



Cloverdale Homelessness Community Advisory Group

Meeting: November 26, 2019

Tuesday, 1:00-3:30 pm

Cloverdale Fire District Meeting Room

451 S. Cloverdale Blvd.

Cloverdale, CA 95425

DRAFT MINUTES

City Manager Kelley commenced the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Introductions were made. City Council members Brigham and Cruz welcomed the attendees. The following attendees and contact information follow:

Name	Organization	Email
Michael Velasquez	St Vincent de Paul	DFCZOA@yahoo.com
Colleen Halbohm	Wallace House	halbohm@sbcglobal.net
Deborah Howell	Alexander Valley Health Care	dhowell@alexandervalleyhealthcare.org
Blake Manning	Alexander Valley Health Care	Bmanning@alexandervalleyhealthcare.org
Tim Duke	Lieutenant, Sheriff Department	tim.duke@sonoma-county.org
Carrie Kronberg	Sonoma County Community Development Commission	Carrie.kronberg@sonoma-county.org
Kanssa White	Sonoma County Community Development Commission	Kanssa.white@sonoma-county.org
Patricia Ruiz	Reach for Home	patricr@reachforhome.org
Ana Rangel	Reach for Home	ana@reachforhome.org
Kevin Thompson	City of Cloverdale	kthompson@ci.cloverdale.ca.us
David Kelley	City of Cloverdale	dkelley@ci.cloverdale.ca.us
Susie Holmes	City of Cloverdale	sholmes@ci.cloverdale.ca.us
Mary Ann Brigham	City Councilmember	mbrigham@ci.cloverdale.ca.us
Marta Cruz	City Councilmember	mcruz@ci.cloverdale.ca.us
Todd Lands	Cloverdale School Board member	tlands@csud.org
Neena Hanchett	Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce	neena@cloverdalechamber.org

Mr. Kelley explained that the purpose of the group is to develop a regional plan that addresses the homeless issue. He hopes to expand the plan to include the cities of Windsor, Healdsburg, and Cloverdale and the unincorporated county areas in between. Future meeting dates have been scheduled on Tuesdays. The initial kick off meeting scheduled for October 29th had to be cancelled due to the fires. Councilmember Brigham asked for evening meetings as requested by the working public. The third meeting date will be changed to 6:00 p.m.

Overview of CAG Scope of Work

Overview of state of homelessness in Northern Sonoma County

Status of homelessness services being provided in Cloverdale

Strategies/services/supports

Challenges/Opportunities for Cloverdale

Define “successful outcome”

Councilmember Bringham hopes to end confusion, to clarify the roles and duties of the various groups, to identify what services are available, to identify problems, to fill in the gaps and to update outreach contacts. Councilmember Cruz concurred and wants and want to engage the Chamber to participate and local businesses. The City needs to provide public showers and bathrooms to help alleviate the impact on the river, local businesses, and law enforcement. She wants the Hispanic community to be included in the discussion.

Michael Velasquez, St. Vincent de Paul, wants the outcome to result in safer communities, and safety for the volunteers. Seniors and families need a safe place to come. Since there is no navigation center in Cloverdale, the closest thing is the church. St Vincent de Paul provides food, clothing, some financial help, and help with utility bills. Other service agencies assist with behavioral health, housing, referrals, etc. They serve meals on Tuesdays, and the budget is supplemented by donations. Mental Health and addiction of the homeless population have impacted the local community and public services. The lack of public bathrooms in town exacerbate the problem. More violence from drug related activities is taking place. The distance of Cloverdale from other areas of the County where services are provided impacts the community. People are unable or unwilling to travel to Santa Rosa and this places more burden on the community.

Ana Rangel, Reach for Home, provides assistance with utility bills, and has funds set up with funding from the community foundation at Umpqua Bank. This helps keep people off the street, and they hope to expand it. North Bay Assistance Fund also helps Reach for Home. They have a subsidized rental assistance program that resets quarterly for those coming out of treatment.

Deborah Howell, Alexander Valley Wellness, runs a referral-based system with resources. The absence of a psychiatrist in Cloverdale exacerbates the problem. Psychiatrists are necessary for medication management. Often there are addiction and mental health issues involved. The local area is lacking in places to refer clients to and there is little to offer those in need. Blake Manning is their addiction specialist.

Colleen Halbohm, Wallace House, commented that sober living facilities such as Wallace House can't participate in Housing First. There is a shortage of beds in sober living facilities, and many of her clients are from outside Cloverdale. She supports reinstatement of the conservatorship program, as many homeless are simply unable to take care of themselves.

Tim Duke, Sonoma County Sheriff, opined that law enforcement is not the answer – both a both short-term and long-term solutions need to be identified and implemented. The County supplies resources for dealing with the homeless.

Neena Hanchett, Cloverdale Chamber of Commerce, represents local businesses, who are often impacted by homeless activities and feel helpless to deal with them. The business community needs to know the available resources and want more visible law enforcement presence downtown.

Carrie Kronberg, Sonoma County Community Development Commission, explained Coordinated Entry: The CE process ensures that people with the most severe service needs and levels of vulnerability are prioritized for housing and homeless assistance. Seniors and disabled persons get priority and are served first. It is a county-wide system for housing (there are different forms of housing throughout the county) but is not for homelessness. Applicants need to have an address, and as such, many homeless do not qualify. Services for rental assistance, transitional housing, emergency housing, navigation services, and housing vouchers can be included in CE. Referrals are done by word-of-mouth, fliers, community education and messaging. There is a lottery for Section 8 Housing. Being on a list does not guarantee that clients will receive housing. Many clients around Cloverdale are not aware of the CE scoring process. Councilmember Brigham commented that the training of the person doing initial intake is essential to the process and, if denied, the client often does not understand why. She encourages homeless people to have an address that they can use when applying for services; otherwise they may be overlooked. Councilmember Brigham asked what the City can do to assist, such as installing public bathrooms downtown.

Rebecca Ennis commented that she wants to end the stigma and misinformation about homelessness in Cloverdale, have community support to do so, and see better outreach programs.

Assistant City Manager/CDC Thompson envisions the outcome to be a referral process that directs people in the right direction and that clarifies who provides what.

2019 data from the Sonoma County Homeless Census and Survey was passed out (attached). Cloverdale’s portion was 64 homeless in 2019, up from the prior year. Some have applied for coordinated entry, about half want shelter and housing, and about 6 are on the street. Todd Lands, School Board, said there are about four homeless kids attending school.

Next Steps:

Date	Time	Location:
January 14, 2020	1:00 – 3:30 p.m.	Cloverdale Fire Department, 451 S. Cloverdale Blvd, Cloverdale
February 11, 2020	6:00 p.m.	Cloverdale Fire Department, 451 S. Cloverdale Blvd, Cloverdale
March 10, 2020		Cloverdale Fire Department, 451 S. Cloverdale Blvd, Cloverdale
April 7, 2020		Cloverdale Fire Department, 451 S. Cloverdale Blvd, Cloverdale

Concluding Remarks: Mr. Kelley stated that he will prepare a draft plan to prevent homelessness before the next meeting and review the vision for success, guiding principles, and identify a clear plan of action.

Mr. Kelley adjourned the meeting at 3:30 to the next meeting on Tuesday, January 14th at 1:00 p.m.