

From: Ryan Carter <summitjunkie@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 13, 2022 8:09 AM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public Comment: BOS Agenda Item #19

To Board of Supervisors:

I am writing today regarding Item # 19 on the consent calendar authorizing the HHSA to submit a grant application for the Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Program in the amount of 2.3 million dollars.

I am concerned with numerous aspects of this grant program and the requirements that it places on the county, and request that it be removed from the consent calendar and opened for discussion.

In the grant application the county is submitting it states:

El Dorado County and CoC, following the strategic plan, are collaborating to maximize services within the region, including adding a 60-bed navigation center and increasing street outreach.

THIS GRANT IS BEING USED TO FUND THE NEW NAVIGATION CENTER.

The fact sheet for the grant clearly states:

Any new interim sheltering funded by round 4 funds must be low barrier, comply with Housing First as provided in Chapter 6.5 (commencing with Section 8255) of Division 8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, and prioritize interventions other than congregate shelters.

Section 8255 clearly states:

(7) The use of alcohol or drugs in and of itself, without other lease violations, is not a reason for eviction.

And

(10) Services are informed by a harm-reduction philosophy that recognizes drug and alcohol use and addiction as a part of tenants' lives, where tenants are engaged in

nonjudgmental communication regarding drug and alcohol use, and where tenants are offered education regarding how to avoid risky behaviors and engage in safer practices, as well as connected to evidence-based treatment if the tenant so chooses.

We have been told over and over that this new Navigation Center will be drug and alcohol free, and will not include any harm reduction activities. This is obviously not true. If we use this grant money we are REQUIRED to allow drugs and alcohol in this shelter. If we use this grant money we are REQUIRED to allow harm reduction activities including needle exchange and crack pipes.

WE HAVE BEEN LIED TO AGAIN.

Please remove Item # 19 from the consent calendar and open it up for discussion so we can have an open and honest conversation about how this new navigation center is going to be run. If Volunteers of America have found a way to get around the requirements of this grant, we would love to hear how. If not, why has the county continued to lie to us about this?

Do not rubber stamp this grant without providing the public with all of the information.

Respectfully,

Ryan Carter

Placerville Resident