



CITIZEN INFORMATION PACKET

County staff and elected officials want to hear about the county services that are working for you, and look at ways to improve county services. It may help to know a bit more about the efforts that departments have been focusing on recently, as well as the challenges they are facing. The information below will give you a bit of background information before you head off to your table discussions.

Public Works

Key issues

1. Maintenance of roads/facilities/parks
2. Returning the Aviation Division to a self-supporting division
3. Delivering Capital projects including ADA improvements

Challenges

1. Appropriate funding for maintenance
2. Lack of personnel to deliver all the capital projects that are funded and ready to move forward
3. Retention of qualified staff

Planning & Building

Key issues

1. General Plan Update approval received and implementation is underway
2. Cannabis permit application processing and new ordinance
3. County Code Enforcement transition into Planning and Building Department

Challenges

1. Trained and experienced professional staff in key specialties, such as senior planners and code enforcement investigators, are in short supply for the volume and type of work in the department.
2. The department workload and staff have doubled in the past year. Integrating new, often inexperienced staff members and developing new innovative procedures to adequately complete the volume and diversity of the departmental tasks.
3. Current facilities are not sufficient for the size of staff and current work demands.

Department of Health & Human Services

Key issues

1. Workforce development, recruitment and retention, increasing quality training
2. Housing and homelessness, working with non-profits and business to increase and better utilize the available housing stock, wrap services around the client
3. Modernizing Child Welfare Services, increasing training and coordination with Sherriff Office and implementing new, efficient electronic systems

Challenges

1. Recruitment and retention in an era of historically low unemployment, particularly in the nursing and mental health fields
2. Americans with Disabilities Act and the costs and staff time associated with ensuring our facilities comply with the consent decree
3. Serving the acuity and numbers of clients with behavioral health needs, often co-occurring mental health, substance use disorder and homelessness.

Sheriff's Office

Key issues

1. Full Staffing department wide
2. Updating Records Management and Communications Systems
3. Combatting the Drug Epidemic

Challenges

1. Jail at capacity
2. Correctional Deputies leaving
3. ADA Fixes and desperate need for new space for patrol operational needs

District Attorney

Key issues

1. Homicide and serious violent felonies prosecution in a timely manner
2. Staff Training and Development
3. New case management system deploy
4. Dispersing timely discovery
5. EVASt (Elder and Vulnerable Services Team) program development

Challenges

1. Shortage of courts/judges to hear cases
2. Having Victim Witness and CAST (Child Abuse Services Team) offices in a safer location within the courthouse
3. Advancing our technology to address changes in how evidence is collected/stored

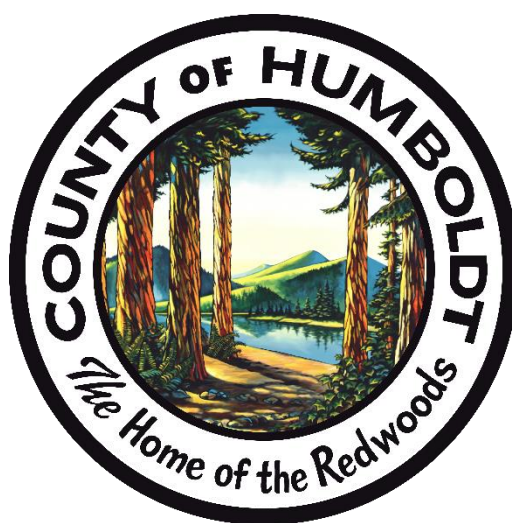
Probation

Key issues

1. Building a new juvenile hall in Humboldt County weather
2. Preparing the department for the transition in leadership due to the April retirement of 8-year Chief Probation Officer
3. Improving public safety through offender engagement in change/accountability actions in 2017.
 - 421 searches/arrests; 924 violation proceedings initiated; over 25,812 offender contacts made/attempted; over 1,360 court reports prepared; 208 successful completions (53.9%) during the year

Challenges

1. Staff turnover and a diminishing hiring pool of qualified candidates
2. Continual significant changes in legislation affecting the field of Corrections – sentencing law, policy/practice/regulations, etc.
3. Limited community resources to assist offenders in making and sustaining significant change in their lives (affordable housing, mental health and drug treatment accessibility, jobs for offenders, adolescent treatment options, etc.)





Budget Process

BUDGET PREPARATION

Departments receive input from the community and the Board about priorities for the new fiscal year.

The CAO verifies department requests, compiles them into a cohesive county budget and presents a recommendation to the Board.

BUDGET REVIEW

The Board is obligated to use roughly two-thirds of the budget on state- and federally funded programs.

General Fund monies are under the discretion of the Board and are allocated based on the Strategic Framework, and any other specific guidelines set by the Board.

Upon presentation to the Board, the public has an opportunity to provide feedback.

BUDGET ADOPTION

Budget scheduled for adoption at the June 27, 2017 Board meeting.

