

Human Services Coordinating Council
Summary of 2007 Activities and Accomplishment

Entering 2007, HSCC identified three goals to serve as guide posts: 1) promote a more coordinated, more efficient system for delivering human services in Sacramento County; 2) engage residents in human services planning processes; and 3) assure that Sacramento County is prepared to proficiently address emerging issues relating to the human services delivery system. Fulfillment of these goals required an expanded awareness and understanding of the human services landscape as it exists in Sacramento County and elsewhere. As such, research and planning dominated the work the Human Services Coordinating Council in 2007. The following discusses key accomplishments from 2007.

Goal 1: Promote a more coordinated, more efficient system for delivering human services in Sacramento County.

Accomplishments	Background
Compiled a resource listing of promising practices for human services planning and delivery.	HSCC identified and investigated more than one dozen innovative human services planning and delivery models being utilized in other jurisdictions across the nation. From the findings, HSCC identified successful structures and frameworks. Efforts will continue in 2008 by consulting with key County decision makers to increase awareness of innovative models and discuss their applicability to Sacramento County.
Presented Board of Supervisors with recommendation to emphasize long-term considerations when making budget decisions.	HSCC highlighted multi-program partnerships and evidence-based prevention as key factors that best achieve and maintain long term successes, as measured by livability, vitality, and quality of life for all residents of Sacramento County. Maintenance and expansion of funding for such programs was recommended to the BoS during budget hearings.
Illustrated the level of interaction between human services programs and all of the County budget priorities for consideration by Board of Supervisors.	The contributions of human services have a broad impact that directly and indirectly influences all aspects of life for County residents. HSCC presented the BoS with a series of specific examples of how human services impact and are a core element of law enforcement, safety net, quality of life, and prevention services.
In partnership with County Planning Dept. and Countywide Services Agency, finalized the Human Services Element and secured the Element's inclusion in the Sacramento County Draft General Plan.	HSCC facilitated the update of the Human Services Element, resulting in a document that focuses exclusively on land use policies that are able to foster the development of human services infrastructure in the context of land development. Efforts continue to assure the availability of resources needed to implement the policies in the Human Services Element.

Goal 2: Engage residents in human services planning processes.

Accomplishments	Background
Gathered primary input from	HSCC engaged nine community groups (an additional 10

community groups on their perceptions of community challenges and assets.	groups are scheduled in early 2008) to gain first hand understanding of the types of issues that are most concerning to the county's residents, as well as to identify strengths that might be used to improve quality of life. A report will be produced in Summer of 2008 summarizing findings and presenting recommendations for addressing community concerns
Organized Sacramento County's first Human Services Week.	HSCC worked with the BoS to proclaim Human Services Week in Sacramento County. During the week, HSCC conducted community presentations and prepared exhibits for display in the County Administrative Building that exposed residents to the role and function of human services and opportunities for voicing their input.
Initiated the Heroes of Human Services Awards.	During Human Services Week, the BoS recognized 13 residents for their contributions to human services. HSCC introduced the concept and organized the call for nominations and publicity for the event. Over 100 individuals attended the event.
Created opportunities for community participation in human services planning efforts.	To diversify participation, the Human Services Element and Emergency Preparedness Committees recruited specific expertise from the community. By setting very specific parameters of what is expected from participants, the method has facilitated extensive, willing community engagement.

Goal 3: Assure County is prepared to proficiently address emerging issues relating to the human services delivery system.

Accomplishments	Background
Provided venue for diverse stakeholders to engage in dialogue about emerging issues.	HSCC's membership structure of Member Advisory Boards and County leadership allows for broad discussion of issues and consideration of how those issues will impact multiple areas. The structure allowed HSCC to foster discussion on a variety of issues, such as juvenile hall overcrowding, Cal Works program changes, coordination between Veteran's Administration and County services, and provision of prescriptions to parolees.
Initiated investigation of needs of vulnerable populations in the event of an emergency.	HSCC's Emergency Preparedness Committee has and continues to hold a series of focus groups with vulnerable populations to determine specific notification, transportation, and shelter needs. The findings are being reported directly to the County's Emergency Operations Office for consideration in its planning efforts.
Presented Board of Supervisors with recommendation to support revenue enhancements as a manner to assure maintenance of services to the neediest among our county.	HSCC presented the recommendation as part of the County's annual Legislative Policy Document development. "Revenue enhancements" were defined to include: securing cost of doing business increases from state and federal government; increasing the proportion of State and Federal funds passed down to local jurisdictions; and implementing fees and local taxes, where appropriate. The recommendation was presented as a way for the County to consider increasing its revenues so that it can continue to address existing as well as emerging issues in light of anticipated budget reductions.