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Board of Supervisors Host U.S. Housing & Urban Development and California Health and Human Services Agency Dignitaries for Homelessness Forum

Stockton, CA – On Tuesday, November 10, 2026, the San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors and Health Care Services Agency hosted executives from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for a forum to address homelessness. The County highlighted local efforts to address homelessness through treatment, coordinated services, and innovative technology while a HUD and HHS dignitaries convened a forum on the agencys funding priorities.

Dr. Robert Marbut from HUD and Ed Heidig, from HHS, came from Washington D.C. and Sacramento respectively, to observe a demonstration of the County's SHINE app and to tour the SJ BeWell Campus. These highlights were to demonstrate to Federal and State officials how San Joaquin County uses technology, multidisciplinary, regional partnerships, and access to behavioral health treatment to connect individuals experiencing homelessness with appropriate services and pathways to stability.

Dr. Marbut then led an exclusive forum to share the Federal Administration's priority of addressing homelessness and addiction through the "Treatment First" model and other outcome-based best practices that HUD will prioritize for funding. Attendees included representatives from law enforcement, shelter operators, city leadership from San Joaquin's four largest cities, behavioral health administrators, and homeless services administrators from San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties.

"You can't address the homeless problem without using common sense and taking action on mental health and addiction," said Vice Chair Steve Ding. "I've been working for months to build this relationship with our Federal and State partners to make this a reality. It takes enforcement, support, and the facilities to care for those who struggle with mental health and addiction. We aren't talking, we are taking action."

Supervisor Paul Canepa added, "We cannot solve homelessness without addressing its underlying causes. That means prioritizing treatment, connecting individuals with the services they need, and holding ourselves accountable for results. Our residents deserve solutions that restore lives, improve community safety, and make a measurable difference."

“Treatment-first solutions are essential to making meaningful progress on homelessness,” said Health Care Services Agency Director, Genevieve Valentine. “The SJ BeWell Campus demonstrates what is possible when comprehensive behavioral health treatment and supportive services come together in one place. We are grateful that the Federal government has recognized BeWell as a best-practice project in its Treatment First Toolkit, helping showcase a model that other communities can learn from and replicate.”

Probation Chief Steve Jackson concluded, “Homelessness requires a coordinated, multidisciplinary response. Through SJ CARES, modeled after the successful Stanislaus County approach, our partner agencies work together to identify individuals, assess their needs, and connect them with appropriate services. Technology like the SHINE and Shelter apps strengthen that coordination, improve information sharing, and help ensure individuals don't fall through the cracks as they work toward stability.”

The forum underscored San Joaquin County’s commitment to working with local, State, and Federal partners to advance effective, treatment-centered solutions that address homelessness, improve individual outcomes, and strengthen communities.

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