

From: Marissa Muscat <mmuscat@bartonhealth.org>

Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 8:54 AM

To: Don Semon <don.semon@edcgov.us>

Cc: bosone@edcgov.us; bostwo@edcgov.us; bosthree@edcgov.us; BOS Four <bosfour@edcgov.us>; bosfive@edcgov.us; john.dagostini@edso.org

Subject: Re: Sheriff's Homeless Camp

Dear Don, Members of the Board of Supervisors, and Sheriff D'Agostini,

Thank you very much for reaching out regarding the discussions between the City of Placerville and El Dorado County about homeless encampments and the recent ideas shared by Sheriff D'Agostini at last week's Board of Supervisors meeting. Several members of the EDOK Executive Team were able to watch the BOS recording from last week. We also reviewed the "HOSTESS concept" document as it had been forwarded throughout the community. The EDOK CoC Executive Team was able to discuss this topic at a meeting on August 16th, and have determined the following:

- Our understanding of guidelines and requirements from the federal department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the state department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) lead us to believe that this effort, as currently proposed, would threaten funding streams from the federal and state governments, especially such large dollar funding as the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) and the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP). In addition, any local service provider (nonprofit or county department) that engages in this effort would jeopardize their own funding from these sources.
- The COC is tied to its funders, which incorporate evidence-based best practices into all programs. These practices include low-barrier programs and projects that align with Housing First and make a priority of participant choice, equity and cultural competency. The plan as described at the August 10th meeting does not appear to align with such practices.
- The Sheriff emphasized the "temporary" nature of this project several times during his presentation, and he also emphasized that this would not be "permanent housing". However, if no CoC, Federal or State homeless funding can be utilized, it is difficult to foresee how this project can truly be temporary in nature.

We are reaching out to HUD and the California Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to ensure that we receive further guidance on partnering on this effort, as described. We understand that this proposal is well-intended. But we cannot jeopardize the millions of dollars awarded to the CoC and to the county and must follow the direction of our funders. We will also be inquiring about the County and HHSA's participation in this project, because as the Administrative Entity and Collaborative Applicant for EDOK, there may be conflicts in that relationship. When we understand more from our funders, we will reach out to you with the information that they provide.

We understand that the idea is evolving and, like all of you, EDOK has a mission to find and launch sustainable, proven, and meaningful solutions for those experiencing homelessness in El Dorado County – to end their homelessness. Please feel free to reach out to me directly if you have any further questions on this topic. Thank you for your service to our community.

Sincerely,

Marissa R. Muscat, MD
Co-Chair
El Dorado Opportunity Knocks Continuum of Care