

RESOLUTION NO. 4110-2018

RESOLUTION OF THE FORT BRAGG CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING IN CONCEPT AND ENDORSING THE HOMELESSNESS NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND ACTION STEPS FOR MENDOCINO COUNTY BY MARBUT REPORTING

WHEREAS, homelessness and transients within the City of Fort Bragg utilizes significant City and Community resources; and

WHEREAS, In October 2017, Mendocino County, through Health and Human Services contracted with homelessness expert Dr. Robert Marbut Jr. of Marbut Consulting to perform a homelessness assessment within Mendocino County (Marbut Report). The Marbut Report, provided estimated counts for the number of "street level" homeless in the County's three most populated cities (Ukiah, Fort Bragg and Willits) and in the surrounding county. The Marbut Report provided twenty-eight (28) Recommended Action Steps; and

WHEREAS, the Marbut Report stated that the total number of street level homeless in Fort Bragg is eighty-one (81) individuals with an additional fifteen to seventeen (15-17) living just outside the City limits in the County but availing themselves of local services; and

WHEREAS, City staff invests significant time and resources responding to and handling transient and homeless related issues. The Police Department is the most impacted City department with an estimated seventy plus percent (70+ %) of officers' time spent responding to service calls on transient issues; and

WHEREAS, two hundred and forty-one (241) individuals signed a petition stating that the transient population in Fort Bragg is a huge problem and asking the City of Fort Bragg to implement the recommended solutions provided in the Marbut Report. That petition cites such issues as panhandling, loitering, jumping in and out of traffic, blocking sidewalks, stealing shopping carts, encampments, shoplifting, trespassing and littering; and

WHEREAS, based on all the evidence presented, the City Council finds as follows:

1. Homelessness and Transients within the City of Fort Bragg has created a challenge that needs solutions.
2. The Marbut Report, attached hereto as Exhibit A, provides 28 Recommended Action Steps for Mendocino County and the Cities of Ukiah, Fort Bragg and Willits that provide an initial coordinated effort to better manage the homelessness and transient issues within the City and the County.
3. It is in the best interest of the City of Fort Bragg to actively participate in a coordinated effort to better manage and resolve issues surrounding homelessness and transients within the City and the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg hereby adopts and endorses in concept the Homelessness Needs Assessment and Action Steps for Mendocino County by Marbut Reporting.

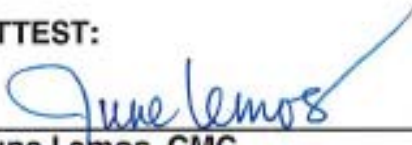
The above and foregoing Resolution was introduced by Councilmember Cimolino, seconded by Councilmember Lee, and passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Fort Bragg held on the 9th day of July, 2018, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Cimolino, Lee, Norvell, Turner and Mayor Peters.
NOES: None.
ABSENT: None.
ABSTAIN: None.
RECUSED: None.



LINDY PETERS
Mayor

ATTEST:



June Lemos, CMC
City Clerk

**Homelessness Needs Assessment and Action Steps
for
Mendocino County**



**Presentation of Observations, Findings
and
Recommendation of Strategic Action Steps**

by

Marbut Consulting



Board of Supervisors Presentation of Draft Report - March 13, 2018

Community Presentation of Draft Report - March 15, 2018

Final Written Report - March 19, 2018

Prepared by Robert G. Marbut Jr., Ph.D.
www.MarbutConsulting.org

EXHIBIT A

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Study Scope

Mendocino County's Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) procured the services of Marbut Consulting to conduct a Homeless Services Needs Assessment and to develop Strategic Action Step Recommendations.

In order to develop practical recommendations, Marbut Consulting:

- conducted a wide range of interviews with stakeholders,
- conducted a series of site visits and tours of service providing agencies,
- interviewed individuals experiencing homelessness,
- studied and inventoried homeless services throughout Mendocino County,
- examined prior Point-in-Time-Count reports,
- analyzed statistics and reports from local agencies,
- made street-level observations,
- developed and conducted a 40-question survey of individuals experiencing homelessness,
- did ride-a-longs with local law enforcement agencies,
- posed as a person experiencing homelessness in order to understand what it is like to be homeless in this area and to better understand the movement and circulation of the homelessness community.

Using national best practices and the *Seven Guiding Principles of Homeless Transformation* as the key measuring tools, Marbut Consulting evaluated the current state of homeless service operations within Mendocino County. Marbut Consulting then conducted a needs assessment and gaps analysis between existing inventory and identified needs, including the types of services (qualitative) and capacity of services (quantitative) needed within Mendocino County. Dr. Robert Marbut formally started in Mendocino County on October 4, 2017. Dr. Marbut made a final community presentation of his observations, data analyses and recommendations on March 15, 2018. Marbut Consulting then finished this study and written report on March 19, 2018.

Because most of the individuals experiencing homelessness within Mendocino County are geographically located within and near the cities of Ukiah, Fort Bragg and Willits, the research conducted for this study focused in and around the cities of Ukiah, Fort Bragg and Willits.

From the signed contract:

EXHIBIT A
DEFINITION OF SERVICES

CONTRACTOR shall provide the following services:

I. Phase 1 - Inventory of Services (One trip):

- A. The Consultant will review data provided by County, and then inventory and ascertain information about the types (qualitative) and volume (quantitative capacity) of services provided in the County of Mendocino.
- B. The Consultant will complete:
 - 1. Inventory of shelter bed and mat units, transitional, recovery and long-term services
 - 2. Inventory of supportive services - types and volume of service (quantity and quality)
 - 3. Inventory of preventative services (e.g., utility assistance, rental assistance, etc.)
- C. Consultant will meet with leadership from the County, City, and various service providers

II. Phase 2 – Needs Assessment (Two trips):

- A. Using the above information as well as local statistical information including the Point-In-Time Count, the Consultant will conduct in-depth interviews with key service providers and stakeholders to include the following:
 - 1. Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
 - 2. City Councilmembers and City Managers
 - 3. City Law Enforcement and the Mendocino County Sheriff
 - 4. Judges, Public Defenders
 - 5. Librarians
 - 6. Representatives of the business community through merchant and realtor associations
 - 7. The Community Foundation of Mendocino County,
 - 8. Medical Providers and Street Outreach staff
 - 9. Service providers such as Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center, Plowshares, Ford Street Project, Redwood Community Services
 - 10. First responders
 - 11. Mendocino County Office of Education (Mckinney Vento Liaison)
 - 12. Family Resource Centers
 - 13. Faith groups who serve the Homeless
 - 14. Mendocino County Homeless Services Continuum of Care (MCHSCoC)

- B. Consultant will conduct a Gap Analysis of services between inventory and needs.
- C. Activities of Phase 1 and Phase 2 may overlap.

III. Phase 3 – Development & Framing of a Draft Action Plan:

- A. The Consultant will prepare a draft action plan to include identified gaps in service needs in each area of the County based on critical homeless sub-populations, recommended reprioritization, and potential service augmentations for the community to reduce gaps in homeless services, potential funding recommendations and resources for an improved homeless services continuum in the community.
- B. Consultant will perform strategic framing of the Action Plan, including in-person or tele-conferencing with elected officials, businesses, faith-based entities, civic groups, educational groups and other agencies.

IV. Phase 4 – Findings and Recommendations (One trip):

- A. The Consultant will present the draft Action Plan to Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) leadership and the MCSHCoC for comment and discussion. This phase will require the Consultant to conduct numerous briefings and forums throughout the County to government staff, elected officials, businesses, faith-based entities, civic groups, educational groups, and other agencies, including convening a homeless summit.

V. Complete and Present Draft Action Plan (One trip):

- A. The Consultant will complete and submit the Draft Action Plan to HHSA. The Consultant may be requested to present the Draft Action Plan to the MCSHCoC or other community members.
- B. HHSA Leadership will review the Draft Action Plan before it is finalized and will advise Consultant of any additional changes required before the Plan is considered final. Once finalized, the Consultant may be requested to conduct in person presentations of the final Action Plan with entities involved in the above-referenced phases, elected officials, businesses, faith-based entities, civic groups, educational groups, other agencies and community members. Approval of the Action Plan does not obligate HHSA to implement its recommendations.

Notes About Scope of Services:

- Many improvements will “organically” materialize during the gap and duplication analysis phase. During this time frame, Marbut Consulting may suggest improvement opportunities that naturally arise throughout this journey to HHSA and other stakeholders.

Major Observations and Findings (Qualitative Observations and Quantitative Data)

The Positives and the Opportunities

There is a tendency in such endeavors to focus on the negative rather than the positive. Therefore, before the challenges and gaps are addressed, there are a few observations that bode very well for the Mendocino County Community regarding the state of homelessness within the County that this researcher would like to share:

- Unlike many communities within California and around the USA, almost all of the stakeholders sincerely get along with each other and most of the key stakeholders truly like other stakeholders. This is highly unusual.
- Many of the recommendations contained within this report, after initially being suggested by this researcher, already have started to be implemented. Most of the service providing agencies have been very amenable to making recommended changes that will improve the effectiveness of service delivery. This too is unusual.
- This researcher believes there is a high potential of developing a consensus around most of the key issues facing the community as well as developing a consensus around strategic approaches to address the identified challenges. Since the residents of Mendocino County use so many different terms and definitions to describe sub-groups, and since different sub-groups have been incorrectly commingled, there is not an awareness of how similar some of the thinking is about the key issues facing the community.
- The number of year-round individuals experiencing “unsheltered” and street-level homelessness as defined by HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development’s web site www.HUD.gov) is actually much lower than most stakeholders have been thinking. This means many of the recommendations contained in this report might be more manageable and doable to implement.
- Because of travel logistics and far distances among many of the cities within Mendocino County, very few individuals that are experiencing HUD-defined homelessness move from one city to another. This attribute makes it much easier to address the situation of homelessness within the County than it would be if there was a highly mobile population of individuals experiencing homelessness.
- The Willow Terrace project presents an amazing opportunity to house up to 37 individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness.