



MEETING NOTES

CLOVERDALE HOMELESSNESS COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022

CLOVERDALE REGIONAL LIBRARY

401 N. CLOVERDALE BLVD. CLOVERDALE, CA 95425

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chair Palla called the meeting to order at 5 p.m. He announced that Mayor Lands has an excused absence this evening.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present:

Vice Chair Joe Palla, Cloverdale Councilmember

David Kelley, Cloverdale City Manager

Kevin Thompson, Cloverdale Assistant City Manager/CD Director

Jason Ferguson, Cloverdale Police Chief

Melanie Hall, Cloverdale Senior Center Program Manager

Colleen Halbohm, Wallace House Executive Director

Jessica Chavez, Wallace House Supportive Housing Case Manager

Deborah Howell, Alexander Valley Health Care Chief Executive Director

Blake Manning, Alexander Valley Health Care Substance Use Counselor

Margaret Sluyk, Reach for Home Executive Director

Absent:

Chair Todd Lands, Cloverdale Mayor

Jason Jenkins, Cloverdale Fire Department

Betha MacClain, Cloverdale School District

Neena Hanchett, Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce

Michael Velasquez, St. Vincent de Paul

Ana Rangel, Reach for Home

Tim Duke, Sonoma County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant , South County Law Enforcement

Jody Cain, Alexander Valley Health Care

Michael Gause, Continuum of Care Coordinator, CDC

Vacant Seat: Clean River Alliance Executive Director

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

a. Update on Local Homelessness Activities

Deborah Hall, Alexander Valley Health Care, stated their 2020-21 report reflected a reduced homeless count of 72, perhaps related to COVID.

Colleen Halbohm, Wallace House, reported they expect to begin placing people in apartments in mid-June and are accepting referrals. City Manager Kelley requested a date for the ribbon cutting for Council's calendars.

Margaret Sluyk, Reach for Home, reported on a video project demonstrating how point-in-time works, and she acknowledged the supporters. She anticipates the receipt of a real time data report in about a month. Reach for Home has been soliciting anecdotal data throughout Sonoma County. L&M Hotel will be closing escrow and is on track to open by end of August. There are 22 units, and there are 30 to 35 people identified who seem to meet the eligibility fit. They are hiring two case managers and a mental health professional, and are interested in referrals or creative partnerships. They are also looking for a facilities person who can mentor participants on property management skills. Reach for Home has people with vouchers, and referrals for apartments or units would be welcome.

Steven Sotomayor, City of Healdsburg, stated they are expecting to close on L&M Hotel on Friday. The property needs to be ADA accessible and requires installation of fire sprinklers. An additional \$220,000 in funding is available if the deadline is met. Funding for capital improvements includes \$950,000 from the County and \$1.1 million from the State. The County also approved a seven-year operational subsidy to the State's three-year operational funding, with increased funding following those 3 years. The operational cost is close to \$1 million annually to ensure tenants have the appropriate care and security. There is enough funding for the first five years. However, the contractual obligation is through 15 years and additional funding will be required for these 22 units for chronically homeless individuals.

In response to David Kelley, Committee Member Sluyk said they serve communities from Windsor through Cloverdale. She confirmed the L&M will include homeless individuals from Cloverdale, and they have outreach workers in Cloverdale.

Vice Chair Palla requested an informational pamphlet so that the City may contact the correct sites and staff. She confirmed the availability of information to help guide law enforcement on eligibility for emergency units.

b. Update on Police Department Response to Homelessness

Police Chief Ferguson would like officers to know which services are provided at which locations. They are balancing community needs with those of people who do not want to accept services. On March 31, there was an arrest for a probation violation near a fire that was started. Also there is an influx of homeless individuals at the train depot. The Police Department enforces curfew as

appropriate, e.g. the Plaza and public parks. There have been 23 homeless related incidents since last month, and 48 foot patrols and contacts in the Plaza. There have been 3 fentanyl related incidents since March 23rd, including two Code blue responses on April 4th and 5th. Both individuals were revived but back on the street the following day. The Department is working with the County on education and informing the community.

There were no comments or questions on this item.

c. Update on Vegetation Management Program at Cloverdale River Park

City Manager Kelley stated that Mayor Lands has led the coordination with the Sheriff's Department, Fire District, Supervisor Gore's office and Cloverdale's parks team on vegetation management in the river park and adjacent landscape areas. The City is addressing fire incidents in the Cloverdale cemetery and putting together a program with the County for adult crews for vegetation management. The goal is to proactively address vegetation to reduce the fire threat and complement enhanced enforcement.

d. Update on Sonoma County Continuum of Care Board

David Kelley introduced Steven Sotomayor, Healdsburg Housing Director and appointee to the Northern County's Continuum of Care Board responsible for the allocation of HUD funding for homeless initiatives.

Steven Sotomayor outlined four areas of focus for the Continuum of Care. The lead agency role is being considered, which has historically been the County for staffing and budget. Another topic of concern has been a centralized housing location. The addition of the 22 units will fill a gap in the system of care for a year round shelter. This is a location that people can be directed to for services so as not to rely on public camping when a room is available. Thirdly, a regionalized holistic approach is needed. Finally, importance must be given to the strategic plan groups working on increasing income, housing, and a coordinated system of care. The strategic plan will address the infrastructure need and underlying issues of homelessness.

There were no questions or comments.

5. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled on May 10, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.