

Board approves homeless Shelter, pallet units location

February 27, 2024



The multi-year search for a homeless shelter has finally come to a successful closure. Supervisors unanimously approved the county-owned Williams Drive location east of Highway 101 as the site for the 60 bed emergency homeless shelter, formerly a mental health building and presently the Sheriff Dept Search and Rescue site. Plans call for the demolition of the aging building to become the emergency shelter.

Also approved by the Board include a 50 pallet-sleeping cabin micro village patterned after the Rogue Retreat Hope Village in Medford.

Dept. of Health and Human Services Director Ranell Brown kicked off the presentation and outlined the funding of the \$10.823 million Encampment Resolution Fund grant from the State, in November. Brown broke down the allocation in a power point presentation into five categories:

- Start up and site development \$3 million

- Personnel /Staffing \$3.5 million.
- Operating costs \$1.3 million
- Client support services estimated to be approximately, \$2.4 million
- Administrative costs are estimated at \$515,000.

DHHS Director Brown underscored it is not realistic to believe this project will solve homelessness in Del Norte County but Brown said the shelter is a “...step in the right direction.”

Supervisor Valerie Starkey inquired about the re-location of Search and Rescue. Brown stated no funding is available to re-locate Search and Rescue.

50 percent of the funds must be spent by June 30, 2025, the balance of the grant by June 30, 2026.

Overview of the project includes:

- Encampment cleanup.
- Off site Navigation Center on Elk Valley Road.
- Congregate Emergency Shelter.
- The Micro Village.
- Kitchen, Restroom and community area.
- Storage, Laundry, Garden and Pet area.
- On-site staff and support services.
- Training and technical assistance

The property will be fenced in and no visitors other than occupants will be permitted entry.

Del Norte’s non-profit Mission Possible will oversee and implement operations and provide wraparound services including the screening of applicants. Mission Possible Executive Director Charlene Mazzei and Mission Possible founder Daphne Cortese-Lambert successfully presented the Mission Possible power point proposal to supervisors who unanimously approved the site for Del Norte’s first official homeless shelter. Cortese-Lambert was clearly humbled by no shortage of partners in seeing this project come to fruition. “ I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for those in our community who helped make this shelter become a reality.

Supervisor Joey Borges said he would have preferred to have seen this report before he cast his no vote on the transferring of the ERF grant funding. After visiting the Rogue Retreat and micro village in Medford, last month, Borges expressed his support of the Mission Possible proposal.

Board Chair/ Supervisor Dean Wilson told The Triplicate Mission Possible is the first step in providing the tools to help those seeking assistance. “This program will serve the needs of those seeking assistance and occupants must participate in offered programs.”

Yet to be determined is the name of the emergency shelter and micro village. Mission Possible and project administrator Dept of Health and Human Services will report progress to supervisors and residents of Del Norte County.