



# **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS (CACH)**

## **Regular Meeting**

**Tuesday, Nov. 5, 2019**

**6:00 p.m. Meeting Begins**

Veteran's Memorial Building, The Post Room  
846 Front Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

## **A G E N D A**

- I. Call to Order and Roll Call**
- II. Public Comment (time limited; for matters listed and not listed on the agenda; exclusively to accommodate the public that may not be able to attend the entire meeting)**
- III. Minutes from October 15, 2019 CACH meeting**
- IV. Nominations to Replace Katie Woolsey**
- V. Report from CACH Subcommittees**
- VI. Oral Communications (for items not listed on the agenda)**
- VII. Adjournment**

**Adjournment** -- The Committee Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) will adjourn from the public meeting of Nov. 5, 2019 to its next meeting of Nov. 19, 2019.

*The City of Santa Cruz does not discriminate against persons with disabilities. Out of consideration for people with chemical sensitivities, we ask that you attend fragrance free. Upon request, the agenda can be provided in a format to accommodate special needs. Additionally, if you wish to attend this public meeting and will require assistance such as an interpreter for American Sign Language, Spanish, or other special equipment, please call the City Clerk's Department at 420-5030 in advance so that we can arrange for such special assistance. The Cal-Relay system number: 1-800-735-2922.*

*Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) meetings will be recorded for the purpose of preparing minutes.*



Louden Nelson, Community Room  
301 Center Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060



**DRAFT MINUTES OF COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON HOMELESSNESS (CACH)**  
**MEETING**  
**Regular Meeting**

**Oct. 15, 2019**

**6:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING - LOUDEN NELSON, COMMUNITY ROOM**

**Statements of Disqualification:** Section 607 of the City Charter states that "...All members present at any meeting must vote unless disqualified, in which case the disqualification shall be publicly declared and a record thereof made."

**General Business:** Any document related to an agenda item for the General Business of this meeting distributed to the CACH less than 72 hours before this meeting is available for inspection at the City Manager's Office, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz, California. These documents will also be available for review at the CACH meeting with the display copy at the rear of the meeting room.

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**Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) Agenda**

**Oct. 15, 2019  
6:00 pm**

- I. Call to Order Roll Call (6:04 pm) - Committee Members present:** Ami Chen Mills-Naim, Candice Elliott, Serg Kagno, Don Lane\*, Taj Leahy, Brooke Newman, Aran Nichol, Stina Roach, Frank Sanchez, Rafael Sonnenfeld, and Dwaine Tait  
  
\*Don Lane attended via conference phone  
Katie Woolsey submitted her resignation from the CACH
- II. Public Comment (6:06 pm)**
- III. Minutes from Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> CACH Meeting (6:08 pm)**  
Mr. Leahy moves to approve minutes, seconded by Mr. Sanchez  
Approved by consensus
- IV. Co-Chair Nomination of Stoney Brook to Replace Ingrid Trejo (6:10 pm)**

Ms. Elliott moved to approve the nomination, Mr. Leahy seconded  
Nomination approved by consensus

**V. Report from CACH Subcommittees (6:13 pm)**

Public Health Subcommittee reported (6:13 pm)

Safe Camping Subcommittee reported (6:38 pm)

Public Engagement Subcommittee reported (6:58 pm)

**VI. Goal Setting for Immediate Policy Recommendations to Council (8:07 pm)**

Motion to have subcommittees return on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> with tentative policy objectives, focusing on 1-2 policy for consideration for the full CACH consideration, in preparation for a report to the City Council in Nov. and/or Dec.

Ms. Newman moved, Mr. Sanchez seconded

Approved by consensus

**VII. Oral communications (9:17 pm)**

**VIII. Adjournment (9:17 pm)**

Approved by consensus

## LETTER TO FRED KEELEY AND Citizens Committee on Homeless

In order to create policies which both fulfill physical need and improve overall opportunities of these populations, we must significantly increase the public "buy-in". This is best secured by a formation of a longterm Consortium of Interests, from the business and property sectors, neighborhood protective groups, communities of faith, civic organisations, large foundations etc. There has to be a community-wide determination to succeed. ( See Addendum: Consortium)

Our future endeavors toward ameliorating and limiting the Homeless Syndrome must be sensible and secure, commanding the respect of the most established pillars of our society. A new focus of creative commitment has to emerge, in which all sectors take part.

The Human Element: It would be untrue to state categorically that most homeless persons cannot survive without immediate proximity to support services. Wherever they are located, capable individuals always find a means of transportation, or discover ways to adapt and become more independent.

Urban vs. Rural: A considerable portion of the HL population have serious difficulties maintaining their existence in the hustle and bustle of contemporary urban living. Such persons, families and groups, being socially "misplaced", need other opportunities to survive, and even thrive, away from the pressure of cities and suburbs. Sensible alternative living in quasi-rural "environmental learning centers" could be a real possibility. Adapting to a "green mode" lifestyle could be a popular preference, especially for those raising kids. Such projects would require positive action by local government and agencies, e.g. waiving or "relaxing" certain zoning and structural codes.

( Note: all the foregoing addresses the potential of properly focused HL persons, families or groups, who are basically healthy and outside the world of serious drug or alcohol abuse )

Broad Social Concept: The only secure path toward innovative and workable solutions will be a deep humanitarian one. We need to care about each individual of merit. Our principle aim must be the re-integration of the excluded, the outsiders and the rejected into our economics-based society. Opportunities for advancement need to be opened across the spectrum, from housing and healthcare, to placings in formal education, to informal skills learning, to incorporation in the private sector. Through state legislative action, public works jobs need to be established at local level and wider, as an antidote to recurrent poverty. Local programs in this regard need to be very flexible on time schedules, bearing in mind these are human beings trying to recover their sense of structure and function. One form of employment could be new social services, e.g. fulfilling the daily needs of our elderly, disabled, underskilled and illiterate. Gearing the energy of capable, but unemployed, persons to actual needs of others is a sure way to regain a place in our community.

We can no longer allow our economic outsiders, our marginalized, to languish on the outer perimeter. They deserve better than our current low-intensity engagement. They need stronger systemic support to succeed as residents within the state of California.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP: The initiation of worthwhile service-enterprises by aspiring poor people ( whether housed or unhoused) needs to be a target of our anti-poverty funding. ( Examples: Childcare, motor mechanics, garden maintenance.) Groups of individuals who already have an organic bonding need to be financed to engage in their economic vision, be it non-profit or other. It is right to enable our

over →



fellow Californians to get a start in life and become productive entities. ( To do this reliably and well into the future would require local Social-Investment Banks. An easily accessible Master Fund is needed to release financial and other resources to human groups with definite potential. Who knows what creative enterprises might be launched by teen-and-twenties entrepreneurs, for instance ? – under steady guidance of course by experienced older people. Note: It's been proven round the world that financial "micro loans" are successful, and do get repaid.)

#### Addendum –CONSORTIUM

It will take a full consortium of interested parties to produce a workable end-product with the aim of resolving homeless needs and forestalling any increase in this population, by initiating measures against "poverty creation" via economic imbalances in society. This consortium may have to be wider than the current H.A.P.P. of County & City. It needs to include: any organized groups of homeless persons and those formerly homeless; any membership groups geared to civil rights; neighborhood protective organizations; social-welfare committees within religious denominations; business councils or associations; property interests and financial institutions; chief law enforcement officers, public health officials; student governments from higher education; sections of organized labor; political clubs or subgroups, community organizations; finally, academic or other social researchers who have made independent studies. And, really finally: our ultimate public servants – those charged with the very management, preservation and even evolution of human society: public elected officials and the bevy of department heads, advisors and management who run the affairs of our cities and county.

On later reflection I added the following: Advocates for these groups: Unhoused (termed out) Foster Kids, those needing mental or emotional counselling and support, Low Income Renters, Low Income Parents, People with Disabilities, Immigrant/Refugee communities, Gender Identity groups.

There is in fact hardly an end to the array of social groups who face real apprehension of potential future impoverishment and loss of abode. There is also hardly any person or family with a secure comfortable existence here who does not want effective programs that responsibly engage the "downfallen" and displaced, thereby reducing the frequency of crime and locating unhoused people in safe healthy environments, rural or urban, instead of appearing in sad clumps of humanity with accumulated baggage and survival gear.

PATH AHEAD: If we are to engage in such an extensive engagement with public groups, for a developing longterm approach, probably the only way would be to encourage the formation of an array of Working Groups, (of diverse and even opposing or competitive viewpoints) who could try to work things out and bring proposals before the wider body.

THIS MESSAGE COMES FROM NICHOLAS WHITEHEAD, Co Founder Conscience and Action.

707-387-2377

## **CACH Work Plan**

### **Staff Guidance on Next Steps**

**October 25, 2019**

**Background:** With seven CACH meetings under your belt and consensus beginning to coalesce around your policy interests/recommendations, I'd like to provide some overarching guidance on next steps to help orient the CACH members towards success. This guidance is grounded in the following principles:

- Policy recommendations to Council must include a feasibility analysis with fiscal, siting, community acceptance and political considerations evaluated/documented.
- Urgent recommendations to improve quality of life for those unsheltered, in the absence of a feasibility analysis, should be focused on reducing barriers to current homelessness services.
- Moving forward with urgent recommendations, without focus on feasibility and community acceptance, has the potential of setting back the CACH's progress and may further divide the community around this issue.
- The CACH must focus its next several meetings into gathering expert opinion on best/evidence-based practices and engaging the community on siting and program model considerations for CACH-proposed policy recommendations.
- There appears to be consensus on the CACH to forward recommendations to Council focused on:
  - o Improving access to hygiene and storage facilities
  - o Implementing a new proof of concept safe sleeping site with the potential of co-locating that site with the River Street Camp.
  - o Updating the City's camping ordinance to reflect the availability of safe sleeping via the new site.
  - o Considering a master plan to co-locate day services, emergency shelter services, housing navigation services, and other homeless-related services in one area of the City, with siting, program modeling, and funding considerations fully evaluated within the CACH, with support from outside sources such as Focus Strategies, experts in the field, and other potential consulting options.
- Some CACH members are frustrated with the progress, process and structure of the CACH and are seeking clarity on next steps and the level of staffing support to reach successful outcomes.

### **Discussion:**

With those guiding principles in mind, I'd like to recommend for the CACH's consideration, the following next steps.

1. CACH Adoption of Policy Focus at the November 5, 2019 meeting to include:
  - a. Improving access to hygiene and storage facilities
  - b. Implementing a new proof of concept safe sleeping site with the potential of co-locating that site with the River Street Camp.
  - c. Considering a master plan to co-locate day services, emergency shelter services, housing navigation services, and other homeless-related services in one area of the City, with siting, program modeling, and funding considerations fully evaluated within the CACH,

with support from outside sources such as Focus Strategies, experts in the field, and other potential consulting options.

2. CACH Adoption of Feasibility Analysis Work Plan at the November 5, 2019 meeting to include:
  - a. Direction to staff to provide recommendations on required consultant/expert panel resources to conduct feasibility analysis including:
    - i. Community engagement
    - ii. Best/evidenced-based practices/program models
    - iii. Siting considerations
    - iv. Funding options
  - b. Direction to staff to bring required consultant/expert panel resources to conduct feasibility analysis recommendation back to CACH on December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
3. CACH focus November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting on Community Engagement around hygiene/storage. Ask for presentations from Consciousness in Action, City staff, Warming Center, the public, on the need and what has been considered. Open dialogue on the subject. Hear from staff on best/evidence-based practice research and current work on the subject. Hear from current partners on their programming with an eye on reducing barriers to access. Hear from those with current lived experience.
4. CACH focus November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting on Community Engagement around safe sleeping. Ask for presentations interested parties, the public, on the need and what has been considered. Open dialogue on the subject. Hear from staff on best/evidence-based practice research and current work on the subject. Hear from current partners on their programming with an eye on reducing barriers to access. Hear from those with current lived experience.
5. Staff provides analysis on lessons learned from November 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> meetings along with recommended consultant support for full feasibility analysis at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.
  - a. CACH set goal of achieving policy areas 1 & 2 by January/February 2020:
    - i. Improving access to hygiene and storage facilities
    - ii. Implementing a new proof of concept safe sleeping site with the potential of co-locating that site with the River Street Camp.
  - b. CACH set goal of achieving policy area 3 by April 2020:
    - i. Updating the City's camping ordinance to reflect the availability of safe sleeping via the new site.
  - c. CACH set goal of achieving policy area 4 by July 2020:
    - i. Considering a master plan to co-locate day services, emergency shelter services, housing navigation services, and other homeless-related services in one area of the City, with siting, program modeling, and funding considerations fully evaluated within the CACH, with support from outside sources such as Focus Strategies, experts in the field, and other potential consulting options.
6. CACH Co-Chairs present update to City Council on December 10<sup>th</sup> with Adopted Policy Focus, outcome of community meetings, and funding request to accomplish feasibility analysis via consultant support and/or expert panel funding.
7. Sunset the Subcommittees in favor of focusing on collaborative, transparent and unified approach to the CACH's work. Become educated together and engage with the public together, with support from the Council, staff and consultants. Focus on the above objectives and do the work well together. Be patient and focused.





## Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH)

Thank you for your interest in participating on the City of Santa Cruz Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH). The CACH was created at the direction of the City Council to increase both communication and understanding regarding the City's current homelessness crisis. The CACH will provide a platform for members of our community to identify and explore homelessness-related causes and possible solutions and develop independent recommendations to improve the quality of life in our City. Additionally, the CACH membership is intended to broadly represent our community.

The preliminary objectives of the CACH's work include:

- a) Lead a community enrichment and public engagement process, giving community members a seat at the table and ownership of solutions.
- b) Synthesize and analyze community feedback.
- c) Recommend short-term options for addressing the City's unsheltered population including an interim shelter and other programming.
- d) Develop different pathways and strategies for future and lasting citywide policy changes.

The CACH will convene in May/June and will meet regularly through February 2020 to complete its work and present findings to the City Council. The CACH will meet at least once a month, and participants are expected to bring their ideas to the proceedings, while respecting differing opinions and working in a collaborative manner.

Please fill out the following questionnaire and return it to: Megan Bunch, Homelessness Assistant, via E-mail: [mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com), Fax: 831-420-5011, or Mail: City of Santa Cruz/809 Center Street, Room 10/Santa Cruz, CA 95060/Attn: Megan Bunch, no later than **Monday, April 29, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.**

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### **I. Applicant Information**

Name: Melanie McManus

Address: [REDACTED]

Cell Phone: [REDACTED] Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Current or Past Profession: Paramedic and Transfer center specialist

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Cruz? ☒ Yes ☐ No

## II. Applicant Affiliations

What service area or stakeholder group do you wish to represent? (Check all that apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse Disorders	<input type="checkbox"/> Homeless Advocate
<input type="checkbox"/> Business Owner	<input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> Policy or Government Experience
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Care Specialist	<input type="checkbox"/> Violence Prevention	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment Recruiter
<input type="checkbox"/> Veteran	<input type="checkbox"/> Faith-Based Organization	<input type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Organizer
<input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing	<input type="checkbox"/> Homeless Service Provider	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

Are you currently or have you recently personally experienced homelessness? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Please list any of your private and nonprofit affiliations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently affiliated with an organization/agency/company that could benefit as a result of any policy decisions suggested by the CACH? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The following individual can act as a reference and speak to your qualifications/capacity:

Name: [REDACTED] Contact Information: [REDACTED]

Relationship to Applicant: Friend

## III. Availability

Understanding that our community members are busy with multiple commitments, we would like to establish a meeting schedule that accommodates your needs as practically as possible. Please let us know your meeting availability.

Available weekday evenings? Yes ☒ No ☐ Available hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Available weekdays? Yes ☒ No ☐ Available hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum number of hours available per meeting? 1.5 Hours ☐ 2 Hours ☒ 3 Hours ☐

Use the space below to inform us of other time considerations, including days of the week that you are unavailable: My schedule varies. I work 4 days per week, usually weekends, 12 hour shifts.

I should be able to move shifts around for meetings.  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **IV. Questions**

- a. Why do you think that you are an ideal candidate to participate on the CACH? (250 words or less)

Working as a paramedic has given me a good understanding of how people become and stay homeless, how homelessness perpetuates problems with health, and the effect homelessness has on the non-homeless population. I also live very close to "tent city" behind Ross, and I frequently have brief interactions with the people living there. I think that having these perspectives will allow me to help find possible solutions to this pervasive problem.

- b. What relevant traits, skills, experience, education would you bring to the CACH? (150 words or less)

As a paramedic I interact with homeless individuals on a weekly, if not daily basis. I have a basic understanding of the healthcare system as a whole and how those who are homeless, in debt, with addiction or behavioral disorders, or criminal backgrounds interact with it.

- c. Homelessness can be a contentious topic in our community. It is critical that CACH members have excellent communication skills. Please provide an example of your ability to communicate effectively with opposing points of view to your own. (150 words or less)

In both of my jobs, I have difficult and tense conversations every day. I have learned to be direct and transparent, while maintaining respect for those I may disagree with. I make every effort to see things from someone else's perspective, and to respond in a way that creates common language and understanding.

d. Is there any other information that you would like to share? (150 words or less)

I have always been passionate about this issue. There are so many interactive elements to this problem and I would really enjoy searching for root causes of the problem and creating prevention and intervention programs. No human is less deserving of life, liberty, or happiness than another.

**The Mayor will review the applications and select the CACH participants in a manner that broadly represents the community. The City Council will ratify the Mayor's appointments. Applicants will be notified of their selection status in late May 2019.**



## Are you currently or recently homeless?

### Then we invite you to get your voice heard!

The Community Advisory Committee on Homelessness (CACH) is being formed to identify and explore the causes and possible solutions of homelessness, and to develop recommendations to improve quality of life in Santa Cruz. The CACH will include residents with many different backgrounds, including those who are currently living outside, in a shelter, car/RV, or transitional housing.

The CACH will meet from July 2019 through the spring/summer of 2020, with meetings potentially every week during some periods. CACH members will need to have access to email and be able to attend all meetings. In all, CACH members can expect 6-10 hours of meeting time per month with an additional 2-4 hours of "homework."

Applications are due on Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 by 5:00 pm. Please complete this application and email it to [CACH@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:CACH@cityofsantacruz.com) or drop it off at:

- City Hall (809 Center St., Room 10, M-F, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm)
- HSC Kiosk on Coral Street (M-F 8:30 am – 4:00 pm; Sat & Sun 10:00 am – 2:00 pm)
- Downtown Streets Team (for clients, return to any DST staff member)
- 1220 River Street Camp (for clients, return to any Salvation Army staff member)
- Laurel Street Salvation Army Shelter (for clients, return to any Salvation Army staff member)
- AFC Rotating Shelter and Safe Parking Program (for clients, return to any AFC staff member)

Applications will be reviewed by a subcommittee of existing CACH members. If you have any questions regarding the CACH or the application process, reach out to the committee at [CACH@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:CACH@cityofsantacruz.com).

With respect,

The members of the Community Advisory  
Committee on Homelessness (CACH)

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#### I. Applicant Information

Name: Alethea Soares "Alie"

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Current or Past Profession: Accounting ~ currently disabled

Where can you be reached/found (in case phone or e-mail isn't an option at this time)? For example, do you always go to St. Francis or somewhere specific for lunch)? \_\_\_\_\_

The following individual can act as a reference and speak to your qualifications/capacity:

Name: Serg K & Brooke Newman Contact Info.: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to applicant: Friend, advisor \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Questions**

a. Why are you interested in serving on the CACH? (250 words or less)

Since experiencing homelessness I have been humbled in ways unexplainable to most unless you've been there. I have a strong voice & lived experience in this demonized population. I want to help make, create & sustain change not only for myself; for others as well. I feel that my experiences as a disabled, currently housed in transitional housing homeless woman speaks for an overlooked demographic that faces not only the same challenges as my "peers" but also hurdles that an able bodied person doesn't. I have attended several of the meetings so far and would love to have a voting voice per say. I am well spoken & not afraid of "heated or uncomfortable" discussions. I feel my experience & passion about this issue could be a huge asset to this committee. I apologize for the delay in this application. I went out of town & when returned became ill.



- b. What is your experience with homelessness and homeless services in Santa Cruz, and elsewhere?  
(250 words or less)

I came to Santa Cruz on December 30, 2017 after being homeless in Watsonville for several months. My first encounter was with Serg at the Salvation Army, Laurel St. In Watsonville I stayed at Grace Harbor Shelter & several nights outside. I met with Brian Lands shortly after coming to Santa Cruz & did the assessment to begin receiving any help I could. I stayed at the Salvation Army for several months before getting into the Paul Lee Loft.

- c. Please give specific examples of how you have communicated most effectively with people with completely different views? (250 words or less)

I maintained a professional career in accounting prior to becoming disabled in July of 2014. Working at Driscolls, Elyxir Distrubting, Granite Rock & Martinelli's Cider. I've also held jobs as a dispatcher for Courtesy Cab in Watsonville, as well as a driver & setting up computerized bookkeeping for the company. I feel the best way to communicate in tenative situations is to hear the other person out, once their done acknowledging you heard what they said .... And or but.... Not making it personal & always remembering that this is business & not to buy into any pettiness that may have entered the discussion.



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Please fill out the following questionnaire and return it to: Megan Bunch, Homelessness Assistant, via E-mail: [mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:mbunch@cityofsantacruz.com), Fax: 831-420-5011, or Mail: City of Santa Cruz/809 Center Street, Room 10/Santa Cruz, CA 95060/Attn: Megan Bunch, no later than **Monday, April 29, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.**

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### I. Applicant Information

Name: Cynthia Hawthorne, MFT

Address: [REDACTED]

Cell Phone: [REDACTED] Other Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Current or Past Profession: Psychotherapist

Are you a resident of the City of Santa Cruz? ☒ Yes ☐ No

## II. Applicant Affiliations

What service area or stakeholder group do you wish to represent? (Check all that apply.)

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behavioral Health  | <input type="checkbox"/> Substance Abuse Disorders      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Homeless Advocate               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business Owner     | <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofit Organization         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy or Government Experience |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Care Specialist        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Violence Prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> Employment Recruiter                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Faith-Based Organization       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Neighborhood Organizer          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless Service Provider      | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                                |

Are you currently or have you recently personally experienced homelessness? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Please list any of your private and nonprofit affiliations: CAMFT, AAMFT, CADEM delegate,  
Democratic Central Committee, Santa Cruz Indivisible

Are you currently affiliated with an organization/agency/company that could benefit as a result of any policy decisions suggested by the CACH? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe: Volunteer for Downtown Streets Team

The following individual can act as a reference and speak to your qualifications/capacity:

Name: [REDACTED] Contact Information: [REDACTED]

Relationship to Applicant: Colleague

## III. Availability

Understanding that our community members are busy with multiple commitments, we would like to establish a meeting schedule that accommodates your needs as practically as possible. Please let us know your meeting availability.

Available weekday evenings? Yes ☒ No ☐ Available hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Available weekdays? Yes ☒ No ☐ Available hours: \_\_\_\_\_

Maximum number of hours available per meeting? 1.5 Hours ☐ 2 Hours ☐ 3 Hours ☒

Use the space below to inform us of other time considerations, including days of the week that you are unavailable: Thursdays are best for me. However, I can make myself available with enough prior notice.



#### IV. Questions

- a. Why do you think that you are an ideal candidate to participate on the CACH? (250 words or less)

I am a long time mental health clinician trained in community mental health with expertise in domestic and sexual violence, substance abuse/ addiction, and post traumatic stress disorder which are common issues that many to most unhoused individuals are struggling to solve.

As a current volunteer with the Downtown Streets Team I have the opportunity for conversations with folks who are currently unhoused and working hard to make changes in their lives. My ideas for possible solutions are informed by talking with current DST members.

As a recent City Council candidate I spent many months going door to door in our City talking with literally thousands of voters about their core concerns. The number one issue raised by most was neighborhood safety and the impact of the growing homeless population on our neighborhoods our parks and beaches. I am very aware of how many of our neighbors are struggling themselves to stay in their homes and fearful that the current problems faced by the City cannot be solved.

As a former elected school board trustee , who served as Board President twice, I led charged public meetings and committees with hundreds of impassioned constituents sharing their concerns twice a month for 8 years. I have the skills to facilitate conversations about contentious topics with a transparent inclusive process and an eye toward effective outcomes.

And in the 80's I had the opportunity to work with SJPd and mental health in an earlier version of the current Santa Cruz MERT program that helped inform my work and build compassion for those with untreated mental illness living on the streets of San Jose.

- b. What relevant traits, skills, experience, education would you bring to the CACH? (150 words or less)

- Trained listener ( M.S. MFT) with 30 years of proven communications skills and conflict resolution skills both in private practice and community service.

- 30+ years experience working with mental illness, addiction, employment, and local government systems

- Deep understanding and compassion for people in our community struggling to heal from addiction/ untreated mental illness

- Experience leading or serving on working committees with a mandate to solve problems facing our community and State such as: BASTA, Finding Common Ground (with SC Indivisible), current chair of the Community Engagement Committee (for the DCC) current elected CADEM delegate for Region 7, Founder and former Chair of the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association, and former elected delegate for the State of California School Boards Association (district 9) for two terms.

Organizer for SC Women's March 2017, 2018, 2019 insuring diverse, inclusive, peaceful, family friendly event by working collaboratively with City Staff, SCPD and community groups such as ACLU, Diversity Center, Resource Center for Nonviolence.

- c. Homelessness can be a contentious topic in our community. It is critical that CACH members have excellent communication skills. Please provide an example of your ability to communicate effectively with opposing points of view to your own. (150 words or less)

As a Psychotherapist in private practice conflict resolution is an important tool in my practice. The basic skill in my day job for over 30 years has been to teach and model effective communication skills and clear communication.

On the campaign trail a few months ago I knocked on the doors of voters daily for months and had conversations with very concerned and sometimes angry neighbors about how untreated mental illness/ addiction and homelessness is changing the character of our neighborhoods and parks. We also had charged conversations about Measure M, a volatile topic on both sides of the issue. Standing in the doorway with someone who doesn't agree with you with the goal of earning their vote is a great exercise in clear communication, active listening, and patience.

d. Is there any other information that you would like to share? (150 words or less)

I am a long time resident of the City of Santa Cruz. I am also a renter with a modest income and am very aware of the issue of housing insecurity and the anxiety shared by homeowners and renters alike in our changing housing market. As an active community member I have developed good relationships with SCPD Chief Mills and his staff and support the work of Downtown Streets Team, the Homeless Garden Project, and HSC. Our community cares about solutions and a great example was the huge turnout the other night for the Soupline fundraiser for HSC.

Any committee hoping to craft effective solutions for our neighbors who are unhoused and our neighbors who are concerned about the impact homelessness/ addiction has on our community has to acknowledge the role fear plays in publicly expressed anger. Everyone wants to feel safe, no matter where they live.

**The Mayor will review the applications and select the CACH participants in a manner that broadly represents the community. The City Council will ratify the Mayor's appointments. Applicants will be notified of their selection status in late May 2019.**