

HOMELESSNESS PILOT PROGRAM: NEXT PHASE



ENHANCED RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS PILOT PROGRAM

Program was designed to address three categories of homeless individuals that create a disproportionate impact on the local community. Those categories are

- 1) those with chronic mental illness
- 2) those with drug/alcohol addictions, and
- 3) habitual offenders who live on the street committing crimes of opportunity.

Homeless individuals in these categories are often unwilling or unable to accept services designed to help their circumstances.

HOMELESS COURT



HOMELESS COURT

Homeless Court gives additional attention to those individuals who have impacted the community through criminal behavior with the goals of

- addressing underlying causes of their behavior, i.e. substance abuse and/or mental health treatment;
- getting them “housing ready,” i.e. necessary documents and expunging criminal history; and

Ultimate Goal= Permanent Housing

HOMELESS COURT

Much higher percentage of court appearances by those in the program than is typical for homeless defendants in criminal cases.

Very tailored conditions of release targeted towards what each individual needs to become “housing ready.”

Lila Omura, and other reps from Harbor Interfaith, appear at all Homeless Court Sessions.

City contract with PATH recently amended to permit their participation as well.

HOMELESS COURT

Homeless Court began in August 2019 and ran uninterrupted until March 2020.

As a result of COVID-19 there were not court hearings in either April or May.

Homeless Court resumed in June and July, but will be dark in August.

Next scheduled Homeless Court date is September 9th.

HOMELESS COURT – COVID CHALLENGES

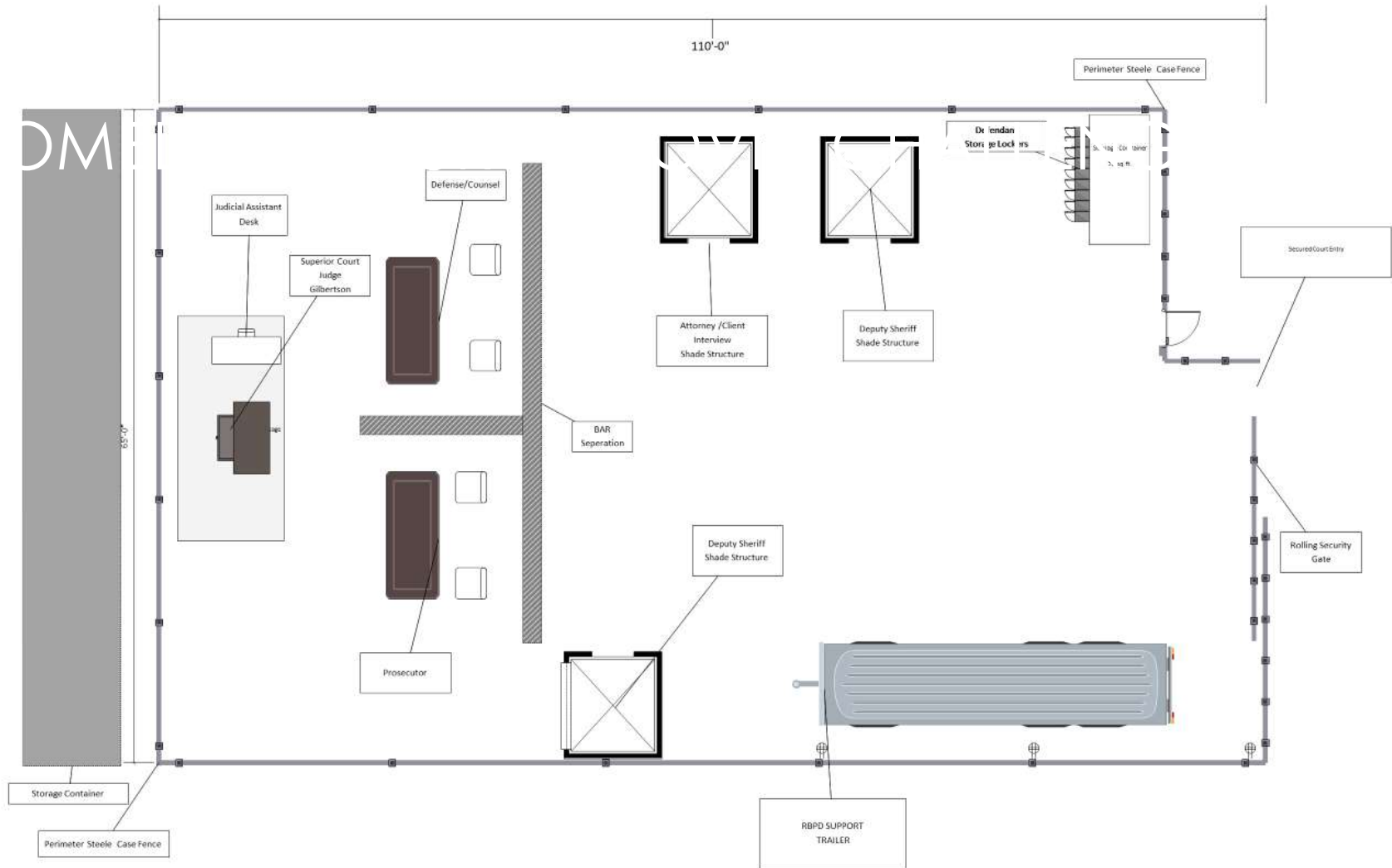
Travel for Court appearances is more challenging for homeless defendants during the pandemic as well as for Lila Omura who often assists with their transportation.

Additionally, having, at times, 20 plus defendants inside a Courtroom at the same time is not optimal for avoiding the spread of COVID-19 and the safety of court personnel

NEXT PHASE: RB City Council Approved the Following Actions on 8/4/20

1. Host the Homeless Court program (currently held in the Torrance Superior Court) once a month for one year;
2. Prepare and bring back for City Council approval for an MOU for Clear Recovery Center to donate up to \$5,000 per month of professional clinical services for a mental health treatment program to assist the homeless, with the option to pay for additional services using funds from the SBCCOG grant; and
3. Prepare and return for City Council approval the documents necessary to rent beds within a collaborative housing program in a nearby city within Spa 8.

DM



MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT PROGRAM

- A significant percentage of the Homeless individuals who end up in criminal court have underlying chronic mental health conditions. Mental health treatment is vital and often necessary to get a homeless individual “Housing Ready.” The available treatment facilities are frequently overwhelmed with patients or they are otherwise difficult for homeless defendants to access.
- We have said from the beginning of the Pilot Program that increasing access to Mental Health Services would be an important part of the program.



MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT PROGRAM

- MOU for Clear Recovery Center to donate up to \$5,000 per month of professional clinical services for a mental health treatment program to assist the homeless, with the option to pay for additional services using funds from the SBCCOG grant.
- Approved on 9/1/20

CRISIS/TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

- There is insufficient transitional housing available to the Homeless throughout California and particularly to the homeless in the South Bay. Furthermore, there are no homeless shelters in Redondo Beach. We have located beds potentially available for rent in a collaborative housing program in a nearby city within the Los Angeles County Department of Health Service Planning Area 8 (SPA8).

CRISIS/TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Concept=

- We would try to couple the crisis/transitional housing with after-hours and weekend support services from licensed clinical social workers and substance abuse counselors.
- These details are still being finalized.

CRISIS/TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

- This transitional housing would be invaluable in helping homeless individuals prepare for and become eligible for permanent housing.
- We're facing a known issue when Project Room Key sunsets in the future and currently housed RB homeless individuals will have nowhere to go.

HOMELESS COURT

