



**CITY OF DAVIS
SOCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION
WORKSHOP &
MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, November 17, 2014

6:00 pm

Community Chambers

23 Russell Blvd.

Davis, CA 95616

**Social Services Commission
Members Present:**

R. Matthew Wise, Jenna Templeton (Vice Chairperson),
Mindy Romero, Bernita Toney

Commissioners Absent:

Donald Kalman

Council Liason:

Robb Davis, Lucas Frerichs

Staff:

Danielle Foster, Housing and Human Services Superintendent
Adrienne Heinig, Administrative Aide

Needs Discussion Panelists:

Lisa Baker, Bill Pride, James McCloud, Christi Skibbins,
Sandra Sigrist, Alicia Kelley

1. Called to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Acting Chair Templeton.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Commissioner Wise moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Toney. The motion passed unanimously with no additions.

3. Workshop: Discussion of Homelessness in Davis and the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness in Yolo County.

Staffperson Foster introduced the workshop; set up as a community discussion on homelessness in Davis. In 2010, the Davis City Council, as well as the Councils for other cities in Yolo County, adopted the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. As part of a larger, county-wide process, staff throughout the county is holding workshops to get feedback in each jurisdiction and to look for areas of the plan that may be in need of updating. Lisa

Baker, the Chief Executive Officer of Yolo County Housing, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the situations surrounding homelessness, as well as existing services and some discussion around what can prevent individuals from seeking those services. She also highlighted areas where more resources are needed. The next Point-in-Time homeless census (Homeless Count), in January of 2015, will have components focused on getting accurate numbers of homeless veterans, as well as homeless youth. After the PowerPoint, the assembled audience participated in a Charette activity, responding to written questions about homelessness. Each of the questions, and the responses, are summarized below.

Question	Responses
Which populations are most likely to experience homelessness?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mentally ill • Those suffering from addiction • People with mental health problems and issues that are not being addressed • Un and undereducated, un and under employed, mentally ill, parolees • Children, underemployed, disabled • Abused and abusers • Those with difficulty communicating • Anyone living in poverty • Lower education level, but anyone in this economic climate • Anybody in crisis, your neighbor, your family, your friend, people you don't know • Veterans • Recent parolees • Abused youth, runaway teens • Foster youth • All • Unstable families • People who have no income of minimum wage workers who cannot afford to pay rent • Those who have undergone a crisis in their life • Unstable families
Where do homeless individuals and families usually come from?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigrants • Paternal lawsuits never realized • Davis • Formerly Incarcerated • Debtors (living beyond ones means) • Armed Services (Army, Navy, A.F., Marines) • Mental illness • Those without friends and family • Foster youth • Underemployed, youth, not elderly, urban regions • Very many situations, do not stereotype • Other states, other countries, they can come from anywhere, a violent environment, foster homes, jail or prison • Everywhere • Substance rehabilitation facility • Davis, Sacramento, Woodland • People with low or no income who are on their own, everywhere in society • Those who have been laid off of a job, especially those with low education

Question	Responses
<p>Which populations do you think are the most vulnerable to homelessness and have the highest/greatest needs? (Examples: persons with disabilities, medically fragile, domestic violence victims, chronically homeless vets, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The elderly • Everyone who lives paycheck to paycheck • Foster children • Victims of domestic violence and child abuse • Low education • Convicted criminals • Those with dependents they can't afford • Families with very young children • Children, foster youth, veterans, disabled • Parolees of families on section 8 and housing units where it is illegal for ex-felons to live • Disabled individuals living on their own • Drug and alcohol issues • Veterans with PTSD • Folks who struggle with mental illness • Single parents • Veterans • All and any persons who have disabilities or are otherwise compromised and unable to earn a living wage to support themselves and give back to the community
<p>What types of housing would help? What kinds of resources could be used?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini-houses • Affordable housing (for very low income) • A designated camp site where homeless people could be easily contacted and local service/civil commitments could be more easily completed , or the ability of homeless people could progress more easily • Shipping crates made into apartments (like featured in a news story) • Co-op housing like the situation at Pacifico Co-op who has two buildings totally empty • Remaining of dedicated affordable housing site on 5th Street • The Utah Housing First model • Transitional housing connected to permanent housing with supportive services • Permanent supportive housing, housing for extremely low income folks, city housing trust fund, CDBG • Behavior and needs-based: will/can they follow rules? Do they just want to be outside? • Support for folks working odd hours or don't have drug problems, dormitory until permanent housing • What about the Families First facility (EMQ) • Prefab or fast housing options • Private housing offered by individuals ("adopt" a homeless person) • Job support and job skills curriculum • Can use single room occupancy • Support when having an opportunity for housing • Near places homeless want to be

Question	Responses
<p>Besides homeless prevention, rapid rehousing and permanent housing with services, what else would fill Davis' gaps?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More affordable housing units, stronger ordinance • Stronger housing element that identifies sites where affordable housing could be produced • Mobile support services that could go where the folks are living • Upfront knowledgeable assessment • Job training, family/individual budgeting, outreach and direction to resources • Primary actions that provide more basic resources before housing is addressed • Amos House Rhode Island • More mental health assistance • Short-term housing with supervision, situational assessment, and progress towards housing independence • Coordinated service/care teams across services and funding streams • Intentional events in community that bring folks together, mini support system • Increase in funding support from federal grants • Get Section 8 housing more user-friendly, quicker turnaround • Park maintenance opportunities • Employment opportunities and job training • Give the homeless a chance (foot in the door) • Community job fairs for the homeless • Living wage • Jobs for low skilled, hands-on training, a place to get prescriptions filled, insurance for those

Question	Responses
<p>Is there a lot of panhandling in Davis? What can the community do to address panhandling?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness and education, not enabling • SVDP gives out bags with basics and a pamphlet of sources, talk with the individual, let them know what store you are going in and pick up a few of the items mentioned. • Re-direct panhandlers to services • Change for Change meters (proposed by Youth Leadership - DCC) • Not in my opinion, I have never encountered an “aggressive” panhandler • Not excessively within Davis, different regulations could be put in place so “aggressive” panhandling would not be legal or allowed • Advocate for starting day labor only for homeless (people, couples), work work work! • No I don’t think so, point them to services which are available • I am uncomfortable around panhandlers and try to avoid them, but wish I didn’t have to, I second the above suggestions to redirect them to services, and have readily available services for them, this should be a city priority • Talk to people asking for money (as well as giving as much money if you choose) • No more than anywhere else, address it by improving homeless services, not driving people out • Check out what the city of Beverly Hills does. They have signs out that say “Positive Change not Spare Change” Please give to charity not a panhandler • Inform folks about services, educate the public about causes for homelessness and panhandling • Business approved locations • Not excessive in my circles, talk to people, listen to stories of life
<p>“Parking Lot” - This page was left up for thoughts and ideas that didn’t correspond to existing questions already posted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More immediate action before housing • Lockers to keep possessions safe, port-a-potties and showers • Set up a care taker program at various places where a homeless person would live on a site i.e. fire house, police station, churches and in turn help maintain the site • Create a “Nomad” category - those who by choice continue to be homeless • Bigger facility for DCM with all inclusive program OR have DCM open all day/night • Where is affordable? • We need a central place to call • What about people who don’t want to conform? • Bring together gov’t, churches and social activists to work together • Make sure homeless rights are ensured • 24/7 resource center • Assess funding, changes likely housing for future • Talk about living wage, issues along with housing, especially for working poor, housing affordability and income are linked • Use the Nishi property to house homeless people

After the activity, Lisa Baker summed up the key themes from each set of responses. Overall, it seemed to the participants that anyone is at risk of homelessness in the current economic climate. Surveys show that wages are remaining stagnant as the cost of housing and education

rise. Also, people who are homeless come from all kinds of backgrounds, so it is important not to stereotype. To the group, the most vulnerable populations for homelessness are those in need of permanent supportive housing services. Additional resources suggested included smaller and shared spaces, an issue, as Lisa Baker pointed out, as people do often want their own spaces. Discussion of other resources (including mobile response teams for persons suffering from mental health breakdowns) also included reminders about the limitations and continuing reductions of federal funding sources. The panhandling question was specific to Davis, each community included in the 10 Year Plan will have one question dedicated to local issues - and the group response was to redirect panhandlers to existing service providers. Lastly, the “parking lot” pointed out the need for day services for homeless individuals (access to lockers, restrooms and a central place to call).

The Commission opened this item for public comment and allowed comment throughout the item. The following comments were provided at various points throughout the discussion: A question was asked as to why housing services for parolees seem to move more quickly than for people not on parole. According to Lisa Baker, there are funding sources available for work with parolees (AB-109) that may offer resources faster than for other avenues with less funding. It was suggested by Kevin Danely that the city implement a work program for people who are homeless, a place where businesses could call if they needed an extra hand. He added that he thought police needed to be better informed as to resources available, so they would not refer folks to a shelter that was full. Lastly, a comment was raised that the Pacifico CoOp had rooms that were empty, but no one was allowed to live in them. Members of the public in attendance were concerned this was an instance of not taking advantage of current housing stock. It was clarified that the issue of the rehabilitation work needing to be done at Pacifico will be brought to the commission at a later date.

4. Public Comment:

Christopher Robb spoke to the commission about his concerns regarding oversight of the police force.

5. Commissioner and Staff Communications:

Staffmember Foster updated the commission on multiple topics:

- Updating the commission on the Bridge to Housing project in West Sacramento, where Yolo Community Housing is providing supportive services
- Staff attended a discussion on student housing at the offices of Supervisor Saylor, with representatives from the University, County, and local housing providers. A resource fair for students will be held on campus in January.
- On Wednesday night, neighborhood meetings will be held for the second time with the neighbors of the two affordable housing land dedication sites, with an opportunity for developers who submitted proposals to have a short presentation. Those responses to the Requests for Proposals will be shown to the Commission at the special meeting on December 3rd.
- Council has two actions on Tuesday night of interest to the Commission - the permanent supportive housing program will be transitioning from Davis Community Meals to Yolo Community Care Continuum, and the scope of the current CDBG-funded Davis

Community Meals Cold Weather Shelter program is changing to provide instead an outreach coordinator for homeless services, coordinate with police and mental health professionals as needed and assess homeless individuals and provide resources.

Councilmember Davis spoke to the commission on two subjects:

- The process of appointing new members to the Social Services Commission is complete and the new members will be appointed at the council meeting on Tuesday.
- The council retreat was held on Saturday, and Councilmember Davis discussed his focus on Social Services (including homelessness and drug addiction) and his goal of increasing the financial resources for social services as the budget slowly improves.

Business Items:

A. Public Service Panel and Critical Needs Discussion.

i. Five-Year Consolidated Plan (2015-2016 through 2019-2020) for CDBG and HOME Program Needs Discussion.

Staffperson Heinig presented a review of survey responses to date, discussed survey outreach efforts, and introduced the panel of local services providers to discuss existing local needs in the community, both needs currently being addressed and areas of unmet needs. The summary of all of the comments made during the discussion is available. Highlights included the need for affordable specialty health services, drug treatment and detox centers, affordable supportive housing, a focus on individualized care tailored to the needs of those in treatment, health services for the homebound, and employment training for those who are homeless, at-risk of homelessness, or are suffering from mental illness.

The Commission opened this item for public comment and allowed comment throughout the item. The following comments were provided at various points throughout the discussion: there was concern that newly restored dental care coverage would be removed again with new reductions in government funding. There was also concern that what is available through newly expanded healthcare programs is not clear, and doctors and nurses do not have enough time during a visit to explain coverage to their clients/patients. In general, there was also comment that public services needed to increase outreach to folks who could qualify for services, as many individuals are not aware that they can qualify.

ii. Finalize Recommendations for Critical Needs List for CDBG and HOME Program Year 2015-2016.

Staffperson Heinig presented an overview of the Critical Needs List as presented at the previous commission meeting, and reminded the commission of the change made at that meeting. The Commissioners discussed this matter, making the following comments:

- There needs to be a specific reference and more emphasis on the provision of transportation for individuals with mental illness and those seeking treatment for drug addiction.
- Added emphasis needs to be placed on employment programs for individuals with mental illness.

- The treatment of youth with drug and alcohol addiction, as well as intervention programs for those youth will be added to the Intervention and Support Services for Child and Youth Services.
- High priority should be placed on a public facility for the treatment of substance abuse.

Commissioner Templeton moved to modify the Critical Needs List as summarized above and to recommend to the Council the adoption of the list for the 2015/2016 CDBG and HOME Requests for Proposals process. This motion was second by Commissioner Toney and passed unanimously.

B. Social Services Commission Workplan

Staffperson Foster discussed upcoming items in the workplan, and the commission added some items; a discussion with the Police Department on the training officers receive to deal with individuals who are suffering from mental illness and/or individuals in need of local services, as well as a discussion on rent stabilization were added to the agenda for the meeting in January.

Foster also reminded the commission about the special meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, December 3rd to review the submitted proposals for the city's Affordable Housing Land Dedication sites, and revisions to the Affordable Housing Ordinance.

6. Adjournment.

Commissioner Romero made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Toney. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:26 p.m.

Respectively Submitted by,

Danielle Foster
Housing and Human Services Superintendent