

October 10, 2020

To: Mendocino County Board of Supervisors  
Carmel Angelo, CEO, Mendocino County  
Editor of the Ukiah Daily Journal

Mendocino County Leadership and Residents,

I applaud our County's effort to help solve our homeless population problem. Buying the Best Western Motel on Orchard Avenue represents a bold and compassionate step in that direction.

Our homeless population are not criminals, drug addicts and child molesters. They include mothers with children, veterans, elderly citizens who suffer financial hardships. They need a place close to schools and services they can access without undue hardship. They do not need to be placed in our affluent residential areas. But they also should not be placed in the worst neighborhoods just because of their poor financial status.

The Whitmore Lane Facility is being used for COVID-19 patients and contacts. The idea of throwing the homeless population into that mix is unconscionable.

Many of the homeless population may not be suitable for placement in the Best Western Motel facility. I am confident the County will have an interview screening process. Applications should be reviewed and evaluated by a committee. If someone inappropriate falls through the cracks and gets admitted I would expect they can be discharged for rules violation. I understand there will be security and live-in counselors on site.

I have lived in Ukiah for over 40 years. Our whole Country is encountering this homeless problem. It is now in Ukiah to stay. It will not go away unless the County takes sensible steps to help solve the problem.

Theron Chan, M.D.