



**COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
(CACH)
Regular Meeting**

Tuesday, Dec. 17, 2019

6:00 p.m. Special Public Engagement Session Begins

7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting Begins

Veteran's Memorial Building, Auditorium
846 Front Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- II. Minutes from Dec. 3, 2019 CACH meeting**
- III. Presentation by Helene Schneider, Regional Coordinator for US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USISCH)**
 - 1. CACH Discussion**
 - 2. Public Discussion (time limited)**
- IV. Oral Report from CACH Subcommittees**
- V. Expansion of CACH Membership**
- VI. Oral Communications (for items not listed on the agenda)**
- VII. Adjournment**

Adjournment -- The Committee Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) will adjourn from the public meeting of Dec. 17, 2019 to its next meeting of Jan 7, 2020.

The City of Santa Cruz does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. Out of consideration for people with chemical sensitivities, we ask that you attend fragrance free. Upon request, the agenda can be provided in a format to accommodate special needs. Additionally, if you wish to attend this public meeting and will require assistance such as an interpreter for American Sign Language, Spanish, or other special equipment, please call the City Clerk's Department at 420-5030 in advance so that we can arrange for such special assistance. The Cal-Relay system number: 1-800-735-2922.

Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) meetings will be recorded for the purpose of preparing minutes.

Harbor High School
300 La Fonda Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95062



DRAFT MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS (CACH)

MEETING

Regular Meeting

Dec. 3, 2019

7:30 P.M. REGULAR MEETING - HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL, MPR

Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) Agenda

Dec. 3, 2019

7:30 pm

- I. **Call to Order Roll Call (7:30 pm)** - Committee Members present: Ami Chen Mills-Naim, Stoney Brook, Candice Elliott, Serg Kagno, Don Lane, Taj Leahy, Brooke Newman, Aran Nichol, and Rafael Sonnenfeld

Mr. Tait was absent (excused)

Ms. Roach, Ms. Soares and Mr. Sanchez were absent (unexcused)

- II. **Minutes from Nov. 19th CACH Meeting (7:32 pm)**

Mr. Lane moved to approve minutes

seconded by Mr. Brook

Mr. Brook requested the word "work" be changed to "word"

Minutes approved with changes by consensus

Vice Mayor Cummings spoke regarding the Council's request that the CACH review and submit recommendations on the City's camping ordinance

- III. **Health and Hygiene Panel (7:51 pm)**

Marcus Givens and Marcus Lovelace presented on the mobile shower/restroom/laundry trailers operated by Dignity on Wheels

Tom Stagg presented on the hygiene bays operated at and by Housing Matters

- IV. **Oral Report from CACH Subcommittees (8:41 pm)**

Public Engagement Sub-Committee (8:41 pm)

Public Health Sub-Committee (8:42 pm)

Ms. Nichol moved:

To direct staff to look into the possibility of partnering with non-profits that offer mobile shower units with a track record of success.

Ms. Newman seconded

Motion adopted by consensus

Safe Sleep Sub-Committee (8:49 pm)

Mr. Kagno moved:

The Co-Chairs request to the Council that the CACH be given more time to consider the City's camping ordinance in concert with locations for permitted sleeping.

Ms. Newman seconded

Mr. Lane added the friendly amendment to add the words "given the opportunity to"

Amendment was accepted

Revised motion:

The Co-Chairs request to the Council that the CACH be given the opportunity to have more time to consider the City's camping ordinance in concert with locations for permitted sleeping.

Motion adopted by consensus

- V. **Oral communications (9:15 pm)**
Submitted written communications attached
- VI. **Adjournment (9:40 pm)**
Approved by consensus

Summary of Public Engagement Feedback

CACH Meeting Dec. 3, 2019, Topic: Health and Hygiene

Participants were put in large groups and asked to brainstorm the challenges and fears currently faced within our community regarding the health and hygiene of the unhoused. Here is the feedback (in no particular order):

CHALLENGES/FEARS

- Needle hysteria
- Doing drugs in the bathroom, finding overdosed individuals
- Not being able to maintain hygiene/health and they judgement that comes with it
- Not finding a bathroom when you need it
- Lack of privacy—fear of new space/unknown
- No answer = bad answer
- Heightened vulnerability from shared environment
- You only deserve a port-a-potty
- Temporary, not finding permanent solutions
- Social prejudice and false beliefs
- Environmental impact
- Negative feelings toward City due to lack of solution/basic needs
- Overcoming control by the real estate industry in City gov't
- Hate speech/social media
- More people dying
- People abusing facilities provided for unhoused
- Funding for hygiene specific services
- Education re: basic hygiene
- Fears of going to hospital and losing belongings
- Public health-organizing
- Lack of political will
- Lack of facilities
- Safe spaces for unstable
- Community fear of the unhoused halts services will prevent otherwise workable solutions
- Closed minds
- Misconceptions re: unhoused, addictions, mentally ill
- Mental health
- Drug abuse
- Non-communicable disease, life span shortened
- Lack of bathrooms/sanitation
- Lack of shower/lack of jobs/lack of improvement
- E-mail access/charging cell phones
- Community fear of communicable diseases
- Fear of poop on the ground
- Fear for personal dignity
- Fear of owing \$1000s
- Fear of police and “the system”
- Cycle of poverty
- Fear of being stereotyped with other groups
- Fear of crime—blamed on those who are homeless
- Fear of losing custody
- Fear is a health issue
- Fear that it continues to be enforcement issue rather than humanitarian issue
- Fear of insufficient \$ for services
- Challenge of bureaucracy/lack of coordination
- Challenge of trying to advocate for yourself
- Challenge of hopelessness/pessimism for a solution
- Fear of physical threats
- Fear that we are only going to talk and not get action, results
- Availability 24/7 showers & toilets
- Sex offenders need access
- Accessibility and local distribution of ADA bathrooms
- Shelter and bed/sleep availability
- 2 sides to the issue
- Storage for people's stuff & laundry
- Low barrier shelters
- Serving folks has challenges, such as outreach and transportation
- Coordinated entry such as housing first for the needs in addition to housing and/or shelter

Once each group compiled their challenges and fears, participants were reorganized into smaller groups to brainstorm current and past successes and possible solutions. Below are the successes (in no particular order):

SUCSESSES

- Downtown Streets Team
- AFC
- Needle disposal sites
- Opening of City Hall bathrooms
- Food Not Bombs
- Downtown portable toilets
- Closing "Camp Ross"
- "Camp Phoenix"
- Dientes
- Veteran's Memorial Building Wed. program
- Salt Lake City housing trust
- Janus of Santa Cruz
- Housing Matters (formerly HPHP)
- Housing Matters 24/7 bathroom access
- 1220 River Street Camp
- Bookshop Santa Cruz bathrooms available
- Warming Center & Day/Night storage
- Salvation Army
- VFW winter shelter
- Project Connect
- Homeless Garden Project
- Food bank

After brainstorming successes, participants were asked to provide possible solutions. The following is a list of the suggested solutions, categorized by subject area and listed within the subject area by number of votes/priorities.

SOLUTIONS

Suggested Solution	Votes
Shower-Related Topics	
Shower vouchers to gyms and hotels	4-1 st priority, 1-2 nd priority
Fund rebuilding of Housing Matters hygiene facilities	2-1 st priority , 1-3 rd priority
Mobile showers	1-1 st priority
More private shower facilities	1- 3 rd priority
Bathroom-Related Topics	
Open public bathrooms later	3-1 st priority, 2-3 rd priority
More bathroom access	2-1 st priority
Incentives, trainings and support for keeping bathrooms open	3-2 nd priority
“The Natural Way”	1-1 st priority
Embarcadero Pit Stop	
Needle/Injection/Drug Abuse-Related Topics	
Safe injection sites	1-1 st priority, 1-2 nd priority, 1-3 rd priority
24 hr needle response team	
More immediate admission into drug treatment	
Expanded services for substance abuse issues	
Operational-Related Topics	
More public health field workers	2-1 st priority
Less police contact, use social service workers for outreach to link to services	1-1 st priority, 1-3 rd priority
Police lay off booting & towing homeless’ vehicles used as a home, even when registration has expired	1-1 st priority, 1-3 rd priority
Coordinated services	1-2 nd priority
Larger role for those experiencing homelessness consulting/boards	2-3 rd priority
Promote volunteerism for community re: homelessness	1-3 rd priority
Universal trauma informed training	
Community incentive for individuals to take in homeless people referred by intake system	
Public Engagement-Related Topics	
More depth of conversation between homeless and housed	2-1 st priority
Involve the unhoused in provider services	1-1 st priority
More people in the general public for interaction	1-3 rd priority
More community involvement	More community involvement
Mental Health-Related Topics	
Better mental health care	1-3 rd priority
More mental health transitional housing	

Siting-Related Topics	
Use Kaiser Stadium for bathroom, showers, soup service	2-1 st priority, 1-2 nd priority
Port-a-potty at footbridge (Felker)	1-1 st priority, 2-2 nd priority, 2-3 rd priority
Downtown center for comprehensive services	1-1 st priority, 4-3 rd priority
Focusing on permanent structures, not temporary ones	2-1 st priorities, 1-3 rd priority
Churches at night (like SF's Gubbio project)	1-2 nd priority
New downtown library basement as a warming center	1-2 nd priority
Create an empty building inventory	3-2 nd priority
Inventory public buildings with hygiene facilities	2-2 nd priority
Park 'n Ride lot near Paul Sweet appears empty	1-3 rd priority
Use Cabrillo's campus after 2pm	
Toys R Us building parking lot	
Use existing buildings, parking lots, churches at night	
Use facilities in SC high school gyms	
Misc.-Related Topics	
Transitional encampments (Opportunity Village in Eugene and Dignity Village in Portland, Or)	3-1 st priority, 4-2 nd priority
Laundry vouchers	1-1 st priority, 1-2 nd priority
Police, Homeless & City Council meal events	1-1 st priority
Healing camp	1-1 st priority
Est. a special/homeless court to quickly adjudicate issues related to poverty, homelessness & it's symptoms	1-2 nd priority, 2-2 nd priority
More humanization of homelessness	1-2 nd priority
Better medical & dental services	1-2 nd priority
Join Homeless Union, promote homeless rights and educate on facts of causes of homelessness, depression & addiction	1-2 nd priority
Growing food in the Pogonip	3-3 rd priority
More trash receptacles	1-3 rd priority
Non retaliatory, restorable justice arbitration process	
Engage the CCAH in providing access to members at Housing Matters mail to receive member cards	
Modify the SC County election ballot to include a check box to make donation to homeless	
Sidewalk clinic homeopathy esp helpful for PTSD	
Add commercial stove at MHCAN to make soup with vegs from 2 nd Harvest or HGP	
Contribution opportunities at cash registers (\$1, \$2, \$5) to homeless services	
Nutrition solutions, not just crappy food	



COMMUNITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS
(CACH)
AGENDA REPORT

Dec. 17, 2019

DEPARTMENT: City Manager's Office

SUBJECT: Expansion of the CACH membership

RECOMMENDATION: On Dec. 10, 2019, the CACH Co-Chairs requested permission of the City Council to increase membership by one. The Council deliberated on the request, concluding that the CACH should review the intended membership list, and work with City staff to review the existing applicant base and potentially also do targeted outreach to fill some of the open seats that were in the original intent for the committee.

BACKGROUND: At the April 9, 2019 Council meeting, the Council moved to create a community advisory committee on homelessness to be made up of local stakeholder/relevant subject matter from the following sectors:

- Homelessness advocate
- Local Business
- Neighborhood representative
- Community member with recent or current homelessness experience
- At least two representatives for the covering of mental health, behavioral health, and addiction services
- A student representative
- Health care with special focus on the local system of homelessness care and solutions
- Policy and governmental expertise on homelessness
- Youth homelessness
- Others as identified by selection process

No more than two members of the committee may live and/or work outside of the City.

At the June 25, 2019 City Council meeting, the Council provided the following additional guidance on membership:

- Explore adding two members who are currently experiencing homelessness, or have experienced homelessness as decided by CACH.

REPORT: The Council has requested that the CACH contemplate the original stakeholder representation categories when pursuing additional membership. The goal of this request is to ensure the CACH stays aligned with the original intent to be a body representing the greater community and bringing a variety of experiences and voices to the table.

For consideration of the CACH, below is a table that outlines the original stakeholder groups that appeared on the CACH application as well as the current CACH member that represent those stakeholders:

Stakeholder Representation	Current CACH Member
Affordable Housing	
Behavioral Health	Ami Chen Mill-Naim
Business Owner	Candice Elliott
Education / Youth	Dwaine Tait
Employment Recruiter	
Faith Based Org.	
Health Care Specialist	Aran Nichol
Homeless Advocate	Serg Kagno
Homeless Service Provider	Brooke Newman
Neighborhood Organizations	Rafa Sonnenfeld
Non-Profit Sector	
Public Policy/Gov't	Don Lane
Substance Abuse	Taj Leahy
Veteran's Affairs	Stoney Brook
Violence Prevention	
Member with current lived experience	Stina Roach Frank Sanchez Alie Soares

Of the above, zero (0) member lives outside the City limits and six (6) members have current or past lived experience with homelessness.

Submitted by:

Megan Bunch, Principal Management Analyst