

**Lodi Committee on Homelessness
Committee Meeting
Carnegie Forum, 305 West Pine Street
www.lodi.gov/940/Homelessness
Thursday, September 5, 2019**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Committee meeting of September 5, 2019 was called to order by Chair Ledbetter at 2:30 p.m.

Committee Members – Chair John Ledbetter, June Aaker, John Beckman, Amanda Bonilla, Mayor Mark Chandler, John Coughran, Bill Cummins, David Diskin, Pat Fehling, Cheryl Francis, Kat Gonzales, Diane Heyford, Kelly Hanisch, Joe Harrington, Russ Hayward, Gary Kapic, Mayor Pro Tempore Doug Kuehne, Tammy Joy Lane, Dale Ludwig, Don Massengill, Josh McClelland, John Narvaez, Lynsey Nuss, Kathryn Siddle, Amitoj Singh, Mark Thielenhaus, Daniel Wolcott, Dee Yates and Shelby Young

Absent: Police Chief Tod Patterson and City Manager Steve Schwabauer

Also Present: Deputy City Manager Andrew Keys, CDBG Program Administrator Patrice Clemons, Lieutenant Fernando Martinez, Community Liaison Officer Dan Schiele and Linda Tremble, Executive Administrative Assistant to City Manager and City Attorney

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Ledbetter provided introductions of Committee Members and Staff. The 46 in attendance were residents, City Council Members, Committee Members, and City staff.

3. PROJECT REPORTS

a. HEAP Update:

City Council recently approved Staff to contract with an environmental company to conduct an environmental review of two potential sites for the Tiny Homes project. Once that information is gathered on environmental impacts, then consideration for the two sites will be received by the Lodi Committee on Homelessness (LCOH) and Council at a future date. An FAQ was created and will be posted online at the LCOH web page.

b. Community Liaison Officer Report:

Officer Dan Schiele has been in his new position two weeks and the priority is getting homeless off the streets by assisting them with social services, reuniting with family, or jail if appropriate. Encourage, educate and enforce the laws/codes is the approach we use and getting to know them. Dignity and respect goes a long way. We were recently able to get a few veterans into homes; 4 transients got jail sentences who had several citations. 50 or 60 sworn officers take volunteer shifts to also help out and assist with our efforts. Shopping carts are being picked up quickly. Text or call my work cell phone if you need help or report a concern at 209-642-2735. More than 100 people have been helped off the street since the beginning of this project.

c. San Joaquin County Continuum of Care (CoC):

Chair Ledbetter participates on the CoC Board and shared it's only been in existence since January of 2019 and the Strategic Plan is coming together for regional efforts. Next meeting is scheduled October 24 at Hutchins Street Square in Lodi. More information can be found at their website at www.sanjoaquinccoc.org.

d. Grace and Mercy

This program is a day-café for homeless, it also outsources food, supplies, and materials to over 50 other ministries. All are welcome to attend next two fundraisers and Volunteers are always needed. Currently in need of a book keeper. Cheryl was not available to report - volunteer provided update.

e. General Discussion – additional emergency shelters

Recent Town Hall Meeting held in August was well attended and gathered lots of feedback on homeless issues. One issue in particular was adding emergency shelters which generated the following suggestions:

- a. Find nonprofit(s) to fund it and run-it
- b. Uplift All, nonprofit provided following comments: Our Mission is to help people with positive and compassionate relocation services to friendly community locations (campground, etc.). We are a new non-profit meeting with Cities to determine homeless solutions that are already working and we want to help Lodi find solutions. We have interviewed 300 homeless people (not all in this area) who have had hard lives and in need of help. We've looked at multiple properties in Lodi and Stockton for friendly community locations to provide enrichment services and partner with nonprofits. 65% of homeless experience mental illness and 20-30% drug/alcohol addictions. Because of this, we need more than to just put them in a house, they need services that will take public and private partnership. We'll clean-up site to restore the location where they had lived. This is a test program –still figuring out how it all works and dealing with human conditions, so complicated, so we will need to adjust as we go.
- c. If we have the shelter – where do we locate it?
Chair Ledbetter reported - If you say not here, that does not work, we need to change our attitude. Stockton and County are working on tentative solutions, such as, unused school grounds to be possibly used.
- d. Resident
Home is close to The Salvation Army where there are rules. Witnessed a man on drugs at 8 p.m. and he was at a park, and he is not allowed at The Salvation Army. Low barrier / no barrier - if you build a shelter with low barrier, then more people will come to stay in it and will fill up, so we shouldn't build it. Instead transitional/temporary stay allowed. The freeway got cleaned out and then several homeless came back with their stuff, so they are returning. Maybe do practical things to do to make it inconvenient to be here. Feel we are enabling homeless to be here by certain actions. The ones at Emerson Park are new homeless that have not been here before. They are not from Lodi and are passing through but we make it convenient for them to stay.
- e. Salvation Army
John Narvaez explained why Salvation Army has a zero tolerance rule – cannot test positive on anything, except Marijuana, because a drug/alcohol rehab program are under same roof (in same facility), plus transitional program and culinary program. It does not work for people in recovery to be under same roof with others under influence/possession of drug/alcohol. Salvation Army needs a detox license in order to do so. No one wants low barrier shelter, but he/she is a recovering addict and someone gave him/her a chance, he/she was given an opportunity to heal/recover. Until you have enough low barrier beds in your community, then you cannot be convicted or enforced laws. Do you want a shelter

or do you not want an Officer to be able to enforce laws? Everyone invited to come to Salvation Army shelter and view it. We need a low barrier shelter – it will be a cycle of not being able to make a difference if we do not create a low barrier shelter. Judicial system is overwhelmed and cannot process these smaller homeless laws.

f. New Homelessness Webpage www.lodi.gov/940/Homelessness has been created and has contact information with email to send your comments. Chair Ledbetter reported we would like to hear from you and the site has lots of resources available to help understand the issues and keep you informed.

g. Mayor Pro Tempore Kuehne
City Council and Committee has been wrestling with solutions. Low/no barrier issue = Boise decision – you cannot clear parks unless you have a place to put people. Difficult to enforce cleaning the park. Multiple cities, including Lodi, are appealing that ruling. It must be a no barrier facility - so we can clean up our parks at night. We must follow the Boise rule. Contact your Assemblymember and Legislature and voice your concerns.

h. General Questions/Comments:

What does “no” barrier mean? – a bed and shelter.

What does it mean that you need enough shelter? They are given an option to go to jail or go to shelter.

Daytime they are released and can go where they want.

Housing and feeding people all day long, not required, just overnight.

We need 139 beds for today – according to the Point-In-Time (PIT) number.

So if the number increases, the beds need to increase? .. Yes

Modesto Mobil Showers / Tent City in Modesto - Clean area, security, resources are available.

Large increase in homeless in this last year in Lodi - official 139 unsheltered (does not matter number sheltered that day) - City needs another 139 beds on top of existing sheltered beds.

Day Center would be good to have for people during the day to get help.

Refer to the Website under Homelessness to contact your legislature!

Police officers are enforcing the laws (drinking, harassing, trespassing, etc.) – it means you cannot enforce overnight camping/sleeping, until beds are made available. They will cite, arrest and prosecuted to include jail times. Police will come and help enforce the laws.

4. HOMELESS TOWN HALL – AUGUST 12, 2019

Feedback from the meeting was that LCOH was acting privately, please come to our meetings and participate in our efforts. Agendas/Minutes/Notices, and locations of meetings will now be posted to the Website on Homelessness and you can find up to date information.

5. LODI COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS STRUCTURE, MEMBERSHIP, AND MEETING OPERATIONS:

The Committee has its own website www.lodi.gov/940/Homelessness

Meeting Agendas/Minutes/Notices will be posted there. We are informal and if you want to be a Committee Member just let us know. We don't fall under the Brown Act, we just want to make a difference and you are welcome to join us.

6. Other:

Mayor Chandler

Thank you John for your leadership and volunteer time. We had a great exchange at the recent Town Hall and another workshop will be scheduled at Hutchins Street Square so please get involved. Contact your Legislatures. Created private/public partnership to remove vehicles to remove them, and is currently raising funds, collected by police foundation. The vehicles are tagged. Let us know if you want to help contribute to this effort or if you want more information.

Chair Ledbetter concluded with the following:

Committee members all contribute to a future of this town, those of you working/living here.

Educate yourselves on what the laws are and the committee/City has done.

See list of items that have been done on our website.

Open to having another meeting – and workshop style, get together and talk about solutions from educated basis.

Contact you Legislatures because that is where laws are coming down that make it hard for us to address homelessness problem.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Lodi Committee on Homelessness, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully Recorded by
Patrice Clemons
Lodi Committee on Homelessness