



## Butte Countywide Homeless Continuum of Care

### Chronic Homelessness Committee

Thursday, June 4, 2020 at

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85701355163?pwd=OXZPZlVjK2EyYVkyR2ZJRW8yZzljZz09>

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Shelly Watson, Jesus Center  
Charles Withuhn, CHAT  
Deanna Schwab, Safe Space  
Elisa Rawlinson, DESS HH

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Don Taylor, DESS HH  
Briana Harvey-Butterfield, DESS HH  
Joey Tanson  
Justin Suddeth, Behavioral Health  
Nancy Morgans-Ferguson, Shalom Clinic  
Staci Parisi, DESS HH  
Leslie Johnson, CHAT  
Sara Frohock, Behavioral Health  
John Mitchell, ORM  
Kathleen Sweeney, Assistant to Tami Ritter  
Tara Sullivan-Hames, 2-1-1 Help Central

#### OTHER ATTENDEES:

Tracy Stogsdill, 2-1-1 Help Central

#### RECORDING:

Elisa Rawlinson, DESS HH

### ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Elisa Rawlinson at 2:09 P.M.
- 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - ACTION:** The minutes for the Chronic Homelessness Meeting for May 21, 2020, were approved with no corrections noted.  
Motion made by Shelly Watson.  
Seconded by Deanna Schwab.
- 3. ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Charles Withuhn mentioned a conversation with a member of the Chico Chamber of Commerce who stated they were pleased with Project Room Key, say significant changes in the participants since they've been housed and provided with wrap around services. The Chamber of Commerce member stated (informally) that they would support housing alternatives after having see the success of Project Room Key.

CHAT also announced they would have a tiny house at the Saturday Farmers Market in Chico.

4. **PROJECT ROOM KEY UPDATE:** Program has been extended through 6/30/2020. It was mentioned by 2-1-1 staff that clients had been calling saying they were told the program was over. Elisa Rawlinson explained the program never ended, but was extended by FEMA.

There was a discussion regarding the collaborative effort on the part of all programs working with Room Key participant; Butte County Housing and Homeless Division, Butte County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), Oroville Rescue Mission (ORM), True North (TN), Jesus Center (JC), Ampla Mobile Medical Unit (MMU), Enloe Hospital, Haven of Hope on Wheels, Public Health (PH) and Chico Housing Action Team (CHAT). The determination was “This is what a Continuum of Care (CoC) is supposed to look like”.

5. **HOW TO FOCUS THE MESSAGE:** The group went over prior slogans and more were offered up. Slogans were discussed:
  - a. Working together we can end homelessness.
  - b. We made housing difficult, we can make it easy.
  - c. We started homelessness, we can end it.
  - d. Housing is difficult, we can make it easy.
  - e. Butte County: Leading the way in housing solutions.
  - f. Butte County: Finding housing solutions.
  - g. Butte has land, the CoC has a plan, we have a Crisis.

The committee would like a survey monkey to go out to the CoC members. Elisa will do this, and work with Briana on messaging/explanation attached to the survey so people know what it’s for. Additionally, a box will be added so respondents can enter their own slogan.

6. **CAMP GROUNDS IN CALIFORNIA:** Charles Withuhn presented information on current and past camp grounds cities and counties have supported for homeless individuals. His presentation is attached, see Attachment 1.
7. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** No announcements were shared, but a question was asked. “How and when are shelters and transitional housing programs adding or bringing people back in? As there appears to be no Federal/State guidance on the matter.” It was determined connecting with King County in Washington might be helpful as they were the first place in the United States to work on Non-Congregate Shelter and they might have some guidance. Shelly Watson stated she would check with people in King County, WA.
8. **NEXT MEETING:** *The next CoC Council Meeting will be on June 18, 2020 at 12:00 P.M., it will be held via Zoom.*
9. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 P.M.

## Attachment 1

The city of San Diego on Monday opened a **camping area** for people who are homeless, with 24-hour security, bathrooms and storage.

The 136-space facility was set up in the parking lot of the city operations yard in Golden Hill, just south of the Balboa Park Golf Course.

The camping area is operated by the nonprofit **Alpha Project** like a typical campground, with rules and regulations and an on-site manager. Each person will register and be assigned a 13-by 13-foot campsite, but each space can accommodate one or more individuals. 10/10/17

<https://www.kpbs.org/news/2017/oct/09/san-diego-launches-homeless-campground/>

JUNE 28, 2018

Inside the largest of three tents set up to provide temporary shelter to homeless and their pets, that were residents of San Diego.

As the summer of 2017 drew to a close, a hepatitis A outbreak forced San Diego officials to confront the reality that their efforts to address the region's homelessness crisis were failing. Street encampments concentrated in the city's downtown area had become like a petri dish for the virus, which is spread by contaminated feces. Twenty people died and hundreds were hospitalized, at a cost of at least \$12.5 million. To stop the outbreak and to prevent another, the San Diego city council, at the urging of Mayor Kevin Faulconer, got aggressive about public health conditions on the streets. Besides dispatching the sanitation department to scrub the sidewalks with bleach, the city council authorized spending \$6.5 million to erect three semi-permanent tent shelters where homeless people could bed down in safe and sanitary conditions.

Though Oakland, Santa Barbara, and Seattle have built "sanctioned" homeless camps that provide basic services like trash pickup, San Diego's tents are a departure from those questionably effective strategies. San Francisco's Navigation Centers use a similar approach, but are based in permanent buildings instead of tents, their capacity limited by the city's byzantine planning process.

"These people are safe, and they have access to healthcare," says Bob McElroy, founder and CEO of the nonprofit Alpha Project, which runs the tent. "Neither of those things happen if someone is sleeping on the sidewalk." Built on a 50- by 310-foot parking lot, the Alpha Project tent and its surrounding site include showers,

laundry machines, storage for resident's belongings, and office-trailers for mental health and substance abuse counselors.

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2018/06/san-diego-homelessness-bridge-housing-tents/>

San Diego's largest homeless services provider, Father Joe's Villages **2020**  
**St. Vincent de Paul Village**

- Toussaint Academy
- Josue Homes
- and our five affordable housing complexes

<https://my.neighbor.org/our-stories/>

**APRIL 14, 2020**

**The novel coronavirus has a way of upending the most deeply entrenched thinking. LA is opening its' first tent city in 40 years.**

Last week, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs set up L.A.'s first temporary tent city in four decades. It's for veterans without homes — 25 initially, with a plan to expand to 50 as needed — so they can wait out the COVID-19 crisis by sheltering in place and social distancing in their own tents.

Until now, the city and county of Los Angeles have largely relied on shelters — and increasingly hotel and motel rooms — to help protect homeless people who are most at risk for contracting the virus. But last week, a homeless man tested positive while staying at a shelter in the San Fernando Valley and 68 homeless people and two staffers were infected in an outbreak at a shelter in San Francisco. Now the incidents are prompting a fresh look at campgrounds.

<https://www.latimes.com/homeless-housing/story/2020-04-14/coronavirus-homeless-safe-campground-veteran-affairs-los-angeles-campus>

December 11, 2019

The temporary homeless campsite in a city lot along Avenida Pico in San Clemente is closed

“We’ve had positive success stories,” said Mayor Pro Tem Laura Ferguson. “We thought we could limit it (the campsite) to local folks but the situation grew. It was a good remedy but now it’s time to close it.”

City Attorney Scott Smith said the council’s action was prompted by the fact that only five people remained in the location and it was no longer cost-effective for the city to maintain the site. At its peak, there were 71 homeless people at the site.

<https://www.ocregister.com/2019/12/11/san-clemente-votes-to-close-emergency-homeless-campsite/>

January 24, 2020

**By Alex Prieto, Western Center Senior Litigator**

Last month, after pressure from a case filed by Western Center and our partners, *Emergency Shelter Coalition v. City of San Clemente*, San Clemente passed an emergency repeal of a deeply inhumane ordinance targeting people experiencing homelessness. The ordinance would have forced anyone without a place to sleep to camp at a storage lot next to a waste treatment plant. The City made the repeal permanent this week.

<https://wclp.org/the-city-of-san-clemente-backed-away-from-an-inhumane-homelessness-ordinance-but-its-the-tip-of-the-iceberg-in-california-2/>

### **Shady Oasis Campground/Homeless encampment** Victorville CA

This looks like it was once a nice KOA. It’s now a dump! Total neglect - poor roads, overgrown grass, trash throughout the campground. The owners obviously don’t care about the place. Several tents on the premises - looks like a homeless encampment. **Date of stay:** June 2019

Posted Mar 6, 2020 at 7:09 PM

VICTORVILLE — Initial plans for the largest homeless shelter in the High Desert were unveiled during a City Council meeting

earlier this week.

Cassandra Searcy, the city’s homelessness solutions coordinator, said the proposed Wellness and Recuperative Care Center would be the first facility in San Bernardino County to offer 100 beds to men, women and families, and 50 beds to those needing continued medical treatment and recovery after hospitalization.

The center would also provide on-site services from nonprofits and government agencies that would bring resources for mental health, as well as job and housing assistance.

“So basically we’re not reinventing the wheel, we’re just working more collaboratively with programs that already exist under one roof in a one-stop shop model,” Searcy said during a presentation on Tuesday.

According to Victorville’s strategic plan for homelessness, the shelter was the city’s top priority after forming a Homelessness Solutions Task Force and hiring Searcy in 2019.

<https://www.vvdailynews.com/news/20200306/victorville-aims-to-build-high-deserts-largest-homeless-shelter>

May. 16, 2020

San Francisco opened its first temporary sanctioned tent encampment this week, and more are planned to follow. The first designated encampment, or safe sleeping site, is in a fenced-off area on Fulton Street near City Hall and contains roughly 50 tents spaced apart for social distancing, along with a handful of portable toilets, a couple of handwashing stations and 24-hour security. Officials say food, access to showers and cleaning services will also be provided. “Having places with resources serving people in the neighborhood is better than unsanctioned encampments.”

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/a-safe-place-to-sleep/>

May 6, 2020

- San Francisco is set to enact a homelessness solution it once thought unthinkable: city-sanctioned open-air encampments.

For years, San Francisco police have ordered tents removed from city streets, even at times **slashing them with knives themselves**. Public Works employees have tossed the ever-ubiquitous nylon homes of desperate people into dump trucks on a weekly basis.

This week, however, San Francisco will launch the first of five planned “Safe Sleeping Sites,” KQED News has confirmed, with the hope that unhoused

people will be kept socially distant amid the COVID-19 pandemic in a controlled location, replete with services like showers and food.

Tents, once an ultimate bogeyman of San Francisco's government, will be revered as lifesaving.

The first location was announced Wednesday by Mayor London Breed: an encampment of roughly 90 tents piled nearly on top of each other near the Asian Art Museum – on City Hall's front doorstep – will be officially sanctioned and allowed to expand onto Fulton Street, between the museum and the Main Library.

Safe, healthy, social distance will finally come to Civic Center's homeless.

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11816648/sf-used-to-trash-homeless-tents-now-the-city-will-sanction-these-safe-sleeping-sites>

UPDATED DECEMBER

16, 2019

The outdoor shelter was a temporary solution until officials could bring more shelter and services online. The shelter, which was a tent city underneath the Ninth Street Bridge in the Tuolumne River Regional Park, closed this month. It was home to about 450 people.

<https://www.modbee.com/news/local/article238440043.html>

Portland will open three organized camps for homeless people during coronavirus — an unprecedented step for a city that has long resisted sanctioned camping.

The three sites — two on Southeast Water Avenue and one near the westside base of Broadway Bridge — will also group residents in a way that has rarely been done in Portland shelters. One site will give priority to LGBTQ people and one for people of color. Anyone who wants the services specific to those sites will also be allowed to camp there. The third site will be for everyone, with an emphasis on older people. Each location will have 45 tents on platforms with cots inside for an individual person or couple. The city will provide sleeping bags and tents to ensure they are clean and hygienic. People will be able to store their belongings, including their own tents and sleeping bags, while staying at the camp.

The camps are intended to be temporary measures to group people near bathrooms, showers and other amenities to help insulate them from the spread of COVID-19. Each tent will be on a 12-foot-by-12-foot plot of land. Each of the three locations will be fenced off from the public.

<https://www.oregonlive.com/coronavirus/2020/04/portland-opens-three-outdoor-homeless-camps-to-try-to-contain-spread-of-coronavirus.html>

3.30.2020

San Luis Obispo county is securing campgrounds, hotel rooms and trailers to shelter homeless people who show symptoms of coronavirus. Besides the hotel rooms, the county has closed El Chorro regional park near San Luis Obispo to

reserve the park's campgrounds for homeless people who may get the coronavirus and not have any other shelter. The campgrounds have restrooms with showers.

<https://kprl.com/trailers-campground-for-homeless-3-30-2020/>

A 91-tent encampment is aiding Richmond's homeless. The city wants it taken down.

- By MARK ROBINSON Richmond Times-Dispatch
- Feb 5, 2020

<http://nationalhomeless.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Tent-Cities-Report-FINAL-3-10-10.pdf>

Seattle, (3), Thurston County, WA , Sacramento, CA ,(not sanctioned), Ontario, CA ,

**Sacramento:** The Sacramento COVID-19 Homelessness Response Team 5/22/2020

The Homelessness Response Team has focused on strategies and actions in three primary areas of direct services for people experiencing homelessness:

1. Keeping existing shelters safe and operational through education and provision of supplies;
2. Expanding sheltering capacity, focusing on isolation/quarantine opportunities; and
3. Supporting encampments through outreach, supply delivery, and increased sanitation

<https://www.saccounty.net/Homelessness/Pages/default.aspx>

Cities on the west coast that have campgrounds

San Diego, Los Angeles, Victorville, San Francisco, Portland, San Luis Obispo, Seattle, (3), Thurston County, WA , Sacramento, CA ,(not sanctioned), Ontario, CA ,