



Honorable Mayor and Members of the Hermosa Beach City Council

UPDATE ON HOMELESSNESS EFFORTS

(Senior Management Analyst Sara Russo)

Recommended Action:

Staff recommends City Council receive and file the report.

Executive Summary:

The City of Hermosa Beach launched a mobile crisis response pilot program to provide help to people experiencing homelessness and mental health crises. The program ended September 29, 2025 and staff is to provide an update on the results.

Background:

At its December 12, 2023 City Council meeting, City Council awarded a professional services agreement to Los Angeles Center for Alcohol and Drug Abuse (L.A. CADA) to provide mobile mental health and crisis response services due to the City being a recipient of a federal grant. With the City, L.A. CADA implemented a crisis response pilot program to complement existing outreach and engagement efforts to improve outcomes for persons experiencing homelessness in Hermosa Beach.

On September 29, 2025 the HbCares program ended due to lack of continued funding.

On October 28, 2025 staff presented an informational item regarding an update to Hermosa Beach’s homelessness programs. At the end of the report, City Council requested a report on Hb Cares activities.

Past Council Actions

Meeting Date	Description
September 10, 2024	Councilmember Detoey requested, and Mayor Pro Tem Seamann and Mayor Francois supported, a future agenda item regarding the City’s current regulations on public camping and possible regulatory options in light of the Grants Pass decision.
October 8, 2024	City Council gave direction to bring back a comprehensive Hermosa Beach Municipal Code amendment to regulate camping in public places in light of the recent Grants Pass decision.

Meeting Date	Description
February 25, 2025	The City Council introduced on first reading and waived full reading of the ordinance and directed certain changes regarding the violation section.
March 11, 2025	The City Council waived the second reading and adopted Ordinance No. 25-1486.
September 30, 2025	Councilmember Jackson requested, and Mayor Seamann supported a future informational agenda item regarding an update on the City's homelessness programs, funding and car camping.
October 28, 2025	Mayor Pro Tem Detoy requested, and City Council approved for staff to come back with a presentation regarding HbCares activities.

Analysis:

The Hermosa Beach Police Department is often the agency responding to calls involving unhoused individuals who have mental health issues. The City used the federal funding to engage and support a civilian team that responded instead of the police when incoming calls involve nonemergency and non-medical situations with individuals experiencing homelessness and in need of mental health services. The mobile crisis response team was trained and equipped to de-escalate situations and work in cooperation with Harbor Interfaith Services, which provided services for Hermosa's unhoused residents. The mobile crisis response team provided information, referrals, transportation to services and additional follow-up support and case management to support Harbor Interfaith Services.

The population served consisted of thirty-four (34) individuals experiencing homelessness in Hermosa Beach, as well as the resident population of approximately 19,728. The project aimed to decrease the number of individuals experiencing homelessness by offering welfare checks and stabilization services; decrease the number of mental health crisis calls handled by the Hermosa Beach Police Department by identifying calls eligible for diversion to an alternate response model and improving access to those experiencing homelessness in Hermosa Beach.

Out of 34 individuals experiencing homelessness: 2 individuals were housed, 1 entered a nursing home, 1 entered a drug rehabilitation center, 2 were reunited with their families, 1 returned to their country, 2 were sheltered, 3 stay in their vehicle, and 22 are service resistant.

While the pilot program had several success stories, multiple challenges were met. L.A. CADA encountered lots of staff turnover, had limited staff during peak periods, and they were unable to set up a second team. It was also difficult to engage with harder to reach populations, locating individuals, and engaging with unhoused individuals who were

service resistant. Furthermore, staff endured barriers to housing resources making it a struggle to house individuals.

Although the program was met with challenges, valuable lessons were learned and staff recommends that future programming have continuous mental health and housing assistance and that the City explore regional collaborations to expand reach and impact.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact associated with the recommendation.

Attachment:

L.A. CADA Hb Cares Dashboard

Respectfully Submitted by: Sara Russo, Senior Management Analyst

Approved: Steve Napolitano, City Manager