

### **First Meeting 4-6 pm**

Opening: Tiawana Bullock

Young adults, in regular school, can't afford housing, no place to go

Marin County Foster Care system question: ages 18-25

MWC acknowledged

Marcia: Explained job of MWC to advise BOS. Idea is for you to talk about what you envision. We have \_\_\_\_, Ambassadors of hope to the community, who deal with homeless issues of young adults 18-25. It is our hope that Supervisor McGlashan will be here before this event ends to speak with you. Childcare available

Tiawana:

Question: Why do you think some of the young adults are homeless in Marin.

- parents kick them out at 18
- not enough low-income housing
- young people leaving home because of bad situations at home i.e. emotional, physical, sexual abuse
- kicked out based on their sexual orientation
- parents abandoning their kids, leaving to go back to their country or another state
- lack of linkage to vocational opportunities in lieu of 4-year college
- unable to meet skill level set required to obtain a job with which you can sustain yourself in Marin
- Community colleges do not offer housing
- drugs, after-affects of legal system
- parents might be incarcerated

Question: What would our dream of available housing look like

- Own apartments to share with peers
- close to work and school
- no more than 2 roommates per unit
- not transitional housing
- close to transportation i.e. Marin city, San Rafael hub, etc.
- possibly renting a room from an adult in their house for support
- young-people friendly environment
- could be on some of the plots now owned by the County
- phased programs, i.e. one level has high support and then step-down levels
- matching funds program/self-sufficiency promotion
- green
- training opportunities- space and trainers i.e. life skills, etc.

- basic parameters i.e. have to maintain a job, be saving money
- have the young adults involved in building and maintaining the space
- computer lab, recreation center, a heart to connect everyone

Ambassadors of Hope and Opportunity (AHO): Ambassadors has been working on this issue of housing support for young people between the ages of 18-25. Prop 63 said there was money for foster youth and some funding streams if you have a label such as mental health. We found and connected with over 500 young people who have not been in any system, identify with the homeless parameters. We've helped 30 get into their own apartments here in Marin. We've had an adult help them learn the process. In addition to housing, a caring adult is critical. We've developed a life coach program. Our youth are involved in the solution- they are mentors to their peers. They advocate for themselves and other youth. They have demonstrated their leadership opportunities which are another component which is critical to help the young people see their inner power and strengths, speaking skills. Our documentary film on this subject was aired on PBS. Peter Coyote narrated it. I'm thrilled that this meeting is happening here today and the synergy starts to happen. We've presented to the BOS, June 07. The leadership institute and youth commissioners got us on the agenda. Our goal after that meeting was to apply to the County for some funding for what we've been doing as we receive no state, federal or local funding for what we do. Almost 2000 of our young people between 18-25 have been booked, at \$125 per person which is over 400K; we're asking much less for our budget. One day in jail is \$142, bed and food only, no medical = \$52K a year. We're asking 5K a year for a life coach to be there 4-6 hours a week to be there, who has been trained, not a case manager. They need someone who inspires them and believes in them and who will be there over time. 22 partners in the community who provide everything a parent might provide, we match them with peers in an apartment and with their life coach.

Roadblocks to getting help: People do not want to believe that these conditions exist in this County, which is seen as having much money. They look like any other kid- doesn't look homeless and don't want to, nor do they refer to themselves as homeless. They refer to themselves as in between places.

This is one of the wealthiest counties and it's a crime that it is happening here.

Question from community: Have you looked at other communities for a model?

Ambassadors has created our own model. We started from the premise that we did not want the kids to have to have a label to get help. As we got going, we discovered funding for young adults who have been labeled. The Children's Advocacy Institute in San Diego did research on what young people need: a caring adult, financial resources of 5K a year to fully launch. The children we're helping have nothing so it's not a surprise that this is the largest growing population of homeless. We're writing a Bill for a pilot program for Ambassadors to be a pilot project for rural and suburban communities throughout the state. We have this incredible program, but no funding. We need minimal funding and have had great success.

Raffle:

Question: What would be the next step to take

- rally up more young adults
- have house meetings or another meeting at the Senior Center
- have a meeting at local basketball events

Question: What would we talk about to them

- ways to save \$
- hands on training i.e. balancing a checkbook
- talk with local attorneys and business people to see how we can get funding for a program like Ambassadors
- support people already doing the work instead of reinventing the wheel
- no transitional housing down in Southern Marin like they do in San Rafael, etc
- Need to be involved in the process of how selection of low income housing dollars are spent
- advertise on myspace or where the young adults hang out
- pass out flyers in places where people who have the means to support these efforts work or socialize to inform them
- training our young adults in these issues

Who are agencies that we can get young people to go to advocate?  
Churches, Residence Counsels, Public Housing, CLC, partnership with local businesses, CSC, CDC

Tiawana: This is not an overnight process. We need to get more people on board, may have to rally at the BOS. Marin City is unincorporated and our dollars go to the County. We need to let them know what we need

Rally up more adults: how long should this take? You need to rally up people who will really show up. Need suggestions on how to get these people to show up.

Can you work through Tam High? No, this group is older. They might be at the Community College.

Get on the agenda at CDC.

Have another meeting within a week, 4:30; June 17 at the Senior Center

Need food and prizes to get people to come

Need to do outreach. Can we get \$ from someone to give a stipend to pay young adults to go out and bring people in for the meeting

How many people will be there and what are the goals of the meeting?

Discuss: Prevention of homeless. Need to engage the young people the whole time so they stay interested and don't leave. Zara bring some of the young adults to explain how the program has worked for them.

The idea for people her age is to have a baby so they can get an apartment. Now, the way Marin Housing Authority works, is on a point system. You have to get a lot of points and be in a really bad situation such as single mom with 8 kids. You get more points for being in a homeless shelter, not living with someone. Better way would be to create housing for young mothers.

Need child care for young mothers that's affordable so they can go to work or back to school.

CDC is having a series of workshops, could add these issues to their agenda.

Need people in their age group to address and run these meetings.

Question: What do you want from the Women's Commission.  
-spreading the word to your circle of influence in the community  
-how many foster children do we have, how many homeless children for Southern Marin. Would like a survey with this information  
-get wealthy friends to have a fundraiser

How did you outreach to homeless children?

We're 17 women, volunteers, appointed by the BOS. We can hold public hearings, do advocacy, let the BOS know what the important issues are. MWC can advocate for you.

Very happy you came, and we'll do our part to get the issues out there.

Suggestion: Once we identify these children, can we then ask them what their needs are.

Leslie Alden: Thank everyone for coming out. The input that you're providing to the MWC provides so much good information that goes back to the greater community. The report will be distributed to the media, the community. The BOS will take this into account as they make decisions for the future. Housing is one of the challenging needs in this community. Keeping families together, moving people into productive lives. Marin County has so much to offer, but not enough attention has been paid to these issues. Getting the issues to the policy makers will make a difference. Helping families stay together, building affordable housing, under market housing.

Tiawana: Explained the process of the meeting to Leslie.

Drawing: 3 more winners

**Second Meeting 6-8 pm**

Eboni: Introduction  
We will be talking about the concerns of women in Marin. There are a lot of concerns. As women, we wear thousands of hats, deal with a lot of stress.

Question: What are your concerns

- if we can find housing how do we find enough money for everything else
- income generation
- employment challenges
- childcare
- mental health, medical insurance, dealing with medical
- young adults not qualifying for medical- what do we do
- emergency rooms are taking the brunt of lack of health insurance
- concerned with youth of Marin City, youth walk through all the time, they don't have the recreation, mentorship programs they need; they're dropping out of school; other communities have brand new recreation centers, but we don't like in the Canal, etc.
- low self-esteem for our young
- need more programs for youth that have either learning disabilities, mental disabilities or physical disabilities. Has not been acknowledged that we have problems in this community and they do not have to go out of the community for help.
- not enough that we help them get an apartment, but that they receive loving support
- mentoring program by peers or just slightly older. Need to engage the young to help the young
- not enough resources for seniors
- need swimming pool or transportation to the Mill Valley Rec. for Seniors
- No podiatrist for the Seniors
- Everything seems to go North
- If Marin City people do get there, nobody there looks like us

Clinic: -You get what you pay for  
-Need money to pay for docs  
-Need clinic open more than just a few days a week  
-Marin City is worth more than 3 days a week  
-Have a new clinic in San Rafael; that doesn't seem to meet our needs.  
-how do we get to the new San Rafael clinic

McGlashan: Made a strong pitch that the community clinic open a branch in Marin City. At about that same time, the BOS started discussion to move clinic to San Rafael. McGlashan angry that he couldn't even get a satellite clinic for his district. The argument is made that we need to centralize so everyone can get there—problem is transportation and not culturally representative.

HHS will argue that most people that need healthcare can get to San Rafael. McGlashan agreed to the centralization but would still fight for his district. Thanks to Terry and the leadership of the Marin City Board, and the grassroots efforts to get this clinic. After the San Rafael has opened, he will argue that he needs a satellite in Marin City. Need to talk to Terry to get permission to absorb this clinic, possibly into a bigger group and then they could go on county support and get incomes for the doctors. McGlashan was told he wouldn't be able to generate the numbers to show Marin City needs a clinic and that early intervention really matters.

Question: What is the plan to do something about the young adult problem? 18-25 can't find affordable housing, dropping out of school just to make money to make rent or take care of children. To keep women from shacking up with boyfriends so they have a place to live.

First, to get funding to Ambassadors of Hope. They are filling a great niche. A pitch was made to HHS by AOH which didn't go very far. Short term, a move to fund AOH. Longer term, mentoring for job skills so you can get into a competitive wage. Affordable housing is a bear, I'm going into a community that hates affordable housing next week and why he will support affordable housing when there is a water shortage in this county. He has to explain why affordable housing is good for all in the community, not just the poor. Short term: plan to get people emergency housing. Midterm would be the mentoring. There is hope with the green building movement. Long term, dilemma for Marin is that we can never build enough to make housing affordable. However, built into the Marin General Plan is to grow our housing trust fund and start buying these assets and converting them to low-income housing. So, no increased density, but rather buy what is there and turn it into affordable housing.

Question: How can BOS help us?

Mentoring program will help. The community center will help; it's been a long 4 year project, however it's still a 30 M project. The Canal was 8M, so this is a lot bigger and more expensive. The community board has led the design work on that so I'm more a fiscal agent to help.

The way I can help is being an advocate for the things we need. We've had on hold the notion of doing a home grown program. We need to sync that to a market that demands people. We might be able to push the mentoring and connect them to the market, rather than create a mentoring program that doesn't connect anyone to actual jobs.

Transportation is a hard issue, bumming people out.

Point: We're on 2 different planes when we're talking mentoring ie. young adults receiving life skills mentoring v. job readiness mentoring

Good point. We need to work with the local groups so we're on the same page- get smart together.

Question: Marin City might get left out of the AOH program. How do we make sure Marin City is not left out? Maybe through the commission, we need to make sure Zara is hooked in.

Question: Has the county looked into purchasing land from other Counties that is cheap to increase housing

We need to keep our citizens within our borders. I want to keep as much affordable housing within this County. To the extent Marin keeps pushing our kids further out, it's bad for our economy and really bad for the environment by putting more people on the roads.

Need to deliver transit first before any more density can be done. Learned this in Mill Valley last year. This Miller Ave plan is going to go down in flames if transportation isn't dealt with first. The moral of the story is that the only way Marin will make headway by reusing the land is to get a lot bolder for transportation ie. big supporter of the Smart Train.

Question: We are open to affordable housing. We have lots here that aren't being used. If a developer comes to the County, the County will tell them to go to the locals to see what they want. The County is superstrict about the ridge lines, so don't want to destroy the community separators so the communities remain distinct. McGlashan feels like Marin City has done its fair share of affordable and that other communities need to do their fair share. The local community is the boss and can tell the BOS how much density they want. Have to balance it with car traffic so as not to ruin quality of life. There is a chance without wrecking what's there to redevelop what's there. McGlashan biased about Land Projects for local control.

Question: I'm seeing 4 young women here who need a place to live Studio type apartments would work, possibly. How about converting something that is already here that could be better used.

North Bay Family Homes came to BOS and wanted to buy units and convert them into affordable housing. We can make it profitable for the seller and give more people opportunity.

Comment: Below market means ownership; we need rental

Look into Housing Authority maybe for a funding match to get more units online because the Marin Housing Authority is really good at managing low income units. They have handled all types of different models. Talk to homeward bound. Talk to Northbay Family and Homes.

Question: What about the County buying housing, making it Green, and making it into affordable housing.

Problem is funding.

Issue: the banks are so shaky right now, can the County negotiate something so the banks can at least get some \$ and a tax write-off.

the gloomy part of the picture is that money is being put into the housing authority to keep the low income units to going into defaults when the people in the units aren't making their payments. The good news is that this is temporary.

Question: there used to be a model project for shared housing in Fairfax- how did that work?

It's been working really well.

Comment: I would be happy if we were just training people to do jobs and giving them access to higher education, vocational training.

Question: Why is affordable housing such an issue when we're one of the richest counties.

It's because there are rich people here but the money doesn't go to the county. .87 of every dollar of property taxes goes to the State and not to us. With the cuts, the County is cutting jobs and the programs are getting put on the backburner. I want to know why we have X number of District attorney's and HHS workers and re-evaluate every job. Affordable housing, transportation, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ are the four big areas we're focusing on.

Issue: Monica Clemens: trying to get bussing for kids with an inter-district transfers to and from their schools. Child in Ross Valley school district, but my child is stuck in Ross Valley after school.

Tiawana: Any other concerns?

With the loss of state funding, will public housing lose money and they'll have to move away.

The system is technically broke, but we won't let it fail.

Question: Marin City has the highest death rate in the entire county. Folks are in a constant state of grief here. We need folks who have contacts to get to the bottom of this issue. How can we move this forward? Just like the breast cancer issue in the county

I lived in San Francisco for 40 years but now live in Marin. After moving over here I can't get in and out of here the way I want to. My medical appointments are in the City. Can we have a shuttle service.

Also worried about the lighting coming around Drake Ave area.

Difficult getting the proper exercise; need a local fitness center for Seniors, for the disabled.

The shuttle issue is definitely on my list of things to push. If you have specific ideas of where it needs to go, send an email because that will help me. I'll ask our DPW director about our lighting issue. Longer term is the fitness center which is in the works

Issue: What about creating a BART system.

Issue: The Greenbrae women's clinic is closing/relocating to the San Rafael HHS campus.