on the brink of homelessness – current minimum wage differs City-by-City, resulting in some people traveling very far to San Francisco and other places with higher minimum wage.
- Need to develop Countywide best practices for engagement with encampments – both for community members who may interact with encampment residents as well as staff looking to work with or relocate encampment residents.