



**Mendocino County
HOMELESS SERVICES CONTINUUM of CARE**

September 25, 2017

Fort Bragg City Council
416 N. Franklin Street
Fort Bragg, CA. 95437

Re: Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center – Hospitality House

Dear Council Members,

The Continuum of Care (CoC) Program is designed to promote community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. CoC's all over the country work toward this end using varied activities, with emphasis on the same basic strategies which include;

- Providing funding for efforts by nonprofit providers and State and local governments to quickly rehouse homeless individuals and families while minimizing the trauma and dislocation caused to homeless individuals, families, and communities by homelessness,
- Promoting access to and effective utilization of mainstream programs by homeless individuals and families, and,
- Optimizing self-sufficiency among individuals and families experiencing homelessness. (the Federal Department of Housing & Urban Development)

The Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care (MCHSCoC) is a collaborative of over thirty-one agencies throughout Mendocino County. The MCHSCoC holds monthly meetings in Ukiah in the Adult and Aging Services building, where agency representatives work on collaborative activities including:

- Coordination of the annual sheltered and unsheltered Point-in-Time Count of individuals experiencing homelessness;
- Development and implementation of a county-wide Homeless Management Information System and Coordinated Entry System designed to collect and analyze data to more effectively assess the needs of those experiencing homelessness, ensuring available resources are prioritized to the most vulnerable and services appropriately matched to effectively meet individual needs; and,
- Maintenance of county-wide collaboration focused on securing and maintaining all types of funding resources specifically focused on addressing homelessness within Mendocino County.

Mendocino County
HOMELESS SERVICES CONTINUUM of CARE

In the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, \$2.1 million in combined State and Federal funding was awarded to various MCHSCoC agencies as a direct result of successful funding competitions by the MCHSCoC. This funding provides a variety of services to individuals experiencing homelessness in Mendocino County which have a positive impact on the aesthetics and environmental appeal of our communities, including: Emergency Shelter, Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Homeless Management Information Services. Beginning in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the MCHSCoC will be working closely with an independent consult hired by the Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency to provide a data-driven, comprehensive Needs Assessment of Homelessness in Mendocino County. This Needs Assessment will include conversations with all stakeholders, including Cities, Law Enforcement, Homeless Services Providers, community members experiencing homelessness, County Leadership and all others willing to participate. This activity is an important component that will inform the Health and Human Services Agency's Action Plan for Homelessness, resulting in investing in activities that move our community toward safety and wellbeing for all.

The Mendocino County Continuum of Care for the Homeless strongly supports the activities provided by the Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center's Hospitality House Emergency Shelter. Emergency shelter for the homeless is an important component in an evidence-based method of reducing the financial impacts of homelessness on local agencies, public safety officers, emergency services personnel, local businesses and communities. Without the provision of shelter, law enforcement, waste management and urgent care costs increase. Lack of shelter and access to laundry and washing facilities is a public health hazard. Illnesses spread quickly in environments where humans are too hot, too cold, unclean, malnourished, and unable to safely manage their medications.

MCHC is a committed partner in the Continuum of Care, holding a Board seat and actively representing the needs of the northern coast. The Hospitality House has provided services in our community for nearly 30 years. During this time the issue of homelessness has waxed and waned, regardless of MCHC's consistent activities. Whether there are many or few people experiencing homelessness in the Fort Bragg area never has been, and isn't now, a product of MCHC. The United States, in fact many other countries as well, are experiencing significant increases in homeless populations. The reasons are complex and varied, and none are "fixed" by not providing basic needs.

The conversation among COC members has included heated debate and significant research into best practices implemented throughout the nation, as well as those engaged in by similar communities within northern California. As there is no entity mandated to provide for issues of homelessness, the MCHSCoC has been a source of ongoing support for local non-profits willing to assist their crisis, mental health, substance use, victims of

Mendocino County
HOMELESS SERVICES CONTINUUM of CARE

violence and other clients, through the understanding that a safe place to be is an integral component of recovery and wellness.

We urge the Council to resist the political pressure to revoke the Hospitality House's use permit and work with the County, other cities and Homeless services providers to implement thoughtful strategies to improve the lives of all of our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Stuart', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Maya Stuart, MA.

MCHSCoC Chair

707-468-7065

stuartm@mendocinocounty.org



Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities



Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care (MCHSCoC) Membership list

Heather Blough	CDC of Mendocino County
Drew Iacomini	Ford Street Project
Jacqueline Williams	Ford Street Project
Brian Klovski	Health and Human Services
Garry Colson	Health and Human Services
Jody Johnston	Health and Human Services
Maya Stuart	Health and Human Services
Sue Glass	Health and Human Services
Aeolian Vincent-dePaul	Individual Member
Benj Thomas	Individual Member
Maxx Cauley	Individual Member
Angelica Millan	Legal Services of Northern California
Paddy Michalski	Manzanita Services
Sharon Govern	Manzanita Services
Joann Brewer	MCAVHN
Libby Guthrie	MCAVHN
Anna Shaw	Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center
Kristina Harju	Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center
Paul Davis	Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center
Karen Rizzolo	Mendocino Community Health Clinics
Zenia Leyva Chou	Mendocino Community Health Clinics
Blyth Post	Mendocino County Office of Education
Amanda Archer	Mendocino County Youth Project
Traci Boyl	Plowshares
Judy Albert	Project Sanctuary
Charles Bush	Redwood Coast Senior Center
Jessica Johnson	Redwood Community Services
Sage Wolf	Redwood Community Services
Jennifer Shepard	Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation
Kathleen Forbes	Superior Court of California, County of Mendocino
Michael Memke	The Arbor Resource Center / RCS
Steve Scalmanini	Ukiah City Council
Captain Justin Wyatt	Ukiah Police Department
Will VanSant	Veterans Affairs
Jim Marill	Willits Community Services