Recommendation: Approve a no-cost Amendment #3 for the CV Housing First program, shifting prevention funds to diversion tasks; and

Issue a letter of support for Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez's request to appoint a member of his staff to lead the Homelessness Collaborative implementation.

Background: As the committee is aware, CVAG has been working collaboratively with Riverside County Supervisor V. Manuel Perez and the Desert Healthcare District/Foundation to create a continued partnership and work to end homelessness in the Coachella Valley.

The CVAG Homelessness Committee hosted Barbara Poppe at its January 16 meeting. She presented the results of a study that was commissioned by the District/Foundation, along with recommendations to advance the end homelessness in the Coachella Valley. Attached is a memo that summarizes her immediate recommendations. As a result of the meeting, the CVAG Homelessness Committee, along with the District/Foundation, are eager to begin the work.

CVAG and District/Foundation staff have worked closely to determine best steps forward. First, the report recommends the establishment of a Collaborative to bring stakeholders together collectively with the same common understanding. At the same time, the District/Foundation board, per the January 22nd board meeting, is considering funding three staff positions suggested by Barbara Poppe to initiate the collaborative work. To continue momentum, both staffs have explored options to align their work and is recommending a conservative short-term approach. Supervisor Perez has offered to CVAG and the District/Foundation the appointment of Greg Rodriguez, his Government Relations and Public Policy Advisor, to work as the Executive Director of the Collaborative. Under this arrangement, Mr. Rodriguez would dedicate 75 percent of his time to align and initiate the Collaborative work. The County would compensate Mr. Rodriguez for 25 percent of his salary and benefits, and for his time spent on behavioral health, physical health and housing which are all integral to addressing homelessness and play key roles in the collaborative. A request would be made to the District/Foundation Board to fund the remainder of the costs.

Second, Ms. Poppe recommends keeping focus on those living on the streets and seeking emergency shelter. As it pertains specifically to CV Housing First, Ms. Poppe recommends immediately shifting prevention focus to diversion efforts through outreach and resource line. Diversion (also known as Assisted Rapid Response) is providing immediate emergency
assistance using problem solving counseling to navigate through a person’s housing crisis and mediating with family, friends, or other supporting organization or persons to assist this person immediately, rather than entering shelter.

**Fiscal Impact:** There is no fiscal impact to CVAG as it pertains to the recommended staffing for the Collaborative.

The contract amendment has no additional costs to CVAG. CVAG has a two-year contract with Path of Life Ministries for a not-to-exceed cost of $2.5 million to run the CV Housing First program. Path of Life is compensated as services are rendered.

Attachments:
1. Barbara Poppe Memo to CVAG Homelessness Committee
2. Amendment #3 with Path of Life Ministries
3. Letter from Supervisor V. Manuel Perez
Memorandum

Date: January 25, 2019

To: CVAG Homelessness Committee

cc: Tom Kirk

From: Barbara Poppe
Barbara Poppe and Associates

RE: Recommendations on Homelessness in the Coachella Valley

I would like to thank the CVAG Homelessness Committee for hosting me at their recent meeting to share the consensus report and my recommendations to advance the end of unsheltered homelessness in the Coachella Valley. Tom asked me to provide you with a memo summarizing my key findings and the recommendations, which are grouped into the “consensus” recommendations below based on discussions with the community stakeholder groups as well as my personal/professional recommendations.

My recommendations are rooted in the “Housing First” model. This approach to ending homelessness centers on providing people experiencing homelessness with housing as quickly as possible – and providing services as needed rather requiring participation in services before entry into housing. The keys to success are providing immediate crisis response, increasing housing solutions and aligning all efforts.

Most significant amongst my findings was that the Coachella Valley already provides a disproportionate share of temporary crisis beds for Riverside County:

- 18% of the general population lives in the Coachella Valley
- 26% of unsheltered homeless people reside in the Coachella Valley
- 63% of all emergency shelter beds are located in the Coachella Valley
- 58% of all transitional housing beds are located in the Coachella Valley

The data indicates that a high percentage of emergency shelter and transitional beds are likely used by those from outside of the Coachella Valley. The overall data on annual shelter utilization also suggests that emergency shelter beds are not fully utilized during the year.

CONSENSUS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Financial supporters like CVAG/County/Cities and the Desert Healthcare District/Foundation should structure all investments to focus on data-driven results.

2. Public funding should be targeted towards helping unsheltered people who are from the Coachella Valley.

3. Establish the Coachella Valley Collaborative to End Homelessness to bring together public and private sectors, homeless providers, community-based organizations and funding partners to work toward a functional end to homelessness. This Collaborative should be charged with implementing the full set of consensus recommendations.

4. Shift homeless prevention programs to provide immediate assistance to those on the streets (Diversion/Assisted rapid resolution). This is the most cost-effective strategy that Coachella Valley providers could employ immediately. By assisting people through problem-solving counseling, it is possible to divert them away from homelessness and more expensive interventions like emergency shelter. The data from other communities shows that diversion/assisted rapid resolution efforts can help 40-80 percent of those who are homeless avoid needing a shelter bed or on the streets.
5. Expand permanent housing options through rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing and affordable rental housing.

MY PERSONAL/PROFESSIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Expanding on recommendation #1, above, public money should not be “given” to non-profits with no strings attached like a charitable gift. Public moneys should be invested based on data and results and not as a reaction to “success stories,” however compelling those stories may be.

2. CVAG should continue the CV Housing First program, as the foundational program but expanding to include multiple providers. Collaboration and common data should be required, until the Coachella Valley Collaborative has been established.

3. Consistent with recommendation #2 and #4, above, shift funding from the existing “prevention” program to assisted rapid resolution of homelessness and use these resources to helping homeless people who are already living in the Coachella Valley.

4. Before expanding emergency shelter beds to western Coachella Valley, the recommendations above should take place, otherwise a bottleneck will keep occurring in your emergency shelters, resulting in people remaining in homelessness. Taking these crucial steps together will help propel the Coachella Valley in achieving results for ending homelessness for unsheltered residents.

Again, I would like to send my appreciation to the Coachella Valley for their continued commitment to ending homelessness. The “north star” for the Coachella Valley Collaborative to End Homelessness should be to bring a functional end to homelessness – making it rare, brief and non-recurring. The residents of neighborhoods across the Coachella Valley – those who are housed and those who are without – should be able to see the first-hand impact of this effort over the next few years.
The Services Contract (the “Contract”) by and between the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) and Path of Life Ministries (Contractor) beginning July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019, as previously amended, is further amended, effective March 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019, as follows:

That Section III.2.B.e.ii Homeless Prevention and Diversion Services, Client Outcomes will be achieved through, Prevention Services will be eliminated from outcomes and will be replaced with:

ii. Assisted Rapid Resolution Services will be provided through the CV Housing First Resource Line (760-601-5424 or 833-788-7284) and through CV Housing First Street Outreach Teams. These services will focus on immediate services to those through the phone and encountered on the street, to include but not limited to emergency shelter diversion. These services can include, but not limited to:

a) Fees for assistance securing documentation or certifications
b) Grocery cards
c) Payment for background and credit checks
d) Rental/utility arrears
e) Utility assistance
f) Transportation
g) Work or education related assistance
h) Reunification costs

The Contractor will keep track of these services and report outcomes to CVAG, through its monthly reporting form. The Contractor will perform its due diligence to provide these services by using Attachment 1, but will not be limited to this tool.

________________________________________  ____________________________________________
Damien O’Farrell, Executive Director                  Tom Kirk, Executive Director
Path of Life Ministries                                  CVAG

________________________________________  ____________________________________________
Date                                                   Date
Path of Life Homeless Prevention Scoring Rubric

SCREENING DATE (e.g. 10/01/2017)

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APPLICANT HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD (IDENTIFY MEMBER OF HOUSEHOLD)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Name</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
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OTHER HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS (attach an additional page as needed)

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<th>Name</th>
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STAGE 1: ELIGIBILITY FOR POLM HP

Eligibility Condition 1. Very Low-Income Status

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<th>Household size (all adults/children):</th>
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<tr>
<th>Total Annual Gross Income from All Sources:</th>
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<tr>
<th>50% of Area Median Income for Household Size:</th>
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STAFF DISPOSITION:

Is gross annual household income less than 50% Area Median Income for household size (grantee may set lower income threshold)? ☐ YES ☐ NO

IF “NO”, STOP: APPLICANT NOT CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE.

Documentation obtained? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Eligibility Condition 3. Imminently At-Risk of Literal Homelessness

3A: Imminent Housing Loss

Next, we need to know some details about your current housing situation so we can understand how best to assist you.

[Staff Note: Applicants who are losing their housing because they are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence are eligible for Rapid Re-Housing assistance and should instead be screened for RRH assistance.]
Can you tell me about the place you stayed last night? Is this the primary place you stay or is there somewhere else you normally stay? If there’s somewhere else you normally stay, can you tell me about that place?

### Identify the primary place where applicant is staying (check only one):

- Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher
- Staying or living in a family member’s room, apartment or house
- Staying or living in a friend’s room, apartment or house
- Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy
- Rental by client, with HUD VASH subsidy
- Rental by client, with other ongoing housing subsidy
- Permanent housing for formerly homeless persons (e.g., CoC Program funded unit)
- Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy
- Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy
- Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility*
- Long-term care facility or nursing home*
- Jail or prison*
- Residential project or halfway house with no homeless criteria*
- Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility*
- Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center*
- Other (describe): 

*If staying in institution, determine if stay there is 90 days or less and if previously stayed in emergency shelter, Safe Haven, or on the street. Such individuals are considered literally homeless and should instead be screened for SSVF RRH assistance.

[Staff Note: Applicants staying in emergency shelter, including hotel/motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher, a Safe Haven, transitional housing (including GPD), or in a place not meant for habitation (e.g., a vehicle, an abandoned building, bus/train/subway station/airport or anywhere outside) are considered literally homeless and should be screened for SSVF RRH assistance.]

### Do you have to leave this place (or the place you normally stay)?

- [ ] YES
- [ ] NO
- [ ] N/A

[Staff Note: Briefly describe reasons why applicant has to leave current place they are staying and obtain copy of any written documentation.]

If yes, what’s causing you to have to leave? How long can you continue to stay there?

### Identify why the applicant must leave the primary place they are staying (check only one):

- Court-ordered eviction notice to vacate rental unit
- Formal written notice from landlord to vacate rental unit (e.g., 30 day Notice to Quit)
- Written or verbal notice from family, friend or host to leave doubled-up housing
- Exiting an institution or system of care (e.g., hospital, jail, treatment facility, etc.)
- Insufficient resources to continue to pay for hotel or motel
- Other (describe): 

[Staff Note: Applicants who have only received a verbal notice from landlord and applicants who are only behind on utilities and have not received a formal written eviction notice are not eligible for POLM HP assistance.]

By what date must the applicant leave the primary place they are staying: / /
[Staff Note: Must be within 30 days of date of application to be eligible for SSVF HP assistance.]

Have you tried asking for an extension on your rent payment or otherwise negotiating a way to stay in your current housing?

If yes, what was the result of the conversation? If no, is this an option for you?

- YES
- NO
- N/A

May I contact your current [landlord, host family/friend, other] to see if we can negotiate a solution so you can continue to stay there OR stay there while you find another place to live?

- YES
- NO
- N/A

POLM STAFF DISPOSITION:

Is applicant imminently losing their current primary nighttime residence?

IF “NO”, STOP: APPLICANT NOT CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE.

- YES
- NO
- N/A

Documentation obtained?

- YES
- NO

3B: Other Housing Options & Resources

We would like to know if you have any other safe and appropriate place to stay – either permanently OR while you look for other housing. We would also like to know if you have family, friends or others you know that may be able to help you financially.

[Staff Note: Discuss and record below a summary related to each of the following potential housing options and sources of assistance: 1) family members or relatives; 2) close or trusted friends; and 3) faith-based group or network applicant associates with. Where appropriate, ask if a potential housing option can be contacted by you to help secure housing. Attach additional notes as necessary.]

Do you have a safe, appropriate place where you could live if you lose your current home? Let’s talk about different types of options and whether any of these might be available to you as a safe, appropriate place to live, either permanently or while you seek other housing on your own. Let’s start with family members and relatives...

If you’re unsure if relatives, friends or others could help OR if there are any people or groups you have NOT contacted for help but you think might be willing to assist you...

Would you be willing to contact them OR may I contact them to find out if they can provide you with a place to stay, financial help, or other assistance to keep you from becoming homeless? This might include family, trusted friends or other groups (faith-based, social, etc.) that might be able to help.

- YES
- NO
- NOT SURE

If YES, who should be contacted?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Relationship to you</th>
<th>Phone number or email</th>
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</tbody>
</table>
**POLM STAFF DISPOSITION:** Briefly summarize efforts and discussion related to other possible housing options and resources and whether applicant lacks other safe/appropriate housing options (either permanent or one they can access while seeking other housing) and resources sufficient to avoid literal homelessness.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does applicant have other safe/appropriate housing options and/or resources sufficient to avoid literal homelessness?</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>IF “YES”, STOP: APPLICANT NOT CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE.</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3C: **Financial Resources**

We would like to find out if you have any funds or if there is other assistance immediately available to you and that you could access to help you keep your current housing or immediately find other housing.

| Approximately how much money would you need to pay immediately in order to keep your housing OR obtain other housing? | $ |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do you have any funds or other assistance immediately available to you and that you could access to help you keep your current housing or immediately find other housing?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approximately how much money do you currently have available in savings, assets or other accounts?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you have enough money to pay for your current housing costs, including any rent or utility arrears?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there other community resources you’ve applied for, such as other eviction prevention programs, emergency financial assistance programs, utility assistance programs, or other local emergency assistance programs?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**POLM STAFF DISPOSITION:** Briefly summarize efforts and discussion related to financial resources and whether other (non-SSVF) financial resources are available to avoid literal homelessness. If they will lose housing regardless of their own financial resources or other financial assistance, explain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Does applicant have enough financial resources to avoid literal homelessness?</th>
<th>YES</th>
<th>NO</th>
<th>N/A (Housing loss occurring regardless of financial resources)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>IF “YES”, STOP: APPLICANT NOT CURRENTLY ELIGIBLE.</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**Stage 1: Eligibility Disposition**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELIGIBLE: Meets all eligibility requirements above</th>
<th>CONTINUE TO STAGE 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NOT ELIGIBLE: Does not meet one or more eligibility requirements</td>
<td>STOP (reference HP Screening Form Instructions for next steps)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## STAGE 2: TARGETING

### TARGETING CRITERIA

Use the following criteria to identify if the eligible applicant household is also a priority for SSVF homelessness prevention assistance. Check each condition that is true for the Veteran applicant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Check if Applicable</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
<th>TOTAL POINTS (enter value for each box that is checked)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### URGENCY OF HOUSING SITUATION

(May indicate more urgent need for homelessness prevention assistance)

- Referred by Coordinated Entry or a homeless assistance provider to prevent the household from entering an emergency shelter or transitional housing or from staying in a place not meant for human habitation.

- Current housing loss expected within... (select only one)
  - 0-6 days
  - 7-13 days
  - 14-21 days

### POTENTIAL BARRIERS AND VULNERABILITIES

(May impact ability to quickly secure housing and resolve literal homelessness independently if household is not assisted and becomes literally homeless)

- **Current** household income is $0 (i.e., not employed, not receiving cash benefits, no other current income)

- **Annual** Household Gross Income Amount (select only one)
  - 0-14% of Area Median Income (AMI) for household size
  - 15-30% of AMI for household size

- Sudden and significant decrease in cash income (employment and/or cash benefits) AND/OR unavoidable increase in non-discretionary expenses (e.g., rent or medical expenses) in the past 6 months

- Major change in household composition (e.g., death of family member, separation/divorce from adult partner, birth of new child) in the past 12 months

- Rental evictions within the past 7 years (select only one)
  - [Staff Note: Only include formal eviction actions (i.e., Notice to Quit) taken by a landlord due to lease non-compliance and that ultimately resulted in loss of rental housing.]
    - 4 or more prior rental evictions
    - 2-3 prior rental evictions
    - 1 prior rental eviction
    - Currently at risk of losing a tenant-based housing subsidy or housing in a subsidized building or unit
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>History of Literal Homelessness (street/shelter/transitional housing) (select only one)</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 or more times or total of at least 12 months in past three years</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3 times in past three years</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 time in past three years</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Head of household with disabling condition (physical health, mental health, substance use) that directly affects ability to secure/maintain housing</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminal record for arson, drug dealing or manufacture, or felony offense against persons or property</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registered sex offender</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least one dependent child under age 6</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single parent with minor child(ren)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Household size of 5 or more requiring at least 3 bedrooms (due to age/gender mix)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL POINTS</td>
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</table>

### Stage 2: Targeting Disposition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meets Targeting Threshold</th>
<th>[ ] Continue with POLM HP enrollment OR other referral if no capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLM Approved Targeting Threshold Score: [ ]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does Not Meet Targeting Threshold</td>
<td>[ ] Reference HP Screening Form Instructions regarding “Service Directed Housing Interventions”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Applicant Certification

By signing below I certify that the information provided above is correct, so far as I know and understand, and that I do not have other housing options or sufficient resources or support networks (e.g., family, friends, faith-based or other social networks) immediately available to prevent my household from becoming literally homeless.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participant Name:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participant Signature:</td>
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<td>Date:</td>
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# POLM Staff Certification

By signing below I certify that I have worked with the Veteran household to identify housing resources and solutions and believe, based on the information presented, that the Veteran household is eligible for POLM services and will become literally homeless unless POLM assistance is provided. Further, I certify that all supporting documentation required for POLM enrollment has been obtained and verified and is contained in the participant’s case file.

<table>
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<th>POLM Staff Name:</th>
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<td>POLM Staff Signature:</td>
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<td>Date:</td>
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</table>
February 11, 2019

To: Desert Healthcare District/Foundation Board of Directors
Coachella Valley Association of Governments Homeless Committee

I am extremely excited about the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) and Desert Healthcare District/Foundation embracing Barbara Poppe’s recommendation of building a Collective Impact Collaborative with the County of Riverside to address the homelessness issue in the Coachella Valley. Homelessness is one of my top issues and I am confident that this Collaborative will be a great leap in significantly reducing the homelessness in the valley.

I also understand that the next step is to hire three staff positions to launch the Collaborative and that the district is considering funding, and perhaps staffing through the Foundation or some other means. I applaud your interest in such an ambitious start to staffing and I would like to offer an alternative that might reduce cost and expedite implementation of the Collaborative.

As an alternative to hiring full time staff initially, I offer my Government Affairs and Public Policy Advisor, Greg Rodriguez, to be the person who takes on the Executive Director role, at least for the startup phase of up to two years. Mr. Rodriguez is uniquely qualified to launch this effort. He is not only doing all my homelessness policy already, but has been actively engaged in both CVAG’s and the District’s homelessness efforts. He already holds many key County roles that address homelessness, serving on the Continuum of Care’s (COC) Board of Governance, Chair of the COC Housing and Sustainability Committee and works with our County Deputy CEO of Homelessness Solutions on a regular basis.

I am willing to provide 75% of his time to the Collaborative. The remaining 25% of his time with my office will be spent on behavioral health, physical health and housing which are all integral to addressing homelessness and play key roles in the collaborative. My office will maintain his 25% portion of the salary negotiated as well as his County benefits. Under this option, the District/Foundation can consider funding the remaining 75% of his salary.

Additionally, I understand that CVAG Executive Director Tom Kirk, with support from the CVAG Homelessness and Executive Committee, is willing to commit in-kind staff time to the Collaborative’s efforts as well. Together, these staffing contributions could reduce the District/Foundation’s contributions to staffing and free up resources for services and programs.

It is imperative that we keep the momentum and commitment to the great strides we have already made in the valley. I believe that this proposal does exactly that and I am dedicated to do whatever I can to make that happen.

Sincerely,

V. Manuel Perez
Riverside County Supervisor, 4th District

www.RivCo4.org  Email: District4@RivCo.org