

HUMAN SERVICES COORDINATING COUNCIL

Appointed by the Sacramento County
Board of Supervisors

August 28, 2006

Supervisor Roberta MacGlashan, Chair
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
700 H Street, Room 2450
Sacramento, CA 95814

Honorable Supervisor MacGlashan:

At its meeting on August 10, 2006, the Human Services Coordinating Council (HSCC) discussed the severe ramifications that July's heat wave had on Sacramento County's vulnerable populations. Although the discussion referenced reactionary measures that were implemented by city, county, and other officials, the HSCC expressed concern that the response from public agencies did not occur sooner. Extreme heat during the summer months is something that should be expected and anticipated in our region, and a response plan that clearly delineates how public agencies will respond, and what will trigger that response should be developed and incorporated into the County's All Hazard's Plan and appropriate emergency response plans for other jurisdictions.

Ideally, an extreme temperature response plan would include specific thresholds that would trigger timely response. A response plan should be available and put into action based upon a defined temperature threshold, whether it be consecutive days of high temperatures, consecutive days of high low temperatures, or a combination thereof. The response should include preventative public education efforts leading into forecasted hot spells and intervention measures in the event that the temperatures reach excessive levels. The key is to have a proactive approach so that everyone can adequately make needed preparations, and remove themselves from potentially dangerous conditions if extreme temperatures are likely. Although this letter speaks to summer temperature dangers, the response plan should also include low temperatures in winter to protect Sacramento County's citizens from cold weather conditions, as well.

A responsibility of the HSCC is to develop appropriate plans for addressing community needs; as such, if the HSCC can be of service in updating the All Hazards Plan, please notify us as needed. We would also like to recommend that the cities within the County and the County coordinate on this issue. The HSCC would gladly advocate for support from the cities, if deemed appropriate by the Board of Supervisors. Please notify our staff at 447-7063 x360 if there is a role for HSCC to assume.

Thank you for your time and energy on this matter.

Sincerely,



Ernie Brown, Chair

cc Penelope Clarke, Administrator, Countywide Services Agency

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