

Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

**From:** Beth Sweetwater <bethie.sweet@yahoo.com>  
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**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Meeting on Homelessness

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I am currently listening to the meeting and all the reports from agencies. I am uncertain if I will have time to submit a comment so I am sending an email.

As an avid learner and podcast listener I heard a rebroadcast on The Uncertain Hour episode 5 on the recent episodes about homelessness and shelters. Forgetting or ignoring what has happened in the past, will keep success elusive. Since the New Deal, the Republican policy is to use individualism, blame and remedial measures for homelessness has actually exacerbated the problem. Today, people who are homeless are not a population riddled mental health and addiction problems but a sizable number of people who lost jobs or left home because of fear. We are lumping the people as almost extra humans in a single category and holding on to the irrational and untrue beliefs about unhoused people. So as all good intentions I heard cannot change the scope and direction of the underlying beliefs and policies California has the housing first policy but cannot achieve goals using the substandard system pushed by Reagan. I would like to see this aspect included in the creation of policy and how to change policy at the state and federal level.

My suggestion is to look into small houses as one of the goals of getting housing. In Salt Lake and some other locations creating these small neighborhoods of small housing creates the stability and dignity needed for people to move to services and employment. Without these types of solutions we actually are just turning in a never ending circular pattern that never really can see a steady goal to be obtained.

The attitude that we approach the unhoused is translated in how policies are formed I've decided to view all crises now as the Texas model. We are clinging to privatization, unfettered capitalism, neoliberal policies of austerity, and this is an unsustainable model and leads to disaster.

So let us not be bound by ideas, beliefs and policy outcomes that degrade people and deny how integration of all levels of governments, private and public for the common good not individual gratification.

Sincerely,

Beth Sweetwater

Sent from my iPad