

COUNTY OF **SAN MATEO**





Hopeful Horizons: Empowering Lives Initiative

Ordinance Intent

- Preserve the **health, safety, and welfare** of unsheltered homeless individuals
- Address issues such as **fire risk, unsanitary conditions, public safety hazards, and environmental degradation** associated with unregulated encampments



Homelessness in San Mateo County

1,697 Individuals
Experiencing
Homelessness



800 Unsheltered



897 Sheltered



Homeless Shelter System Capacity

Shelter Type	Capacity
Adult Non-congregate	330
Adult Congregate	173
Families Non-congregate	132
Youth Congregate	10
Total	645



409 non-congregate new units added since Covid-19 Pandemic

Ordinance Prohibitions

- When **shelter is available**, it is unlawful for a person to camp on public property in the unincorporated area of the county.
- Prohibit enforcement *unless* the person has declined shelter.



Pre-Enforcement Efforts

Constant & Intensive Homeless Outreach

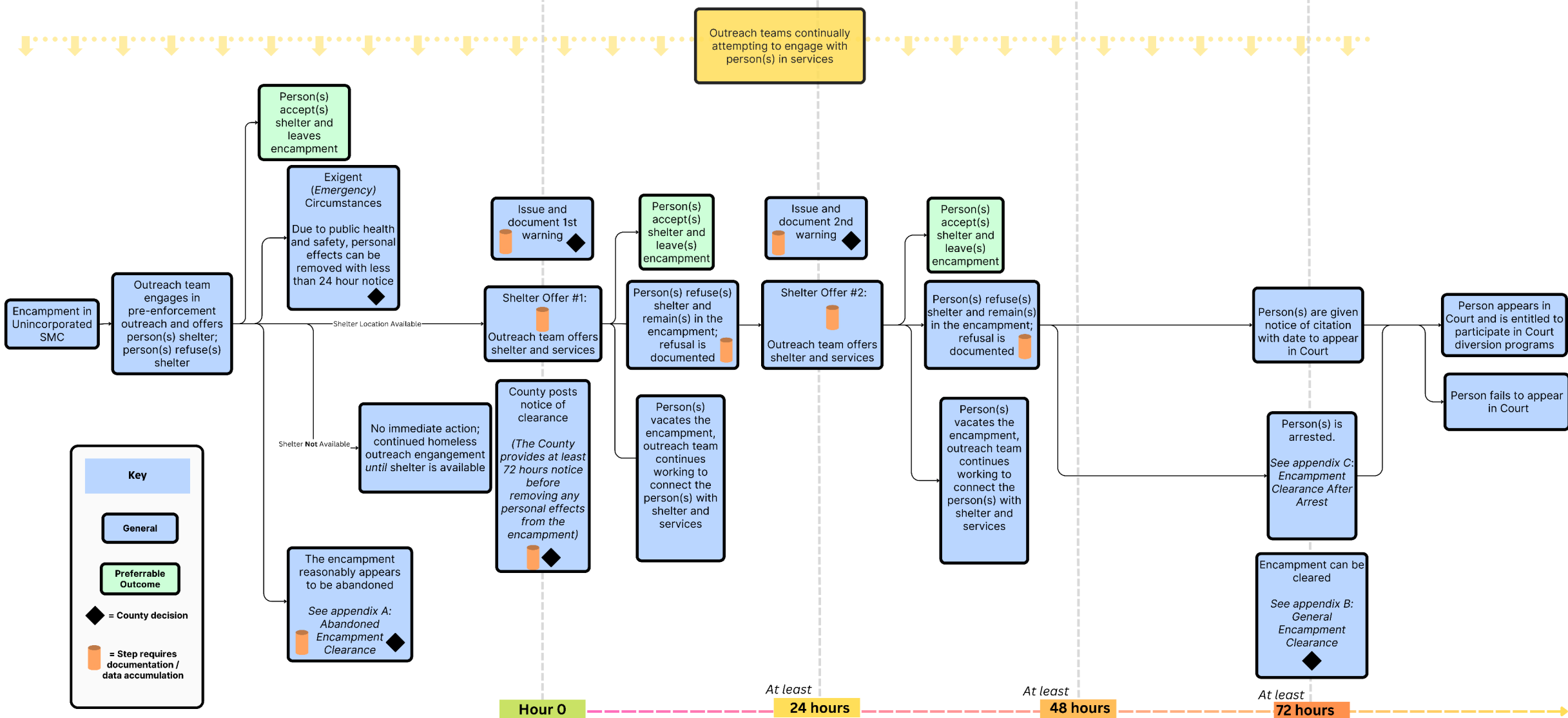
- Multi-disciplinary teams provide trauma-informed care engagement efforts
- Offer of Services & Assistance
- Collaboration Across Sectors & Systems

Provision of Shelter

- Document waiver of shelter



Encampment Clearance Process



Penalties for Violations

- Any person charged with a misdemeanor violation shall be entitled to participate in any appropriate **Court diversion program**.
- Two **written warnings** must be given before a person is charged with misdemeanor violation.



Removal and Storage of Personal Effects

1. Posting of 72-hour notice of encampment removal

(written notice must comply with the County's Language Access Policy).

- Removal and storage of personal effects once 72-hour period has ended.

2. County representatives itemize and photograph all removed personal effects, and store for 90 days.

- The County will endeavor to ensure that all storage locations are near accessible transit and reasonable transportation terms will be offered. Items that reasonably appear to be garbage would be discarded.



Documentation Process

- Document each point of contact with individuals (i.e., written warnings and availability of shelter) and notices
- Photograph encampment site before and after abatement
- Itemize and photograph all stored personal effects
- Photograph encampment clean-up efforts



Enforcement

Exigent (Emergency) Circumstances

- Public Safety and Welfare
- Less than 24-hour notice
- Homeless Outreach Team offers shelter and services
- ~137 fire related calls in 2023

Abandoned Sites

- 72-hour notice if items appear to have personal or monetary value
- Items remaining on site after the notice period may be discarded, recycled or donated.



Thank You

