

From: [Cheri Keisner](#)
To: LongRangePlanning@co.humboldt.ca.us
Subject: Citizen Input
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As one who has been involved with this issue for decades as the project coordinator of the Mitchell Redner Center's, Southern Humboldt Community Resource Center; emergency response member of the Humboldt County Homeless Task

Force; Founding member of the ACLU Redwood Chapter; Southern Humboldt Emergency Shelter supervisorial committee; member of AHHA; and CACHE member to the Housing Element; I wish to share my revelations over decades of being involved as you go forward with your plans.

Respectfully submitted,
Mrs. Cheri Porter-Keisner

Avoid temporary fixes—motel vouchers. Services without case management fail.

Identify dual diagnosis applicants and refer to appropriate treatment programs before housing or develop on-site programs; involve graduates of Teen Challenge and Mountain of Mercy as mentors or even paid staff. Positive role models of those who have successfully transitioned off the streets are paramount.

Develop business counterparts for residents to learn job skills and provide supplemental funding for sustainability of program. Do not repeat the past mistake of start ups which house residents only to boot them out when funding shifts or dissipates.

Create positive image of the program within the community as in Rio Dell where volunteers serve and assist residents to restore self-worth to the residents. Address NIMBY issues with open neighborhood meeting before construction begins.

Always plan for "extras" that enhance quality of life such as gardens, playgrounds, barbeque pits, picnic tables, recycling, common room, pet walking area.

Have a calendar of activities which explore hobbies and personal development available that residents can choose to participate. Could be offered by residents or any volunteer, who is screened. Ultimately develop equity based housing opportunities where residents can buy into the ownership of the program, a cooperative or build up capital to buy a place of their own.

Develop a management team elected from the residents like a housing association together with oversight whether staff or Community Housing Oversight Board. Make attendance mandatory for all residents.

Before placement have applicants sign an agreement which outlines what behaviors will not be tolerated and the consequences for violating contract. Update contract as changes are made. Upon placement review and resign contract.

Have welcome committee for new residents to smooth the transition.

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