

Housing Our People Effectively Interagency Council (HOPE IAC) Dissolution Proposal

To: San Mateo County Board of Supervisors

From: San Mateo County's Housing Our People Effectively Interagency Council

Recommendation: The Housing Our People Effectively Interagency Council (HOPE IAC) recommends that the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors dissolve the HOPE IAC.

BACKGROUND:

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors formed HOPE IAC in 2006 to provide countywide leadership and to foster countywide collaboration between non-profit organizations, public agencies, and the community to end homelessness in the County. However, in the past two decades since HOPE IAC's creation, the County has organized other forums with these same stakeholders to address homelessness and affordable housing in the County.

In November 2024, members of the HOPE IAC requested a review of HOPE IAC's purpose, roles, and activities in light of the creation of other countywide forums to address homelessness and affordable housing that exist. A subcommittee of HOPE IAC members was subsequently formed to explore the possibility of restructuring or dissolving the HOPE IAC. The subcommittee included Melissa Platte from the Mental Health Association, Aubrey Merriman from LifeMoves, Teri Chin from the City of Redwood City and the Fair Oaks Community Center, Adam Loraine from the City of San Mateo, and Claire Cunningham from the County's Human Services Agency.

On January 21, 2025, the HOPE IAC subcommittee met and reviewed HOPE IAC's history, discussed concerns with the reduction in stakeholder participation at HOPE IAC meetings, and developed three proposals for the HOPE IAC members to discuss at the next HOPE IAC meeting. These proposals were: 1.) maintain the current HOPE IAC structure and consider reducing the frequency of meetings, 2.) dissolve HOPE IAC completely, 3.) restructure HOPE IAC with an existing countywide forum with a shared purpose of addressing homelessness and affordable housing within the County.

On February 5, 2025, the subcommittee shared the potential options with the membership at-large. The input from members was that there is significant redundancy between the activities of HOPE IAC and those of various other countywide forums addressing homelessness. As such, the members recommended that action be taken to reduce duplicative efforts.

After this meeting, the County's Center on Homelessness distributed a survey to HOPE IAC members to gather members' perspectives on the current structure of HOPE IAC and their involvement in other countywide homelessness and affordable housing forums. Survey results showed that current HOPE IAC members also participate in the following countywide homelessness and affordable housing forums:

- Home for All;
- HOMESTAT;
- Homelessness Quarterly Convening of Regional Representatives (City Managers);
- Board of Supervisors Subcommittee on Homelessness;
- Continuum of Care (CoC) Steering Committee;
- Homelessness and Safety Net Quarterly Providers Meeting (HSN);
- Community Action Agency Meeting (CAA);
- Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) and Policy Committee; and
- Healthcare for the Homeless and Farmworker Health Board Meeting.

Survey results also showed that while HOPE IAC members appreciated the opportunity to use HOPE IAC meetings to learn about housing resources within the County, interact with County officials and representatives, and engage in community and information sharing, these members believed that the other above-listed forums provided members with these same opportunities.

On May 1, 2025, the HOPE IAC subcommittee met again and discussed the survey results, and the survey results were then shared to the membership at-large on May 7, 2025. At the May 7, 2025 meeting, HOPE IAC members discussed the survey results and the next steps to reimagine HOPE IAC and collaborate with another countywide forum addressing homelessness and affordable housing. At the time, there was interest in consolidation with Home for All; however, it was later identified that Home for All is undergoing a restructuring process including reviewing and updating their organizational structure so they cannot take on new members. Home for All anticipates that once it has completed its restructuring process that it will informally invite current HOPE IAC members and other stakeholders to participate in Home for All meetings.

Given the existence of other countywide forums addressing homelessness and affordable housing, and in an effort to better utilize HOPE IAC members' time and streamline system-wide engagement, members of the HOPE IAC now recommend its dissolution.

CONCLUSION:

HOPE IAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors approve its dissolution effective immediately to ensure efficiency with and effectiveness of countywide efforts to address homelessness and affordable housing.