

MHSA Advisory Committee Questions for 9/2/15 Speakers

In this precarious housing market and with so many individuals experiencing homelessness or the threat of it, it would seem that one strategy would be to focus the available mental health dollars on creating housing for homeless seniors who are particularly vulnerable due to mental illness and advancing age. We have seen a sharp increase in need to provide emergency shelter for the aging population who are in the Marin County Mental Health system.

Before building something, we need to address who is our target population and who is eligible for the services.

- Undocumented is one population that needs affordable housing
- We need additional transitional housing for all inclusive regardless of insurance or mental health criteria
- Transitional housing, all inclusive regardless of insurance with mental health criteria

In terms of questions,

- Development: what current project are been planned for housing in Marin?
- Development: is there a need in housing that is in need of funding?
- MCF: Are there any housing proposals or request that MCF has received but is unable to fund, worth noting?
- Craig Meltzner and Associates: What should be consider when budgeting for a type of project of this scale? What does he see possible to build with this budget? Two big question but, can be a just a simple answer.

I wanted to make sure affordable housing is addressed in a way that includes undocumented families. Affordable housing is not available nor affordable for those families with children born here but parents are not documented, and has contributed to the overcrowding that has occurred in the Canal. Overcrowding brings other issues as well, health concerns (bed bugs, lice, rats, cockroaches, illness, allergic reactions, skin conditions etc etc.) that many of our children are living with. I understand perhaps the above goes without saying, but I needed to say it. Thanks

1. Are there any new plans, policies or funding prospects on the horizon regarding second units, including junior second units in existing single family dwellings and amnesty for existing second units?
2. What are the prospects for adding to the existing number of Section 8 vouchers in the County? Is there a waiting list?
3. What are the prospects for conversion of very large existing single family homes (4-5 bedrooms or more) into multiple family dwellings or co-housing opportunities?
4. What is the situation regarding worker housing on ranches in West Marin?