



*Public Comment #42*  
 County of El Dorado Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>  
*BOS Recd. 4-15-22*

## Re: Item 42 on 4/19/22 Board of Supervisors meeting Agenda comment

Judi Angell <jangell@earthlink.net>  
 To: edc.cob@edcgov.us

Thu, Apr 14, 2022 at 6:09 PM

Hello Clerk of the Board,

Please send my email, which addresses 4/19/22 BOS meeting, item 42, to all Supervisors and Don Ashton CAO and Don Semon, DHHS.

Comment Re: Item 42

First, I want to thank my County for choosing to participate in the most cost-effective approach for our residents who lose or lost their housing with a Housing First Continuum of Care plan to meet our legal obligations.

I strongly support HHS recommendations 1 through 4 because these will finally bring us to joining the 54 other CA counties which already have year-round emergency housing available and because:

1. All specified locations are appropriate for serving this vulnerable population (I am confident number 1's presentation will make that as clear to you); and
2. All the locations are accessible via our public transportation system (buses); and
3. The bus access permits those served get to their jobs, health care appointments, job interviews and other needed services;
4. The proposed services are the essential foundation for all other elements of our Continuum of Care Plan; and
5. The proposal includes options and flexibility in the short term for ensuring long-term success while minimizing costs; and
6. The long-term and half the short-term locations are motels like SLT has had such success with; and State and federal grant funding is available if done now (some in Congress are trying to claw back unspent funds so might not be as true later); and
7. Once implemented, the Navigation Center will be the one county locale prepared with the supplies, etc., needed to serve as a warming and/or cooling center, without logistics issues, like we have needed multiple times a year in recent years; and
8. The sooner the programs are operational, the sooner we begin saving tax dollars; and
9. Most western slope residents have some familiarity with Placerville, thus the locations themselves facilitate individual program successes because of that familiarity and access to local support people; and
10. Approving these proposals will ensure that we do not join two counties with implementation of their Continuum of Care plans being under court supervision because of not approving multiple options considered for providing emergency housing; and
11. These proposals not only represent the fiscally conservative choice, they also represent the moral choice.

Jon Huntsman proved this approach to be cost effective when he was Governor of Utah; he left office in 2009. I strongly urge the Board adopt and authorize signing of Resolution 061-2022 and for the Board to direct staff to pursue the project sites as specified in 3) and 4).

Sincerely,

Judi Angell  
 Rescue

April 14, 2022

**From:** Community and Economic Development Advisory Committee (CEDAC)  
**To:** El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
**Re:** Item 22-0630

At the April 14<sup>th</sup> CEDAC meeting the committee voted to support the following:

- 1) Declaration of a Homeless Shelter Crisis
- 2) Accept the Health and Human Services Agenda (HHSA) proposal for a congregant navigation center with an emergency shelter component to be created before fire season, run by an operator recommended by HHSA, in a location that will have the least disruption to the surrounding area while retaining access to necessary services.

The community and economic impacts of homelessness in El Dorado County are apparent and increasing. Not only is the experience of un-housed men, women, families and children a humanitarian crisis, it is an economic and community one as well. It is well documented that the un-housed population is more dependent on costly emergency services such as emergency room visits, fire response to encampments, law enforcement intervention, incarceration and the like. Providing low-barrier housing will help get our homeless neighbors off the streets, have a roof over their heads, and feel safe--a position from which they will be able to effectively focus on getting the services they need, jobs, and income to become self-sufficient. Studies have shown that investment in housing will have reduced costs to the community for many services such as emergency, health care, public works, law enforcement and jail. Furthermore, it will reduce the threats to life and property from encampment-originating wildfires.

A 2017 study by the RAND Corporation reported that across all services examined by researchers, the costs for public services consumed in the year **after receipt of long-term housing** declined by nearly 60%. In the year prior to housing, participants received public services that cost an average of \$38,146. That total fell to \$15,358 in the year after housing was received. Even after taking into account the costs of permanent supportive housing, savings were about 20%. \*

Housing and treating people who are persistently homeless and chronically ill is a good investment. While there are substantial increases in building and staff costs, there are important cost offsets associated with reductions in ED visits, inpatient days, criminal justice, victimization, and other costs.

Therefore, CEDAC supports the El Dorado County Health and Human Service Agency's request for the declaration of a Homeless Shelter Crisis as well as their proposal for a navigation center and shelter.

Sincerely,



Tamara Johnston  
Chair, CEDAC

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\* *Evaluation of Housing for Health Permanent Supportive Housing Program* by: Sarah B. Hunter, Melody Harvey, Brian Briscoombe, Matthew Cefalu, RAND, 2017



County of El Dorado Clerk of the Board &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

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**Fwd: Agenda Item 22-0630**

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**Kim Dawson** <kim.dawson@edcgov.us>

Fri, Apr 15, 2022 at 2:32 PM

To: County of El Dorado Clerk of the Board &lt;edc.cob@edcgov.us&gt;

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Art Edwards** <art.edwards@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Fri, Apr 15, 2022 at 2:07 PM

Subject: Agenda Item 22-0630

To: &lt;kim.dawson@edcgov.us&gt;

Supervisors

Re: Homeless Shelter Plan

It is obvious that our Board needs to approve the homeless issue on Tuesday that would give our homeless residents a place to sleep and get them off of the streets. However there is one issue that I have not seen covered in the argument for approval, and that is the issue of forest fires.

Without a shelter where all of the homeless folks can gather and live, many of them are camping out in the tinder dry forests around Placerville. They set up individual camps and build camp fires to keep warm and provide cooking heat. Considering how many homeless we have living in our forests, the chances of one of these camp fires getting out of control is very large. Just one out of control campfire could easily mean the end of Placerville and surrounding communities as we know them. We cannot take the chance of ending up as another Grizzly Flat! If for no other reason, please approve the homeless proposal for the sake of our city and community.

Respectfully,

Art Edwards

Member Board of

Housing El Dorado

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Kim Dawson  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of El Dorado  
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County of El Dorado Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

## BOS meeting 4/19/22 item 22-0630

Dawn Wolfson <dewolfson@aol.com>

Fri, Apr 15, 2022 at 2:50 PM

Reply-To: Dawn Wolfson <dewolfson@aol.com>

To: County of El Dorado Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>, The BOSONE <bosone@edcgov.us>, BOS Two <bostwo@edcgov.us>, "bosthree@edcgov.us" <bosthree@edcgov.us>, BOS Four <bosfour@edcgov.us>, The BOSFIVE <bosfive@edcgov.us>

To the Board of Supervisors,

I was on the Taxpayer's Association meeting last week. Their guest speaker, Sherman Haggerty, had run a very successful program down at Mather for a number of years. The program, which provided job search skills, job training, rehabilitative services, temporary housing, etc. helped people with and without mental health and addiction issues and gave them the skills they needed to get and keep jobs, permanent housing, etc. He stated that only about 15-20% of homeless people needed permanent support due to mental health issues, disability, age, etc. 45-55% of homeless people needed the rehabilitative services for up to 2 years. The remainder were people who had temporarily had a major setback, and if they got immediate assistance they moved out of homelessness pretty quickly. I am really hoping that we can implement a successful program such as the one Sherman was running as soon as we can possibly manage it.

My partner, Tony, an 10 year army veteran, was temporarily homeless after his kidneys failed due to high blood pressure. His then partner declared that she wasn't going to help take care of him and they split up. It was hard for him to find a job with hours that could be worked around dialysis. For a while he was living in his car, working part time, doing dialysis and waiting for a transplant. With the help of family, Medicare, Medi-Cal and other services, he eventually was able to get back on his feet. Later, he got his transplant, and is now living a good life. Now try to imagine a person in that situation without the family support.

People end up homeless for so many reasons – young people transitioning out of the foster care system, domestic violence, evictions and unaffordable housing, job loss, disability, and yes, mental illness and addiction (which sometimes comes AFTER the person becomes homeless).

There is a quote that has been attributed to Margaret Mead, the famous anthropologist. A student asked her what the first sign of civilization was, probably thinking of fire or tools or some such thing. The reply was that it was the discovery of a broken femur that had been repaired. If you break your leg, you cannot run away from predators, go to the river to drink, hunt, etc. It is a sign that someone took care of this individual while they healed. Helping someone through difficulty is where civilization starts, Mead supposedly said.

If we are truly civilized, we will do what needs to be done to help our fellow citizens until they can get back up on their feet and help themselves. I do not want to see another winter go by where we haven't taken what steps we can to get our unhoused neighbors into a better situation. If it requires an emergency declaration to do that, I am all for it. If some of the housing and/or services end up in my community of Cameron Park, again, I am all for it. We all have to do our part.

Please do listen to your constituents who have concerns and address them as best you may, but please vote yes.

Thank you,

Dawn Wolfson

Cameron Park