



January 30, 2014

Message from the President & CEO



Richard C. Gentry
President & CEO

As January draws to a close, I have been invited by the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities to speak at a Congressional Briefing next Tuesday in Washington, D.C., about the innovative programs the San

Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) has implemented through the federal "Moving to Work" (MTW) program.

I will talk about using federal housing vouchers to address homelessness and preserving affordable housing with MTW funds, such as SDHC's renovation of the historical Hotel Churchill in downtown San Diego. We will create 72 studios for homeless or low-income military veterans and individuals who need mental health services.

Also this month, the U-T San Diego newspaper on January 9 [published a commentary article](#) that was co-written with City of San Diego Interim Mayor Todd Gloria and Joel John Roberts, the CEO of People Assisting the Homeless (PATH), about the first-year operation of Connections Housing Downtown, a one-stop homeless center that provides housing and services for 223 homeless individuals.

I would also like to share with you additional recent important SDHC activities.

Point-in-Time Count of Homeless Individuals

SDHC participated in the annual Point-in-Time Count of homeless San Diegans, which took place at dawn on January 24.

I had the opportunity to interview a homeless woman living on the streets of downtown San Diego who used to rent a hotel room with her roommate. Commissioners Roberta Spoon and Ben Moraga also spoke with a homeless man who works from 5:30 a.m. to early evening to earn money through recycling. He longs for a daily shower if only there was such a facility open during his off hours for him to use.



The San Diego Point-in-Time Count provides an estimate of the number of homeless individuals in San Diego County and data from in-depth surveys of at least 10 percent of unsheltered homeless individuals.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development requires Continuum of Care participants across the country to conduct Point-in-Time Counts and to report the data with their applications for funding to address homelessness. SDHC is one of the lead organizations for San Diego's Regional Continuum of Care Council.

SDHC Strategic Plan Approved

A Strategic Plan to identify how SDHC can have the greatest possible impact with limited financial resources in the years ahead was approved by our Board of Commissioners this month.

Through a Strategic Planning Process, SDHC identified three major Goals:

- Create and Preserve Quality Affordable Housing;
- Provide Housing Choice Voucher Families with Opportunities for Them to Become More Financially Self-Reliant; and
- Foster a Culture of Excellence and Innovation.



SDHC's Strategic Plan Report

[Read SDHC's Strategic Plan Report](#)

SDHC's "AA" Credit Rating Affirmed by Standard & Poor's

This month, Standard & Poor's Ratings Services affirmed the San Diego Housing Commission's (SDHC) 2013 "AA" credit rating.

Standard & Poor's cited SDHC's credit strengths, such as "extremely strong overall management," "very strong financial profile" and "the essentiality of SDHC housing."

An "AA" rating from Standard & Poor's is its second highest and indicates that SDHC has a "very strong capacity to meet financial commitments."

[Read the Standard & Poor's Report](#)

SDHC's Smoke-Free Policy – February 1

Signs went up at SDHC-owned properties this month to remind residents that SDHC's Smoke-Free Policy will take effect on February 1.

The new Smoke-Free Policy prohibits smoking anywhere at SDHC-owned residential properties, which include more than 2,000 affordable housing units.

Smoking lighted pipes, cigars or cigarettes of any kind, including electronic cigarettes and cigarettes made from any weed or plant, is not permitted.



Smoke-Free signage installation at SDHC-owned residential property.

Smoking is not allowed in individual apartments or within 25 feet of the buildings. The policy applies to residents, their guests, and SDHC employees or contractors working on-site.

[Read the SDHC Smoke-Free Policy Fact Sheet](#)

SDHC Report Profiles The 8th Project Homeless Connect – Downtown Participants

SDHC recently released a report that showed that the majority of the San Diegans who received help at last month's The 8th Project Homeless Connect – Downtown San Diego (PHC) were single, and 61.1 percent were men.

This gender data is consistent with nationwide trends in the [2012 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's \(HUD\) Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress – Volume II](#), which is based on data collected in Point-in-Time Counts across the country. But according to the PHC report, homeless participants who received services were older.



The 8th Project Homeless Connect – Downtown Report was released on January 23, 2014.

The report is based on information PHC participants provided about themselves at this one-day resource fair.

For the fourth consecutive time, SDHC was the lead organizer for PHC, providing financial support and, through SDHC's website, volunteer recruitment. Major partners were the City of San Diego, the Interfaith Shelter Network, Family Health Centers of San Diego and St. Vincent de Paul Village.

[Watch video on SDHC's YouTube Channel](#)

[Read SDHC's The 8th Project Homeless Connect Report](#)

[Read the SDHC News Release](#)

I invite your comments.

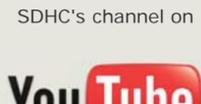
Sincerely,

Richard C. Gentry
President & Chief Executive Officer
San Diego Housing Commission

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Read SDHC's 2012 Annual Report & Portfolio



Read SDHC's Creating Affordable Housing Report

