



**Department of Behavioral Health**

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July 27, 2016



The Honorable Robert A. Glusman, Presiding Judge  
Butte County Superior Court  
One Court Street  
Oroville, CA 95965

RE: 2015-16 Butte County Grand Jury Final Report - Homelessness in Butte County

**FINDINGS**

F1: The private service providers in Butte County offer shelter and food to various segments of the homeless population in a compassionate way, despite their insufficient funds.

*Response: The respondent agrees with the finding. It should be noted that, in FY 2016-17, the Behavioral Health Department has funded additional supportive programming based on community stakeholder input and assessed community needs. The additional funding will support:*

- *New positions dedicated to outreach and engagement*
- *The newly established Crisis Residential Program (10-bed program within Butte County)*
- *An increase of \$20,000 in the Torres Shelter agreement (A total of \$108,000 in FY 2016-17)*
- *Financial support of the Continuum of Care Coordinator position (\$20,000 in FY 2016-17)*

F2: Over half of the homeless population suffers from mental illness, substance/alcohol abuse or both.

*Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.*

F3: The federal and state funding for our local governmental agencies allows almost no local flexibility in how the money is spent even though it appears to be spent appropriately on housing assistance and supportive services.

*Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.*

F4: Every professional interviewed who is knowledgeable about the homeless agrees that providing housing is the overriding need.

*Response: The respondent agrees with the finding.*

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

R4: The Chico Police Target Team should work with Behavioral Health to add a professional social services person to the team when they are calling on the homeless.

*The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in FY 2016-17. The Department has included two new Behavioral Health Counselor positions in the FY 2016-17 budget. These new positions will be dedicated in support of outreach/engagement specific duties. The Department has been in discussion with the Chico Police Target Team, in order to collaborate in these outreach efforts.*

R5: All of the service providers and local governments should explore the possible funding of a day center.

*The recommendation has been implemented. The Jesus Center currently provides day center services to the homeless and is planning to expand these services. The Department of Behavioral Health also has a day center, the Iverson Center, which serves individuals living with mental illness.*

Respectfully Submitted,



Dorian Kittrell, MFT  
Director  
Butte County Behavioral Health

Cc: Board of Supervisors

CAO