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San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Receive COVID-19 Updates and Approve Project Roomkey Agreement with Motel 6 to Shelter Homeless Residents at Risk for COVID-19

STOCKTON – The San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors met today to hear the following COVID-19 updates and approve actions:

Project Roomkey Agreement with Motel 6

- The Board of Supervisors approved a master agreement with Motel 6 to implement Project Roomkey which is a Statewide program to assist homeless individuals who are in a high-risk category for COVID-19 by providing isolation capacity for these individuals through non-congregate sheltering (NCS) such as hotels/motels.
 - The agreement provides housing of non-COVID-19 positive, at-risk homeless individuals within 76 rooms at the Motel 6 located at 817 Navy Drive in Stockton between May 5 – June 30, 2020 with a contingency to extend the agreement through September 30, 2020.
 - The Human Services Agency, in coordination with various County departments, will provide welcome packets, transportation to the location, hygiene supplies, snacks, three meals per day, laundry services for personal clothing, and once per day check-in calls to each room for each guest for the duration of their stay. The County will retain the property owner’s contracted security services and provide 24/7 coverage.
 - The total estimated cost to implement the Motel 6 component of Project Roomkey in San Joaquin County is \$798,418 for the period of May 5, 2020, through June 30, 2020. SB 89 legislation should fund a majority of the upfront costs. Should approval be extended through September, FEMA reimbursement may be available for up to 75 percent of eligible costs. The County is responsible for any costs necessary to restore the hotel premises to their original “as-is” condition as well as any potential liability stemming from the conduct of the guests. These costs are unknown at this time but could result in significant financial obligations for the County.
 - Over 400 people throughout the County who are in high-risk categories such as age or underlying health conditions are being considered for Project Roomkey. In addition, County staff is continuing to look for safe alternative accommodations for COVID-19 positive and symptomatic individuals.

“Many cities and counties throughout California received direct funding from the State to address homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic. While local cities may initiate these NCS agreements on their own, San Joaquin County took the lead on this effort along with the case management services. We also want to extend our deep appreciation to Motel 6 for their partnership and to the Continuum of Care and the City of Stockton for participating financially,” said San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors Chair, Kathy Miller. “While we expect that the people participating in Project Roomkey will take care of their new surroundings, the fact is, we aren’t sure what the final

County cost will be to restore the rooms to their original condition or any other unexpected expenses. However, it is the right thing to do and we are willing to pursue this critical effort to benefit all our cities and residents.”

Updates on COVID-19 Pandemic in San Joaquin County

- Dr. Maggie Park gave a presentation on the COVID-19 pandemic in San Joaquin County. She noted that currently there are 535 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in San Joaquin County with 25 COVID-related deaths. She provided a chart (see attachment) which indicates that while case counts are rising, hospitalization rates are remaining flat overall which she noted is good news to getting back to normal, stating: “I want to thank the residents of San Joaquin County for this flattening of the curve. The sacrifices and efforts they’ve made, without a doubt, have saved lives and protected our vulnerable citizens, I am very certain of that. I do ask for their continued patience because we’re not done with this fight against COVID-19, and we need to remain vigilant with what we are doing. I understand that we all want to get back to normal but even when we do go back, it will be a new normal. Residents will still see people practicing social distancing, wearing face coverings and washing hands more frequently than before.”
- Dr. Park provided an overview the four phases that the Governor has recommended for local governments to begin economic recovery. Dr. Park said that San Joaquin County is currently in phase one and are working diligently to increase testing, contact tracing and ensuring health care infrastructure capacity. She said the County is making great strides in effecting phase one and looking to implement phase two in the coming weeks in collaboration with the State. She said phase two could consist of soft openings of public spaces and making safety adaptations for schools, day care operations, limited retail and open spaces such as parks. Dr. Park noted that while they are working closely with the Governor’s Office they are leaving room for variations based on our own local conditions.
- Lani Schiff-Ross, Executive Director of First 5 San Joaquin, gave a report on the status of children and child care services throughout the County during the COVID-19 pandemic, noting there is great need among childcare providers who are working with Countywide partners to address as many necessities as possible. Ms. Schiff-Ross said they partnered with Family Resource & Referral Center to regularly distribute supplies to childcare providers including hand sanitizer, gloves, wipes, and spray bottles, along with books and literacy materials. First 5 San Joaquin funded partners are continuing to provide their services in many creative ways. Preschool programs are checking in with students a couple of times a week and conducting distance learning with preschoolers through packets for families, story-time online, calls, YouTube videos and ‘Door Dash’ activity kits. She said childcare staff are experiencing several concerns including those related to health and safety, the need for supplies, loss of income and feeling underappreciated. She also stated that many childcare sites are serving essential workers, but many workers don’t know about their childcare benefits. Additionally, many sites still have the ability to add children while maintaining social distancing. There are currently 850 slots available for essential workers, including County workers. First 5 is working with many local partners to reach out to San Joaquin residents about this additional childcare capacity.
- Dan Burch, the San Joaquin County EMS Agency Administrator and Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator, told the Board that on April 27, 2020, hospitals in San Joaquin County reported 25 hospitalized COVID-19 positive patients. Of those patients hospitalized, 9 required intensive care. Mr. Burch stated that the acute care hospitals have created sufficient surge capacity to allow hospitals, surgery centers, clinics, and physician offices to resume providing medical services that have been delayed and deferred. Mr. Burch also said that the daily hospital census of patients with COVID-19 is significantly below the daily admission projections made by the State of California and San Joaquin County Public Health Services.

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