

SAN FRANCISCO LOCAL HOMELESS COORDINATING BOARD

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April 8, 2002

Harvey M. Rose
Board of Supervisors
Budget Analyst
1390 Market Street Suite 1025
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Mr. Rose:

This letter is written by the Local Homeless Coordinating Board in response to the SURVEY OF THE COST OF DIRECT SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE HOMELESS POPULATION, DECEMBER 2001, prepared by your office. We address several topics of concern as mentioned in the above named report.

The San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board is organized to coordinate San Francisco's homeless policy, McKinney funding, and Continuum of Care development, implementation and monitoring. The purpose of the Local Board is to help ensure a unified homeless strategy, therefore we are submitting this letter with our comments to clarify the analysis in your report.

The topics of concern are as follows:

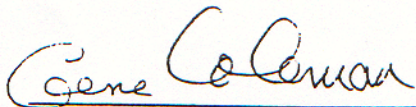
- The estimate of approximately 95,000 persons to be served in the fiscal year 2001-2002 is reported to contain "extensive duplication counting of homeless individuals." These units of service are not standard or uniform in their presentation. Because "some service providers have reported an unduplicated total number of persons served annually for their organization," it can be deduced that other organizations did not provide an unduplicated count.
- The inclusion of the County Adult Assistance Program (CAAP) spending for payments to homeless single adults is an erroneous cost, as cash assistance is not linked to housing.
- Indirect and direct costs were not distinguished within the most recent report when determining the cost of homeless expenditures.
- Non-uniform definitions of homelessness have been used to provide assistance to homeless people.
- Capital costs included services provided for multi use participants, not just homeless people.

- The methodology used for this report update was not consistent over time. The 1994 report did not include capital improvement projects or administrative costs in its analysis, and included information provided by the Mayor's Office on Homelessness, the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Mayor's Office of Community Development, Department of Social Services, Department of Public Health, Juvenile Probation Department, and the Commission on the Aging. The 2001 report incorporated information submitted by the Department of Public Health, the Department of Human Services, the Mayor's Office of Community Development, and the Mayor's Office of Housing as before, but this time queried the Department on the Status of Women, the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, and the Redevelopment Agency, not including the Juvenile Probation Department, and the Commission on the Aging.

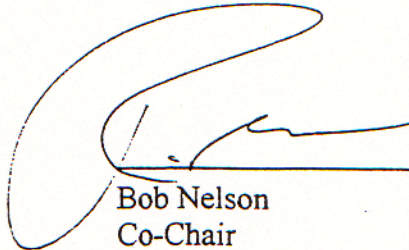
The terms "persons served by the city" and "units of service" appear to be used interchangeably. Each department gave separate periods of time, implying inconsistent data. This report also does not adequately reflect usage of the new definition of homelessness adopted by the Board of Supervisors in December 2001. This report is fraught with inconsistencies, therefore a comparison of apples and oranges, and disputed by the Local Homeless Coordinating Board.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. For further discussion please contact the below signed Co-Chairs.

Sincerely,



Gene Coleman
Co-Chair



Bob Nelson
Co-Chair

cc: Members of the Board of Supervisors
Clerk of the Board
Mayor Brown
Controller
Steve Kawa
Ben Rosenfield
Ted Lakey
Brenda Lopez, DCYF
Pamela David, MOCD
Daryl Higashi, MOH
Mitchell Katz, DPH
Rosario Navarette, DOSW
Trent Rhorer, DHS
Marcia Rosen, Redevelopment Agency
George J. Smith III, Mayor's Office on Homelessness