

## **AI # 12: Do not assume SVdP financial risk, further blight and staff time!**

I am deeply concerned that despite our dire fiscal emergency, council is now flirting with reopening the previously settled decision not to pursue Jack Tibbetts/ SVdP's attempt to obtain state and county funding via our city council for a housing project.

Our new city manager uncovered that this project would involve (previously undeclared by SVdP) significant financial risk for the city, so sensibly the decision was made by council not to proceed given the huge financial responsibility risk involved.

Despite Tibbett's emotional claims during that council meeting that he 'would probably be fired' for not scoring funding via the city of Sebastopol, he appears to still be employed, and agitating to have another attempt at obtaining funding by bullying our city with legal threats.

SVdP has an extremely poor record in Sonoma County around making wild claims around what they will execute with housing project funding. Journalist Andrew Graham of the Press Democrat has run multiple well researched

exposes of the SVdP **Gold Coin Motel** project, and more recently the yet to open, much delayed **SVdP Commons**. The California Globe has also **documented the strange political and commercial journey Tibbetts has been on**, largely funded by well meaning donors.

We are fortunate to have a city manager who is well versed in the political management realities of Sonoma County coordinated entry and homeless outreach policies and bureaucracies, but unfortunate in having legacy council members who incredibly continue to naively blunder into romantic visions of 'saving' local people who have 'found themselves unhoused'.

This despite multiple expensive fails with

- the former **Sebastopol Inn at Gravenstein Station**, which is currently neither a sales and hotel tax generating hotel for the city or 'supportive housing', is now the subject of serious fraud investigations into DEMA/Patino and wife, which has soaked up huge amounts of tax payer funds to briefly 'house' a trivial number of 'homeless people at risk from Covid' and is now awaiting a very expensive remodel to install kitchens into former motel rooms.

- SAVS chaotic attempts to manage the SVdP owned land their 'safe parking' 'village' was temporarily established on. The city's generosity was rewarded with a very expensive ongoing lawsuit demanding the rights for anyone to camp on city streets, with cynical and well funded politically motivated legal 'advocates' using SAVs Rise 'n' Shine residents as plaintiffs to bully the city. Citizens have no visibility into this secretive legal black hole, but I'm sure it is both expensive and making draconian demands on the city.

Both of these projects have consumed huge amounts of city staff time, plus of course our essentially volunteer council's time and focus.

Citizens have little say in any of these projects but we all see the resulting failures. Patino will be in court, SAVs failed in its remit to find services and housing for Rise'n'Shine safe parkers.

We have an extensive 'Sonoma County Homeless Coalition' bureaucracy and hierarchy taxpayers fund. They are constrained by 9th circuit Boise vs Martin case law that offered services can be refused by transients, but who are geared up to serve the city of Sebastopol as well as the rest of the county.

Former CoS councillor Una Glass is representing our city and 'the western region' on the **Continuum of Care** but we have no idea what she is advocating for our city. I think we should be told if there is an undisclosed agenda.

Despite overarching state and county organizations, gullible city councillors persist in attempting to create unique new 'homeless' projects within city limits, which all too often start out as vanity projects and end in disasters. The era of state grants and funding raining down on counties to experiment with homeless/mental illness/addiction 'solutions' and we are looking at a very constrained state budget for the next few years.

**Compassion without competence equals chaos. This could literally result in a fiscal extinction event for our city at this point in our history. This would not be a happy legacy for outgoing councillors.**

We all want to see (still well funded) triaged services being accepted by people living on the streets. The supreme court decision over Grants Pass vs Johnson, which challenges Boise vs Martin is supposed to be made during June and which may have a profound effect on the extent to which we can help those in need.

Currently downtown and highway adjacent residents of CoS are all 'experiencing homelessness' nuisances by campers and panhandlers, including the area around city hall. This cannot be allowed to continue if we are to attract tourist dollars during the summer vacation season.

I urge council not to cave in to the financial bullying tactics of SVdP and their allies over their patch of land and to carefully read the HomeFirst coordinated entry document attached. (The county outsource coordinated entry services to HomeFirst, who work with our West County Community Services non profit, for whom city taxpayers fund Tomogachi Park / Park Village mortgage payments).

Oliver Marks  
Downtown Sebastopol

# Are you currently homeless and looking for housing solutions?

# HOMEFIRST

Where Homelessness Ends™

The Sonoma County Coordinated Entry System, operated by HomeFirst, matches people experiencing homelessness who are most in need of assistance to available supportive housing programs.

You can access the system at any of the points below. Just ask for a Coordinated Entry Assessment.

You can access the system through any provider below:

### Caritas Drop In Center

301 6th Street (Corner of Morgan & 6th), Santa Rosa  
Tues-Wed 1P-4PM, or call for appointment: 707-978-8329  
host@srcharities.org

### TLC Children and Family Services (Transition Aged Youth 18-24 or Transition Aged Youth with children)

821 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
Drop In Thursdays 1-3PM  
Or call for an appointment: 707-480-9541

### Face 2 Face (HIV services)

873 2nd Street, Santa Rosa, CA 95404  
Call for an appointment: 707-544-1581

### Nation's Finest (Veterans)

444 10th Street, suite 102, Santa Rosa, CA 95401  
Monday-Friday | 8:00 AM-5:00 PM  
or call for an appointment: 1-833-468-9676

### Interfaith Shelter Network

Call for an appointment: 707-546-7907, ext. 101

### Positive Images

200 Montgomery Drive Suite C, Santa Rosa CA  
Call for an appointment: 707-568-5830  
Tuesday - Friday | 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM

### Homeless Outreach Team, Victim's Services

(For victims of crime)  
Call for an appointment: 707-565-8260

### Russian River Health Center

16312 3rd St., Guerneville, CA 95446  
Call for an appointment: 707-824-3398

### West County Community Services Sebastopol Outreach (Sebastopol community only)

Call for an appointment: 707-888-3804

### Reach for Home

443 Hudson Street, Healdsburg CA 95448  
Call for an appointment: 707-433-6161  
info@reachforhome.org

### Corazon Healdsburg

16003 Healdsburg Avenue, Healdsburg  
Mon-Fri 10AM-5PM (By appointment only)  
Or call for an appointment: 707-615-4567

### Downtown Streets Team

(Serving People of South County)  
Call for an appointment: 707-806-9066

### COTS Mary Isak Center

900 Hopper Street, Petaluma, CA 94952  
Call for an appointment: 707-765-6530 ext. 207

### HomeFirst Petaluma Outreach Team

(South County community only)  
Call for an appointment: 707-277-1407

### Homeless Action Sonoma, Inc

Call for an appointment: 707-991-0455  
hassonomaorg@gmail.com

### Rohnert Park HOST (Rohnert Park community only)

Call for an appointment: 707-978-8329  
hostrp@srcharities.org



Having problems getting an assessment?  
Contact HomeFirst today!



866.542.5480



ce@homefirstsc.org



# Sonoma County Coordinated Entry System

## Access Points



Assessment



By-Name-List



Housing Referrals  
Prioritized by Need

# Participant FAQs about the Sonoma County Coordinated Entry System

## 1. What is a Coordinated Entry System (CES)?

- Coordinated Entry matches people experiencing homelessness to available housing programs. It prioritizes those who are most in need of assistance.
- Referrals are made only to permanent housing, not shelters.

## 2. What is a CES Assessment?

- Used to determine eligibility for referrals to homeless permanent housing services.
- Places you on a centralized By-Names-List so you don't have to apply program by program.
- Includes to the Vulnerability Index Survey (VI-SPDAT), a standard assessment tool used to measure a person's vulnerability and housing needs.
- Matches you with housing services that meet your needs when they are available, although an assessment does not guarantee a referral.

## 3. What is the Sonoma County Coordinated Entry System By-Name-List?

- The By-Name-List is a list of individuals, families, and transitional age youth who are experiencing homelessness prioritized by vulnerability.
- The By-Name-List is a dynamic waiting list and does not guarantee referrals to any particular service or program.
- The most vulnerable, eligible, and most in need will be connected to available housing programs first.
- If you do not accept the housing referral offered to you, you will maintain your placement on the By-Name-List and will be offered the next eligible referral.
- The By-Name-List is stored in the Homeless Management Information System, which is not accessible to the public.

## 4. I've completed the CES Assessment. What should I do now?

- Keep your contact and location information up to date with an Access Point
- Stay in contact with a CES Access Point, shelter, or outreach team every 90 days to maintain your active status on the By-Name-List and eligibility for housing referrals.
- Update your CES Assessment annually or when a major life event occurs.
- Continue to pursue other housing options, services, and benefits. Many people who are on the list will NOT be offered a housing opportunity or will wait a very long time for a referral. This is currently due to the lack of housing opportunities.

## 5. What are my rights as a participant in Sonoma County CES?

- The CES, Access Points and Cooperating Agencies must comply with the nondiscrimination provisions of federal civil rights laws, which bar discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, disability, familial status, marital status, citizenship (or lack thereof).
- Depending on eligibility, cooperating agencies may refer a participant to a more appropriate agency.
- You have the option for your information to be stored on the By-Names-List anonymously, and it can be removed at any time.
- You can register for the Coordinated Entry System regardless of your legal status. Access points and Cooperating Agencies have assistance in Spanish.

## 6. How do I submit a complaint or grievance?

- Please contact the Coordinated Entry Operator HomeFirst at: [ce@homefirstscc.org](mailto:ce@homefirstscc.org) or 866-542-5480. HomeFirst does not have a say in housing decisions.