



# City of Austin

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**FROM:** Carlos Rivera, Director Health and Human Services Department  
Betsy Spencer, Director Neighborhood Housing and Community Development Office 

**DATE:** August 12, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Update on Resolution No. 20140320-048 & Resolution No. 20100325-053: Permanent Supportive Housing

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On March 25, 2010, the Austin City Council approved a resolution directing the City Manager to work with community stakeholders to develop a comprehensive strategy that would result in the creation and operation of 350 units of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) over the next four years. The attached, "Report on the status of Permanent Supportive Housing in Austin," summarizes the success of the campaign, partnership and initiatives established to meet that goal.

In addition, the City Council approved a resolution on March 20, 2014, directing the City Manager to:

- Work with the Ending Community Homelessness Coalition (ECHO) and other community partners to establish a working definition of "Housing First" Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) for the Austin Community;
- Establish the required qualifications for consideration to operate and/or develop a Housing First PSH community;
- Prepare a formal City of Austin Solicitation for a Housing First PSH Project; and,
- Work with the Leadership Committee [on PSH Finance] and other stakeholders to establish targets for the number of Housing First units to be delivered and serviced by the community over the next five years through additional solicitations or other mechanisms.

Staff has met with the Leadership Committee on PSH Finance monthly and worked closely with ECHO and other stakeholders to develop these and other recommendations and deliverables, including the Independent PSH Evaluation required in the original PSH Strategy Resolution passed by City Council in March 2010.

Through many community partnerships and intensive collaboration, the City's goal of 350 new units of PSH over four years has been met and surpassed, recognizing this goal includes units funded but not yet realized in the development cycle, which are slated to come online in the next two years. The Neighborhood Housing and Community Development and the Health and Human Service Department highlight this distinction recognizing that through important funding solutions such as the General Obligation Bond Program and the 1115 Waiver Program, efforts to achieve this goal would have been strained further by lack of resources.

The City's collaborative work with community partners has created several new and innovative partnerships and endeavors that have educated the community and helped hundreds of people exit chronic homelessness. Overall the Roof Over Austin campaign to end chronic homelessness has been a great success, and as the program and collaborations that have been established continue, the City can be proud to have been a leading partner in these efforts. While there are still many more homeless individuals to be housed, the Roof Over Austin campaign to end chronic homelessness has helped to ensure that hundreds of previously homeless people now have access to stable housing. This is a good start; however, the campaign needs ongoing support to ensure that the people most in need in Austin can be housed, likely resulting in cost savings from decreased use of high cost public services such as the court system, jails, and emergency rooms.

Please find attached a written brief addressing Resolution 20140320-048 and Resolution 20100325-053. To view the full ECHO evaluation report online, please visit:  
[http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Housing/PSH/PSH\\_Evaluation\\_by\\_ECHO\\_2014.pdf](http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Housing/PSH/PSH_Evaluation_by_ECHO_2014.pdf)

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact us.

Cc: Marc A. Ott, City Manager  
Bert Lumbreras, Assistant City Manager

Attachments