



Mendocino County Health & Human Services Agency

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Tammy Moss Chandler, MBA, MPH, Director
Anne Molgaard, JD, Chief Operations Officer



September 27, 2017

Fort Bragg City Councilmembers
416 N Franklin Street
Fort Bragg, California 95437

Dear Mayor Peters and Honorable Members of the Fort Bragg City Council,

The issue of homelessness in Mendocino County is a serious issue, and we understand this is a dynamic challenge for you as elected leaders. However, it takes a broad array of partnerships and funding strategies to address the challenges we collectively face.

On behalf of the Health and Human Services Agency of Mendocino County (HHSA), we are writing to urge the Fort Bragg City Council to support Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center's services through appropriate use permits. The Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center is an HHSA contractor in good standing and is a pivotal service provider to manage and improve homelessness in Fort Bragg.

The Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center provides key resources in the continuum of homeless services to decrease homelessness and increase quality of life for those struggling to access or maintain housing. The number of individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Fort Bragg area never has been, and is not now, a product of the Hospitality House. Across the United States, communities are experiencing significant increases in homeless populations.

The reasons for increased homelessness are complex and varied, but current evidence indicates that assisting people to meet their basic human needs and overcome structural barriers to housing produces excellent outcomes for both individuals and communities. A warm, dry bed out of the elements allows a person without a home to engage in services and address barriers to permanent housing. Without these services, we fear that individuals who are homeless will wander Fort Bragg streets and local residents will have nowhere to refer them for services that provide a way out of their current circumstance.

We look forward to increasing our partnership with the City of Fort Bragg to protect the spirit, business vitality, and individuals of Fort Bragg. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "T. Moss Chandler".

Tammy Moss Chandler
Director

A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "Anne C. Molgaard".

Anne C. Molgaard
Chief Operations Officer