

**Report from the Subcommittee on Community Engagement
Santa Cruz City Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness**

Nov. 19, 2019

Proposal: A recommendation from the CACH to the City Council to fund a comprehensive community engagement program to include facilitated meetings across the community and across demographics and constituents, with an independent or specially designated convener(s)/facilitator(s).

In light of the coming cold and rains of winter, this subcommittee feels a sense of seriousness and urgency around our particular task. We ask this committee to consider the following:

Item a) from our *“primary objectives”* on the CACH application.

“Lead a community enrichment and public engagement process, giving community members a seat at the table and ownership of solutions,” and b) “synthesize and analyze community feedback.”

And an additional ask on June 25 from the City Council as this body was launched (second item, under “Council Direction,” see CACH webpage):

“Explore connecting with WISE and the Wisdom Council.”

Currently planned:

The two **stakeholder engagement workshops** planned have been shifted back to **Dec. 3 and 17**. As of today, Tuesday, the 19th, Friday, the first stakeholder engagement is two weeks away. We would appreciate your support to publicize these events to your constituents and neighbors.

Session 1 December 3, 2019 – Tuesday 6:00- 7:15 PM
Harbor High School 300 LaFonda Avenue Santa Cruz
Topic: Camping and Safe Sleeping

Session 2 December 17, 2019 – Tuesday 6:00- 7:15 PM
Veteran’s Memorial Building 846 Front Street Santa Cruz
Topic: Public Health & Hygiene Issues (including restrooms and showers)

The CACH is also planning a third 3-hour professionally facilitated *Community Listening Forum* to be held in early 2020 to create a respectful space in which community members from all backgrounds can come together to truly listen to and learn from one another about homelessness in our City. Location and date TBD.

As a subcommittee, we have concerns that given the high level of controversy around CACH issues, we do not have access to adequate City staff time dedicated to follow through on Council and CACH mandates for city-wide community engagement.

According to **Joyce Blaschke**, Community Relations Specialist with the Santa Cruz Police Department who conducted extensive outreach for the SCPD, work hours involved in setting up thorough community engagement sessions (she convened roughly six in various City neighborhoods) was enormous, and synthesis is another very time-intensive project. Her estimates are: Total hours planning for six engagement events, roughly **120 hours, not including support staff and 32 hours for synthesizing community input across 3 staff.**

We recommend to the CACH and Council that a more thorough stakeholder engagement initiative be launched around the current and probable recommendations from this group—especially around camping and safe sleeping. City staff hours are currently not available for this work.

Update: Wise Democracy and Wisdom Councils

Corinna McFarlane spoke with us from Wise Democracy and Wisdom Councils and there is progress in creating a limited, “sample” DF forum on homelessness in January that Ami will be attending as well as possibly a couple other CACH members, homeless advocates, city residents and others.

Ami has now met at least twice with Wisdom Council founder **Jim Rough** via Zoom Meeting, and locally based Wisdom Council advocates and is happy to share her thoughts about these meetings and answer any questions, along with any Wisdom Council advocates present at this CACH meeting. Please request any additional information you may need to consider Wisdom Councils for future decision making of this CACH.

Resources:

Here is a video describing the Wisdom Council process:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcIP-ZEMekI&feature=youtu.be>