



Ben Avey <bavey@sacstepsforward.org>

HI Jonathan - SRCEH comments/recommendations on HEAP

1 message

bob erlenbusch <bob@srceh.org>

Fri, Aug 31, 2018 at 11:20 AM

To: Jonathan Porteus <jporteur@wellspacehealth.org>

Cc: Ben Avey <bavey@sacstepsforward.org>, "amani@voa-sac.org" <amani@voa-sac.org>, "asalazar98@yahoo.com" <asalazar98@yahoo.com>, "sropelato@lsnc.net" <sropelato@lsnc.net>, "williamkennedy5909@gmail.com" <williamkennedy5909@gmail.com>, "suzi@windyouth.org" <suzi@windyouth.org>, "kencross@kencrossconsulting.com" <kencross@kencrossconsulting.com>, "ethomas@rivercityfoodbank.org" <ethomas@rivercityfoodbank.org>, Ane Watts <anewpossibilities@gmail.com>, "dhusid@cottagehousing.org" <dhusid@cottagehousing.org>, Grace Loescher <grace@wakingthevillage.org>, "jeremy@srceh.org" <jeremy@srceh.org>, Shannon Stevens <shannon@sacloaves.org>, Brian Talcott <brian@womens-empowerment.org>, Gabrielle Salazar <gsalazar@sacstepsforward.org>

HI Jonathan- SRCEH feels strongly that these funds should be used in the spirit of the legislation- we have a shelter emergency - and as you know- our just released 2018 Homeless Deaths Report documented a 75% increase in homeless deaths from 2016 to 2017- 124 deaths in 2017- up from 71 in 2016. Sadly- about one-third of homeless deaths are violent - blunt force head injury; gunshot, stabbing and hangings.

Both the City and County need to expand emergency shelter- especially for youth, women and seniors - with the goal of keeping people safe and alive. As the Mayor said- this huge increase in homeless deaths is "unacceptable." We also have a crisis in dignity- people lack shelter and they also lack the dignity of bathrooms and being able to provide for personal hygiene.

SRCEH initial recommendations include: [Note: I did not include shelter and housing for homeless youth - since I believe those are recommendations made by the Homeless Youth Coalition- which we will support]:

1. Fund First Steps Communities - 100 sleeping cabins and community center- to serve as transitional housing - would be initial investment of \$2 million
2. Low barrier shelter for single women
3. Specialized shelter and programming for homeless seniors
4. Fund 5 Portland Loo's- strategically placed in the downtown/midtown area- each has a one time cost of \$325,000 and \$25,000 annual cost- for a total of \$1.75 M - not including having monitors- which we have suggested could be a Homeless Employment Project - and use SETA funds to create subsidized employment program
5. Fund Lava Mae [portable showers and toilets] - \$200,000 one time cost and \$300,000 annually- Goodwill has expressed interest in operating
6. Expand respite care beds - we need to double the current respite care beds [currently at about 34] to ensure that hospitals have a place to send homeless people for the recovery care they need- and not discharging people to the streets

These are our initial recommendations.

Thanks! Bob

Bob Erlenbusch

Executive Director

Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness [SRCEH]

[1331 Garden Highway, Suite 100](#)

[Sacramento, CA 95833](#)

W: 916.993.7708 [direct]

M: 916.889.4367

www.srceh.org



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