

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors Good Morning, my name is Que B. Anthnoy and I have been a member of this community for the last 7 years.

I am an activist for the Unhoused community as well as their LGBTQ community, African American and LatinX community ! With that being said I want to commend not only taking the right and first steps in being and all inclusive Mendocino County by endorsing August 18, 2020's Item # 5h) Discussion and Possible Action Related to Presentation, Review, and Potential Endorsement of the Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness in Mendocino County, as Prepared by the Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care. Because for me as a Gay Blacktino formally as a unhoused individual and now currently as a housed one yet personally knowing the work that went into it speaks measures in the County wanting to move forward in it's on personal place in history with today's current events.

But with that I believe it is my duty of a member of this community it to bring up for the dire need and implementation of certain actions necessary in our community. You see as a Care Management researcher and advisor I have noticed with some lacking or overly enforced procedures and measures that have been directed to the unhoused in our community.

One of the things that I've noticed that is in dire need and truly underutilized is sanctioned campsites while our providers who services for the unhoused find or build housing for all in our community. But it is also with great concern with the current crisis is in our nation and world that if certain measures like abolishing the camping ordinance as well it may be in a gray dire that will have a rush of more people being unhoused than we currently do. And with the current status oh are camping ordinance not only here but across the country people who have never found themselves in these situations have now also found themselves to become criminals just because they are unhoused.

I tried to touch a little on this in the last meeting on 8/18 in PE (Public Expression) , but seeing how it wasn't easy to even try and call in for PE was a little frustrating. But in part that's how all parties are feeling. Law Enforcement having to deal with things the service providers should be handling. Providers not being able to fully meet the needs of their client due to red tape. The public tried of see the one's that have given up start trashing everything. And the Clients themselves for having to deal with whatever issue that left them unhoused, plus having to be dehumanized from almost all sides doesn't help.

From the things I have learned in my research, yes to would be taking a risk in someways in putting up a few sanctioned campsites. But with everyone and I do mean EVERYONE!!! needs to start doing their parts so that we can help our community. It means "ALL BRANCHES" of law enforcement rejoin/ participate to begin with, in provider meetings. This way there maybe the start of better practices in all branches of law enforcement, by getting the work done in ad hoc committee, and retraining in approaching and dealing with mentally disabled. The added bonus of helping with some of the deescalation training some in the public is asking for.

Yes having items 5i - 5m do help, but to paraphrase something that I believe Vice-Chair, Dan Gjerde said in the last meeting, "WE have to stop looking to others/ other committees and trying to pass the buck and responsibility when the public is calling for that and transparency." One of the things in this Board needs when trying to move forward in dealing with the unhoused that I have seen it lacking in is having a rep of someone currently or formally unhoused for their input.

And yes this note to you B.o.S. may seem all over the place just to make a point that sanctioned campsites are needed here in our community, I mostly did so to highlight the many need parts needed to make it work!!!! But that's why I leave you all with this food for thought that my mother always taught me from when I was young:

{Treat a man like an animal and he'll ask like a animal, Treat him like a King and he'll become one!!!!}

-Que B. Anthnoy