

MENDOCINO COAST HOSPITALITY CENTER



468 S. Franklin Street, P.O. Box 2168, Fort Bragg, Ca. 95437 [707] 961 0172

January 9th 2014.

Mayor and Council Members,

Ref: Public Hearing 1/12/15 - Old Coast Hotel

Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center (MCHC) is best known for the Hospitality House which has been helping the neediest of our community for almost thirty years. Thank you very much for considering to change the address in the Grant Resolution from 300 N. Harrison Street to 101 N. Franklin Street, Fort Bragg. The mission of MCHC is to “shelter the homeless, feed the hungry, and provide a path to personal self-sufficiency”.

There are not many concepts that generate as many feelings or as much passion or as strong a response as homelessness and mental illness. I believe that everyone would agree with me that we all want the homeless off our streets and we want the best of care for people who have mental health issues.

The Old Coast Hotel at 101 N. Franklin Street is a wonderful, safe, tranquil location to begin to work with those who desperately need mental health services...something our community has been asking for and supports this critical need. This location will also help us to counsel and closely care for those with other issues such as drug and alcohol abuse and job and financial training skills.

The Old Coast Hotel will not be a homeless shelter. That operation will remain on North McPherson Street where it has been successfully operating for almost 30 years. While we will have more square footage at The Coast Hotel than where we are currently located in two rentals in the DMV strip mall, we are not increasing our operations, but rather having the ability to put all our programs under “one roof” with all our staff on-site to work one-on-one with our clients.

Here is our plan for what will be provided at 101 N. Franklin Street:

- Case management and support for people who have mental health problems. Co-located with us will be the staff of Integrated Care Management Solutions (ICMS) who run the Mental Health Access Center and provide clinical assessments and crisis services. Our MCHC staff work closely with ICMS staff and currently case manage 60 people with serious mental illness and to have both of us working at the same location is a tremendous benefit for all the clients who need this critical care. The level of care we provide with our Clinical and Credentialed staff is very high as evidenced by our over-achievement of Medi-Cal targets.

- Wellness Center activities and programming include pre-employment training, Tai Chi, meditation, self-recovery-management.
- Case management and support for people who are or have been homeless in an effort to get them housed.
- All MCHC administration and offices will be located here as well as 24-hour staffing so that we have oversight over all activities at this location 24-hours a day.
- Five units of Transitional Housing to begin to close the gap on the 35 transitional beds that our community lost about four years ago when Coast Community Center closed their offices on the coast.

Transitional Housing is a HUD program and governed by many policies and regulations. Clients must be disabled or have a child to qualify. They must also be clean and sober. Clients pay rent and are required to undertake chores. They are also required to undertake two hours of voluntary work per week in the community. We are proud that 88% of our clients who live in transitional housing leave for permanent accommodations.

Our Transitional Housing clients have volunteered at the Food Bank, the Senior Center and the Botanical Gardens as well as Hospitality House. Because families are housed, no known sex offenders can be housed. Currently our Transitional Housing on N. Harrison Street totals 15 beds. We have 2 families living there with a total of 4 children who would otherwise be homeless, as well as a fragile senior, and 3 people in employment. The goal is to incorporate all these clients back into the mainstream of our community.

Our Clean-up Crews from Hospitality House and Transitional Housing take care of Hare Creek Beach in partnership with the Mendocino Land Trust and work the State Parks at other locations in the community. We also have a program of returning abandoned shopping carts back to the local businesses and welcome a call from the community if they see a cart needing to be “returned home”.

The funding for our organization comes from a variety of sources. The Hospitality House shelter is funded 60% through private donations from community members and we have just had our most successful solicitation effort ever, which speaks to how much support there is for the Hospitality House. All our other programs are funded by federal, state and county monies via Mendocino County. All the programs at our facility at the Old Coast Hotel come with rigorous performance standards and are held to a variety of outcome measures and are fully funded.

Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center Board members and staff are very grateful indeed to the City of Fort Bragg for its successful application of the CDBG grant which is the only funding available for agencies like us to acquire an appropriate location. In addition, we are very grateful to Mrs. Nina Atraz and Dr. Tom Carine for their large donation towards the acquisition of the Old Coast Hotel. Without their generous donation and the City of Fort Bragg, this acquisition would not be possible. Dr. Carine called me this morning and said he is “so happy to do this because it goes directly to his heart & has chills every time he thinks about MCHC’s good people having the property and it being preserved for community use.” As a surgeon, he said that his “hospital experience means he knows how the facility is a perfect facility for MCHC in its composition, the kitchen, the rooms, the meetings space, the courtyard, & is very appreciative of everything MCHC does for the community and his heart is moved by the opportunity to do this for us”.

MCHC and others have been searching for a location for many years, and specifically since we received this CDBG grant a year ago for facilities. Our first planned property fell out of the matrix this April 2014 when we listened to members of the Fort Bragg Neighborhood Watch Group. Since then we have searched for a location which could meet all the demands and constraints of our operation and the community. Our analysis was based on a comprehensive matrix of more than twenty properties. Each one was reviewed in terms of the following factors: square footage, price and rehabilitation cost, zoning and use permits, and relocation.

The property itself will work well for this purpose because of the following factors:

- There is a fully enclosed courtyard which will mean that our clients can wait in privacy for appointments, with no appearance of loitering or other street based issues.
- The high quality of the accommodation is a great fit with our other well-maintained properties in Fort Bragg. We have demonstrated that we maintain our properties to the highest of standards.
- The configuration of space and residential units will enable us to provide our essential social services and care

When you consider locating MCHC at 101 N. Franklin St, please consider:

- We appreciate the beautiful, pristine hotel that is being gifted to us and we will maintain it in a manner that all the community will be proud of.
- Our almost thirty year track record of being a good community partner with pristine facilities at each location.
- Our tight organizational controls and supervision structures.
- Our current inadequate and unsuitable location.
- The sheer huge scale of the search for alternative locations that has led us to this option.
- The need for mental health care here on the coast at a safe, sober, peaceful site.
- Our ability to successfully work for the coast's share of federal and state resources that are available through our county.
- We will put this property that has been closed up for many years to good use for our community.

Thank you again for your consideration of using these CDBG grant monies for our use at the Old Coast Hotel.

Respectfully,



Anna Shaw
Executive Director
Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center