

**Stakeholder Meeting Notes
Homeless Task Force
April 15, 2008**

GROUP CHARACTERISTICS

This group was the City's Homeless Task Force, made up of representatives from shelters, transitional housing and other homeless service organizations. Also invited were representatives of social, health and community services organizations, but the only members of these organizations who attended were also members of the Task Force. Seventeen people attended. The primary concern of this group was providing a greater supply of shelters and transitional housing for homeless, low and very low income families. They also expressed interest in the availability of improved employment opportunities, and filling gaps in the types of shelters available to our local homeless population.

Attendees:

Rich Young, Bill Such, Tom Perdue, Corla Bertrand, Nicole Bateman, Gloria Rodgers, Patrick Clark, Ted Sandberg, Dale Downey, Meagan Meloy, Mary Ellen-Smith, Carei Pope, Becky Barnes-Boers, Emily Fisher, Gary Sannar, Mary Brownell, Sarah Frohock

Questions for Stakeholders

1. What challenges do residents face in accessing housing?

- Supply, Campbell Commons is full
- Housing Authority waiting list closed, no funding for new supply
- Ability to produce housing on an on-going basis
- Available land in an appropriate location

What particular challenges do the homeless face?

- Evictions on records, no cash, debts with utilities, no income, debt (\$ and community service) limit their access to other housing
- Landlords asking for more deposit than Section 8 requires
- Landlords not accommodating Section 8 renters
- 80-100 parolees released from prison to Butte County per month
- Need childcare to pursue employment

How can these challenges be addressed?

- Credit counseling programs, like Esplanade House (City helps w/ utilities)
- Low income housing on sliding-scale
- Landlords willing to forgo restrictions with some people & take a chance
- Streamlined process to access Low Income housing
- Need a clearinghouse of information re: programs available to homeless
- Assistance from realty associations: flexibility, reduce barriers
- Larger occupancy standards in Low Income housing, higher density land
- Protect R3 land to be able to build at higher densities
- Conduct a study of how many citizens are at-risk of homelessness

- Attract clean businesses to offer more jobs with a career future (manufacturing, unskilled labor with an option to become skilled), voc. training

2. Are there gaps in available housing types (e.g., shelter, transitional, workforce)?

- More transitional housing with medical (& mental) services on-site
- Need transitional housing for single men
- Gap between shelter/police/hospital. people w/ drug problems and medical problems not bad enough for hospital, need a place to go (Housing First)
- People released from hospitals that need care. Too many sick homeless
- Need smaller projects (fewer units) low-income housing; developers won't go there because they can't profit or break-even
- LI housing in market-rate projects – Housing Authority helps
- Wheelchair-accessible units

3. What strategies should be utilized to promote infill development considering that there are sometimes competing General Plan goals between neighborhood compatibility and compact urban form?

- Pretty good support for LI housing, not too bad of a NIMBY environment
- Show the “track record” of developers to the neighbors of the new project, so they can see its compatibility
- compatible with the surrounding buildings through design and landscape
- Continue commitment to attractive & affordable going together
- Educate community about existing affordable projects
- Early community/neighborhood meetings to address conflicts, use experts
- Get neighborhood input on the number of parking spaces, early
- Flexibility on the code requirements (e.g., number of parking spaces)
- Streamline processing of subsidized housing projects, to meet funding timelines (w/o extra fees) – maybe a part of inclusionary zoning
- Land trusts can be used to lower home ownership costs
- Integrate more low income housing into market rate projects

4. What opportunities do you see for the City to better collaborate with CSUC regarding student and staff housing needs?

- This is tied to the number of vehicles allowed for students, 0 for Freshman
- Collaborate more
- Shuttles to off-site housing for students and staff

5. Given that additional land may be necessary to meet the community's residential and job growth for the next 20 years, as well as retail needs, what areas of the City should be allowed to grow/develop?

- Infill – look for the best use of what's available
- South along 99
- Foothills are more likely than crossing greenline, up Skyway a little
- More housing out near airport with a public transit connection to the airport
- More housing near jobs