

City Solutions - Harvey West Community Safety

Document description: This is the email sent to the Santa Cruz City Council describing our research on background checks and a summary of the Rules Comparison between Prado and Santa Cruz Day Resource Center

Date of email: June 9, 2013

To The Santa Cruz City Council

On May 29th, a document called "Harvey West Community Safety" was sent to the City Council. In that document, the team asked to have 10 changes implemented to improve the safety of the Santa Cruz Homeless Service Center and the Harvey West community. Though the document was complete, the team continued to do research to help either strengthen the position or provide information that may help with implementation. This email has 3 sections:

(1) Background Check Research; (2) Correction to the Mission statement on page 13; and (3) A comparison of the Prado and SC Day Resource Center rules.

The Harvey West Community Safety Team fully appreciates any support that the City Council can provide to encourage the implementation of the 10 changes. Thank you for taking the time to review the research.

Best Regards - Jan Ledoux

Background Check Research

The Harvey West Community Safety document identifies several day service center best practices and one of the core recommendations was to require a background check. A team member interviewed a San Mateo homeless center representative and reported that "San Mateo County has a model program as they do background checks through their DA's office, same day. Once they receive a client referral, they call in the clients Name & DOB. No intake is done until the person is cleared. They don't accept anyone with prior Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, or any type of Battery. No violence." Please find the Background Check Research attached to this email.

Rules Comparison between Prado and Santa Cruz Day Resource Center - Change # 1

Prado has stated that they are a "behavior based" facility. To clarify what makes Prado a behavior based facility, the Prado Rules were compared against the Santa Cruz Homeless Services Center Rules. Please find the Rules Comparison attached to this email. The rules were split into 2 categories: (1) behavior; (2) Instructions.

- Behavior example "Be polite and respectful in all your communication with staff/volunteers/clients. Verbal abuse of staff, volunteers, or clients (intimidation, swearing, racial remarks, sexual remarks) is unacceptable."
- Instruction example "Keep pets in well-ventilated cars, tied at the front gate, or in pet kennels."

Analysis of Prado Rules and Suspensions:

Total number of rules - 30 rules

How many rules have suspension description - all 30

Behavioral rules - 19 rules

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Instruction rules - 11 rules

Rule sheet provided at intake - Yes

Does client sign rules at intake - Yes

Is there a disclosure about sharing limited information with outside sources - Yes

Analysis of Santa Cruz Homeless Services Center Rules and Suspensions

Total number of rules - 22 rules

How many rules have suspension description - 5 rules

Behavioral rules - 6 rules

Instruction rules - 16 rules

Rule sheet provided at intake - No

Does client sign rules at intake - No

Is there a disclosure about sharing limited information with outside sources - No

Since the SC Homeless Services Center rule sheet is not reviewed at intake, the client will need to learn the behavior and instruction rules through the staff.

The rule sheet has 13 fewer behavior rules than Prado.

One of the 6 behavior rules, sexual activity, does not have a consequence.

Summary of the Rules Comparison between Prado and Santa Cruz HSC:

Prado is a behavior based environment that has documented rules and consequence. The behavior rules are measurably more strict than the SC HSC rules. Prado has 6 tiers of suspension (7 day, 30 day, etc) and some include panel reviews before re-entry. All Prado rules including instructional rules, are associated with a consequence. The Prado rules are signed by the client at intake and this becomes a contract. Prado has a strong disclosure statement that states the agency cooperates with law enforcement and the client's information may be made available. All Prado rules are enforced rigorously.