Strategy E16 | CREATE A COORDINATED SYSTEM

Affordable Care Act Opportunities

POPULATION IMPACT

✔ ALL  FAMILIES  TAY  SINGLE ADULT  VETERAN  CHRONICALLY HOMELESS ADULT

RECOMMENDATION

Direct the Health Agency to maximize the contribution of the Affordable Care Act to combating homelessness, by aggressively pursuing the nine goals related to homelessness in the Health Agency’s Strategic Priorities, with emphasis on: (1) maximizing revenue through the Whole Person Care (WPC) pilots and Health Homes; and (2) providing integrated physical health, mental health and substance use disorder services to address the unique needs of the homeless population within the larger health care system.

DESCRIPTION

The extension of full-scope Medi-Cal eligibility to almost all homeless individuals under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) creates a range of critical new opportunities to combat homelessness, including:

- Federal and state revenue to pay for physical health, mental health, and substance use disorder services;
- Potential additional funding under WPC, which is included in the State’s new 1115 Medicaid waiver, effective January 1, 2016;
- Potential additional funding under the Health Homes Benefit (Section 2703 of the ACA) which the State proposes to implement in Los Angeles County on January 1, 2018 for eligible beneficiaries with serious mental illness and for all others six months later.

On September 29, 2015, the newly-formed County Health Agency identified homelessness as one of its top priority areas and released nine goals related to homelessness. These goals focus on strengthening the partnerships between the Agency, health plans, County departments, and homeless service providers, in addition to addressing the unique needs of homeless clients within the broader health care delivery system. As such, pursuit of these goals, in conjunction with the other recommended Homeless Initiative strategies, is the best way to maximize the contribution of the Affordable Care Act to combating homelessness.

The Health Agency’s goals regarding homelessness are:

Goal 1
Evaluate and reconfigure, as needed, housing and homeless services within the Agency and Departments to facilitate improved outcomes for homeless clients, including but not limited to the reduction/elimination of eligibility barriers and greater sharing...
DESCRIPTION continued

of Departmental resources, to ensure that resources are available to homeless clients regardless of where they present.

Goal 2
Develop an accurate way to identify homeless clients, and those at risk of homelessness, currently served across the three Departments (e.g., development of a real-time unduplicated database, flag within shared client record) for the purpose of identifying priority clients who are determined to be likely to benefit from services from multiple Departments to regain health and residential stability.

Goal 3
Develop and implement shared standards and practices for ensuring a full range of housing, health, and prevention services are able to be delivered to clients based on client-specific needs.

Goal 4
Improve and expand upon multidisciplinary street engagement teams capable of effectively engaging homeless people living outdoors throughout the County with the express goal of securing interim and permanent housing.

Goal 5
Develop and open a range of “bridge” residential services that provide low-barrier, welcoming programs (e.g., sobering centers; day centers with showers, meals, and health services; recuperative care; detox centers; stabilization housing; congregate supervised living; and other effective bridges to permanent housing) for homeless individuals with complex health conditions in high density neighborhoods (e.g., Skid Row, Hollywood, Venice) and in unincorporated areas of LA County.

Goal 6
Maintain a real-time inventory of available residential slots, funded and usable by all three Departments, that facilitate immediate placement of homeless clients into available interim and permanent residential options appropriately matched to various need indicators (e.g., Medi-cal necessity, accessibility, level of on-site services, neighborhood, age).

Goal 7
Obtain Medi-Cal coverage, when possible, and successfully link individuals, where clinically appropriate, to comprehensive, integrated health services that are delivered in a way that is tailored for the unique needs of homeless individuals.

Goal 8
Develop screening questions for those conditions that lead to homelessness that could be incorporated into the practices of all three Departments along with methods and plans to link individuals to needed supports and services as part of the delivery of health care, mental health and public health services.

Goal 9
Engage in policy development and technical assistance activities to enhance the availability of high-quality, affordable, stable housing stock within LA County.

The Health Agency goals strive to capitalize on the opportunities presented by the ACA by:

1. having no wrong entry points or ‘doors’ to care;
2. integrating an array of physical health, mental health, and substance use disorder (SUD) services;
3. remaining sensitive to the unique realities and lived experiences of homeless patients by maintaining a level of ‘homeless cultural competence’; and
4. effectively challenging public entities and community-based organizations to work together in unprecedented ways to maximize services to those who lack stable housing/shelter including new strategies, systems, and platforms to aggressively enroll and retain chronically homeless individuals on Medi-Cal.
Affordable Care Act Opportunities \textit{continued}

POPULATION(S) TARGETED & OTHER CATEGORIZATIONS

Homeless families and individuals enrolled in Medi-Cal

POTENTIAL PERFORMANCE METRICS

To be determined

FUNDING

Medi-Cal

\begin{tabular}{|c|}
\hline
\textbf{CONNECT\textunderscore{}TION TO CITIES} \\
\hline
SAME  \hline
COMPLEMENTARY  \\
\hline
\checkmark \textbf{NO CITY ROLE}  \\
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