

# Public Hearing: Catholic Charities Homeless Operations Shelter & Hotel Placement

Date: 7/25/2023 5:30 PM



## **Comments - RETHINKING THE PROCESSES** OUTSIDE OF THE BOX (THE NORM)

### **ADDRESSING EMINENT EVICTIONS:**

Offering & encouraging pre-Education for potential placements - those neighbors who are in eminent eviction situations.

- Encourage them to start the process early, as soon as notification of eviction is received.
- Or when consciously knowing that they are unable to pay arrears
- For profit or nonprofit facilities establishing Weekend hours for emergent situations.

### **INTAKE & PLACEMENT:**

Creating Certified Points of Intake with other Agencies, or nonprofit organizations to expedite and Proctor the process through training, and the authority to:

- Complete the application
- Scan over to DSS (at a designated email address or Fax) the necessary paperwork needed to create Referreals.
- Assign facilities (for profit or nonprofit) who would offer Points of Intake that would only provide service on the weekend.

### **CREATING OR OFFERING PROGRAMS THAT:**

Educate families (children also) on managing finances, so that familiar spending habits of:

- The mindset of living beyond one's means would be addressed and eventually changed.
- How to manage a household on a budget, including the entire family. Allowing them to be part of the solution for change.

### **COLLABRATIVE RESTRUCTURE**

- Develop collaborative partnerships with businesses who shelter families.
- Collaborate with partners and businesses, who shelter families and are willing to offer employment that will assist with the re-entry process back into society.
- Provide "Household Finance Training", and offer the training within the facilities that shelter/house the homeless.

Many of the organizations have Volunteers who regularly visit the “County Hotspots” (Bryans Road, Nanjamo, etc.) to deliver water, and food. But what are we doing in these communities to foster “Hope” and improve the quality of life for these neighbors?

If these Volunteers could be certified to become Field Workers who would visit these areas on an Official basis, to gather information on; 1) what the immediate humanity needs are, 2) what resources are needed to address those needs, and finally 3) obtain feedback from the neighbors on how the conditions have improved.

Until or unless we take the approach of having a plan to positively impact the lives of our potential and current homeless population, we will continue to spin in a neverending circle, forever being behind the curve of trying to provide neverending resources of the same kind. Because the reality is; sooner or later those resources will run out, just as the additional food stamps did in April.

Ultimately, a lifestyle of dependency is not what we are striving for in our communities. But rather one that is productive and self-sufficient.

The most effective way to reach this goal where our neighbors can sustain more productive and self-sufficient lives, is simply through education.

Feed a man fish and he will eat for “A TIME”. Teach a man to Fish and he will eat for a lifetime.

Thank you,  
Cheryl Somers  
President & Overseer

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