

Email from Claudia Brown

To: Harvey West Community Safety team

CC: Don Lane, Monica Martinez

Sent: August 23, 2013

Harvey West Community Safety team,

We did receive your list of suggestions and appreciate the interest you have shown in the safety of our community. While we appreciate that your list of demands is well intentioned, as professional service providers in the field of social care, we take our direction from the proven, cost effective, measurable results that communities nationwide are developing and implementing. The suggestions on your list may seem logical on the surface, but effective social services for the poor, disadvantaged or addicted are often more complex than one expects.

That's why it is extremely important for us to follow the science of homeless causes and cures rather than being swayed by the emotions involved in dealing with social and economic difficulties. Sadly, the national crisis of homelessness has prompted a lot of research over the last few years. We actually know what works. Communities around the country are getting positive, measurable results and the HSC is getting good results too. We just can't empty the pool of homelessness as fast as it is growing.

If you would still like to meet with us now that summer is winding down and scheduling people should become less challenging, we would be happy to have that meeting. Meanwhile, here are some resources that could help inform you and your team if you are interested in knowing more about the current research on best practices regarding preventing and ending homelessness:

1. <http://homeless.samhsa.gov/About.aspx>
2. <http://www.endhomelessness.org/> (of particular interest is the section on approaches to dealing with chronic homelessness – a big problem in the Santa Cruz population that we are addressing with the 180/180 campaign)
3. <http://www.nationalhomeless.org/index.html>

The quote in the Sentinel was simply a mistake. The reporter showed Monica a pile of papers that did not look familiar to her and so she believed she had not seen them before. We have all read your preliminary draft report on the services at Prado. Monica volunteered at Prado for some years before coming to Santa Cruz and so is familiar with their operations. If you ever finish your investigation of other centers that are getting measurable results, we would be happy to see your work.

We are at a crossroads in our approach to homelessness across the nation and here in Santa Cruz. Many (if not most) communities around the country are facing problems similar to Santa Cruz's and asking the same questions. We are recognizing that the stop gap solutions we have tried in the past, coupled with the economic crises and overcrowded criminal justice and health care systems have contributed to an unwieldy

problem for our neighborhoods. We now have good data on what works and what doesn't to end homelessness and it takes multiple constituencies, time and funding. There is no magic bullet, but the good news is that working together we can have the same positive results that other focused communities have had. HSC is committed to continuing to work with the Santa Cruz City and County to implement life (and money) saving solutions that have a permanent effect. We would be delighted to have your support.

Claudia