

**Stakeholder Meeting Notes  
Health Services  
January 24, 2008**



**GROUP CHARACTERISTICS**

This group is made up of representatives from the health services community. Only one individual attended representing Independent Living Services of Northern California. This group will be contacted more aggressively and incorporated with the Community and Social Services stakeholder group for the next round of interviews. The primary concerns of this group was the provision of affordable and accessible housing for low and very low income families, improved employment opportunities, and enhanced transportation facilities, especially transit and bicycle facilities. Employment and housing opportunities for all members of our community is paramount for a successful community.

**WHAT ARE YOUR PRIORITIES FOR CHICO IN THE NEXT 20 YEARS**

The group was very concerned about housing, transportation, and employment. Overall priorities included:

- Affordable and accessible housing for low and very low income families.
- Improved public transportation – improved fixed route headways, longer hours of operation, etc.
- Continued focus on infill. People need to be able to live in the City core. It reduces impacts by keeping people close to services.
- Helping families on the fringe get a jump start into main stream society – specifically assistance with housing.
- Working to remove disincentives for people who are unemployed to remain unemployed (e.g., loss of health insurance. People who can work need to get back to work.

**WHAT SHOULD NOT CHANGE IN TERMS OF THE GENERAL PLAN**

The group believes that a continued healthy community dialogue is what helps maintain Chico's quality of life and small town feel.

- Continue to keep in check reasonable levels of development in Chico.
- People are involved in decision-making – there is a healthy community dialogue.
- Chico has retained its character and its small town feel.
- Maintain the quality of life by limiting huge expanses of new housing, but make sure not to drive the cost of housing up for low income families.

**CRITICAL AREAS THE GENERAL PLAN SHOULD ADDRESS**

- Provision of affordable housing.
- Transportation issues as discussed above.

- Employment – this needs to become a major part of the community dialogue. Don't let it just happen naturally, we must pursue it.
- There are not high paying jobs.
- Need more projects like Bidwell Apartments, which provide reasonable rent cost, good density, good location, and good accessibility.
- As a community we need to support single payer, universal health insurance (the free market does not work with healthcare insurance).

## **WHAT BARRIERS DOES THE CITY FACE FOR SUCCESS**

- Extremism and divisiveness is dialogue.
- There is too much political propaganda on key issues, and not enough clear digestible information available to the community. Need better dissemination of information. Get away from the sound bites.
- Opposing sides not talking through issues. Need to get people together to resolve issues.