

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE AND THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

(Riverside Homeless Initiative)

This MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (“*MOU*”) is entered into on this _____ day of _____, 2021 (“*Effective Date*”) by and between THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE, a California charter city and municipal corporation (“*City*”), and THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, a political subdivision of the State of California (“*County*”) (hereafter referred to collectively as “*Parties*”), with regards to the following.

RECITALS

A. According to the 2020 Riverside County Homeless Point-in-Time (PIT) Count, there are 2,155 unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness in the County of Riverside. Data indicates that 28% of these individuals have mental health issues, 26% have a post-traumatic stress disorder diagnosis (“*PTSD*”), and 34% suffer from substance abuse. According to sub-data for the City of Riverside, there are 587 unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness, and of these individuals, 75 are suffering from substance abuse, 63 are suffering from PTSD, and 84 are suffering from mental health conditions. Below is a breakdown of the 2019 and 2020 Homeless PIT Count by location:

Location	2020	2019	Increase/Decrease from	% of Total 2020 Homeless PIT Count
Countywide	2155	2045	5%	
City of Riverside	587	439	33%	27%
Western Riverside County	1496	1408	6%	69%
Eastern Riverside County	659	637	3%	31%
Northwest Portion of Riverside County	905	851	6%	42%
Southwest Portion of Riverside County	591	557	6%	27%

B. County, through its Riverside University Health Systems Behavioral Health Department (“*RUHS-BH*”), administers mental health, medical health, and behavioral health programs and services, including substance abuse treatment, through a network of medical facilities.

C. Among these facilities is a Main Campus Community Health Center located at 26600 Cactus Avenue, Moreno Valley, California 92555 (“*Main Campus*”) and an emergency treatment services facility located at 9990 County Farm Road, Riverside, California 92503, which treats seriously mentally ill clients referred under California Welfare & Institutions Code § 5150, as gravely disabled or a danger to self or others (“*ETS Facility*”).

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D. RUHS-BH has also received a grant from the California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA) to renovate a facility located at 10001 County Farm Road, near the ETS Facility, which will act as a secure treatment center and sobering center (“*Arlington Recovery Community*” or “*ARC*”). County anticipates the ARC being completed in November 2021.

E. County, through its Riverside County Sheriff’s Department (“*RCSD*”), serves unincorporated areas of the County and provides services to other jurisdictions within western Riverside County on a contract basis, including Canyon Lake, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Lake Elsinore, Moreno Valley, Norco, Perris, San Jacinto, Temecula, and Wildomar.

F. County has five detention centers throughout the County, one being Robert Presley Detention Center, located at 4000 Orange Street, Riverside, California 92501 (“*RPDC*”). Many individuals who are arrested in areas outside of the City are taken to RPDC, and if they lack transportation back to their area of residence, they are released directly onto City streets.

G. On May 25, 2021, the County approved opting-in to the court-ordered program, known as Laura’s Law, which provides community-based, assisted outpatient treatment to a small population of individuals who meet strict legal criteria and who – as a result of their mental illness – are unable to voluntarily access community mental health services (“*Laura’s Law Program*”). County will begin implementing the Laura’s Law Program in November 2021.

H. On March 13, 2018, the City adopted a series of homeless service initiatives, which set forth the City’s policies, goals, and objectives in addressing homeless issues through the strategic alignment of municipal and regional resources, with an emphasis on providing homeless individuals with housing first and then wrap-around services (“*Housing First Strategy*”).

I. On April 2, 2019, the City approved the Public Safety and Engagement Team Program (“*PSET*”), a City multi-departmental engagement team whose purpose is to address the challenges brought forth by homelessness, maintaining order in the public realm while providing those individuals experiencing homelessness a path to exit the condition.

J. In addition to PSET, the Riverside Police Department (“*RPD*”) has also created a Community Behavioral Assessment Team (“*CBAT*”), to consist of two specially-trained RPD officers and two County clinical therapists who respond to service calls involving mental health issues.

K. On June 22, 2021, the City approved the creation of twenty (20) Park and Neighborhood Specialists (“*PANS*”) to promote safety and welfare in City parks, trails, neighborhoods, and public spaces. PANS will be working directly with PSET.

L. County, the City, and cities along the Santa Ana River Bottom in Riverside County, are working collaboratively to address homelessness by achieving the following goals: (1) rehouse existing encampments residents living in the Santa Ana River Bottom area, (2) remove and mitigate physical encampments, (3) conduct clean-up and habitat restoration, and (4) establish effective tools to prevent the reoccurrence of encampments.

M. Parties recognize the pervasive challenge that mental health and substance use

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disorders present for those individuals experiencing homelessness.

N. Parties recognize the importance of regional coordination to equitably address local issues of homelessness and related issues to include street outreach, emergency shelter, mental health and substance abuse programs, and permanent supportive housing.

O. Parties wish to establish the standards, terms, and conditions by which the Parties will collaborate and strategically organize resources and efforts to make a collective impact on mental health and substance use disorders in the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties hereto agree as follows:

1. **PURPOSE.** The purpose of this MOU is to establish a common understanding of the challenges facing the community with regards to homelessness and mental health and substance use disorders, to articulate the Parties' vision for change ("**Outcomes**"), and to identify a common agenda by which the Parties may move forward, collaboratively, with coordinated actions ("**Cooperative Points**").

2. **TERM.** This MOU shall be effective from the Effective Date and shall remain in effect until terminated by either Party upon thirty (30) days' written notice to the other.

3. **ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.** Parties identify their Outcomes and establish and define their roles and responsibilities relative the Cooperative Points as follows:

3.1 Outcome One – Availability of Alternatives. Rapidly increase effective alternatives to incarceration for individuals who are experiencing homelessness, who commit crimes, who may be a danger to themselves or others, or who have drug addiction and/or behavioral health issues.

3.1.1 Parties have identified Be Well Orange County, a program with facilities located at 265 S. Anita Drive in Orange, California 92868, as an effective treatment model ("**Be Well OC**"). Parties will work together to identify potential locations for facilities and programs, similar to Be Well OC, within the City of Riverside, and will identify the costs associated therewith, by November 15, 2021.

3.1.2 By October 15, 2022, Parties will coordinate costs and details for rehabilitating and programming such facilities.

3.1.3 County will undertake community engagement at its ETS Facility by September 24, 2021, which shall include a robust, community-based, cross-sector strategy – public, private, academic, faith and others – to create a community-wide, coordinated ecosystem to support optimal mental health. County will provide transportation to clients who term out or are discharged from the facility to their point of origin. County will provide Sheriff Deputies to provide security services at ETS Facility and the Arlington Recovery Center for the safety of employees, program participants, and the surrounding community.

3.1.4 County will relocate its mental hospital, currently located at the old juvenile hall area, to the Main Campus by January 9, 2023.

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- 3.1.5 County will fill the City’s existing positions on CBAT and provide specifications and costs to the City for three additional team members for CBAT and PSET by October 31, 2021. If the City consents to fill additional three CBAT positions, the County will fill the positions for the additional team members by December 15, 2021.
- 3.2 Outcome Two - Legislative Support. Influence State legislation that strengthens the ability of local governments to assist individuals with drug addiction and/or behavioral health issues who also may be experiencing homelessness.
- 3.2.1 Parties will provide Senator Richard D. Roth with all budget-related requests by November 1, 2021.
- 3.3 Outcome Three – Funding Advocacy. Effectively coordinate to obtain State and Federal funding for increasing local and regional capacity to beneficially assist individuals with drug addiction and/or behavioral health issues who also may be experiencing homelessness.
- 3.3.1 By January 1, 2022, the City and the County will prepare a coordinated advocacy platform outlining specific funding needs and goals to be pursued through specific State agencies and funding sources and identify what metrics will be tracked in relation to funding advocacy
- 3.4 Outcome Four - Reinforcement of Local Responsibility. Put into place local and regional ordinances and other mechanisms to reinforce local responsibilities for individuals with drug addiction and/or behavioral health issues who also may be experiencing homelessness.
- 3.4.1 Parties have identified the City of Sacramento’s 2021 Master Siting Plan to Address Homelessness (“*Siting Plan*”), adopted on August 10, 2021, as a proactive policy to be modeled. By December 1, 2021, the Parties will consider resolutions, similar to the Siting Plan, that establish a right to housing.
- 3.4.2 By January 11, 2022, the City will review and update its Housing First Strategy to ensure equitable provision of supportive housing throughout the City for individuals with drug addiction and/or behavioral health issues who also may be experiencing homelessness.
- 3.4.3 By October 31, 2021, the County will facilitate transportation home for all who are released from RPDC. Additionally, by December 31, 2021, the City will develop a “storefront” or mobile resource for all who are released from RPDC to provide support for shelter and other services in order to reduce recidivism and/or prevent homelessness.
- 3.4.4 City will conduct a City Council workshop laying the groundwork for a homeless action plan that coordinates efforts with the County and other regional stakeholders (“*Homeless Action Plan*”) by September 30, 2021.
4. **COOPERATION.** Parties recognize that they have complementary expertise

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and overlapping interests. Parties shall endeavor to cooperate and share knowledge, expertise, and best practices with regards to this MOU.

5. **COMMUNICATION.** Parties are committed to the principle of good communication, especially when one's work may have some bearing on the responsibilities of the other. Parties shall seek to alert each other as soon as practical to relevant developments with regards to this MOU.

6. **NOTICES/POINTS OF CONTACT.** For purposes of the administration of this MOU, including all notices, the points of contact for the Parties shall be as set forth on the signature page for each.

7. **AMENDMENTS.** This MOU may be modified or amended only by an amendment to this MOU, agreed to by all Parties in writing.

(Signatures on Following Pages.)

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have caused this MOU to be executed on the date first written above.

CITY OF RIVERSIDE,
a California charter city and municipal corporation

By: _____
Name:
Its:

Attested to:

By: _____
City Clerk

Approved as to Form:

By: _____
Deputy City Attorney

Address:

Michelle Davis
Office of Homeless Solutions
City of Riverside
3900 Main Street, 5th Floor
Riverside, CA 92522

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COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, a political
subdivision of the State of California

By: _____

Name:

Its:

Attest::

By: _____

Clerk of the Board

Approved as to Form:

Greg P. Priamos

County Counsel

By: _____

Deputy County Counsel

Address:

Matthew Chang

Riverside University Health Systems – Behavioral Health

County of Riverside

4095 County Circle Drive

Riverside, CA 92503