

Fresno Madera Lived Experience Advisory Board

JULY 18, 2023 5-6:30PM

MEETING SUMMARY

I. Welcome and Introductions

- External Attendees:
 - Phil Skei, City of Fresno
 - Joe Pasillas, City of Fresno
 - UnChong Perry, City of Fresno
 - Jennifer Davis, City of Fresno
 - Brad Hardie, RH Community Builders
 - Andrea Evans, Valley Teen Ranch
 - Priscilla Robbins, Fresno Rescue Mission

II. Presentation: Mobile Shower and Street Outreach Request for Proposal (City of Fresno)

Joe Pasillas with the City of Fresno gave a presentation regarding the City of Fresno's upcoming Mobile Shower and Street Outreach Request for Proposal and requested that a LEAB member participate in the Review and Rank Panel.

III. Presentation: Three New Homekey Projects (City of Fresno)

The City of Fresno and their Homekey partner agencies presented regarding three Homekey projects that they submitted to the State. None of these projects have been approved or funded by the State, so the presentation was just to review the applications that have been submitted. The Homekey projects are all permanent housing projects and not shelters.

A LEAB Member suggested that when presenting about the youth Homekey project that the City find different words to use other than "delinquent behavior" even if that is a term of art coming from the State.

A LEAB Member asked who is eligible for the Youth Homekey projects and the City clarified that youth have to be homeless, earn no more than 30% Area Median Income, and be 18-24 (definition of Youth). The Youth Homekey project will be run by Valley Teen Ranch.

A LEAB Member expressed concern that the Youth Homekey project may combine Families with Children and the "Delinquent Youth" population defined by the State. The City said the size of the units will allow for a family of three to live at the project and that there will be 24-hour security.

The LEAB mentioned that the proposed location of the project is far away and that the project should consider having transportation, especially for youth and children to ensure educational consistency. Another LEAB Member suggested that the Youth project get Youth Action Board feedback for the youth project and not just LEAB feedback so that they can get feedback from more youth-aged people. A LEAB Member also asked if they have policies for transgender and nonbinary youth and Valley Teen Ranch said they do and they have zero tolerance for bullying on this and do trainings.

The LEAB had many questions and suggestions for security services for City-run projects. The LEAB wanted to know if security companies have employees that are licensed to deal with Youth populations and wondered how the City can ensure that security guards align with the values of the agency and Fresno Madera homeless system of care generally. The City said that it understood the feedback from the LEAB that many members have had bad experiences with security companies in the area. Phil Skei requested that the LEAB provide a short list of security companies that they have had negative experiences with so that the City knows not to use them again. All Homekey partner agencies committed in the meeting not to use Pacific Valley Patrol for security. The Fresno Rescue Mission said they hire security as employees so that they can avoid many of the issues the LEAB described and so that they can have more oversight. Brad Hardie said they use DSS for security and drug test all employees and that they have no intention of hiring Pacific Valley Patrol. He also said they have no armed security and insurance will not let them have armed security so that will continue. He mentioned they have negotiated with multiple security companies and one of their main priorities is to have consistent staff and to pay a bit more per hour so the guards want to stay at their properties so that there is less turnover for residents (and less turnover helps the agencies too).

The LEAB also suggested that the Homekey projects have consistent security officers for each property so that they become familiar with the clients and so the clients can start to trust the security and staff. The LEAB provided feedback that security companies need training about de-escalation and when to escalate issues to police that they can't handle themselves and one LEAB Member said they think security guards should have to be drug tested. After additional feedback from the LEAB, Brad Hardie committed to putting Trauma Informed Care training at "the top of his list" for vendor trainings and to add it to security company contracts as a requirement, as he has train-the-trainer staff who can train on Trauma Informed Care and hard reduction. The LEAB also suggested that partner agencies hire the unhoused as security or during other project hiring. The LEAB asked if the people living in the projects will have access to call the security guards if there are issues and the projects said yes. The Fresno

Rescue Mission said people living in the projects have access to security's cell phone number.

A LEAB Member provided feedback that clients feel a sense of control and personalization when they get to pick their own color scheme for their units and can help with construction or design. LEAB Members stated that often the colors of these projects are not very good. Brad Hardie said he would be happy to run colors by the LEAB for the Homekey project if it gets funded.

The City said they will have 12 months from the date of the announcement of the funding to build the projects if they are awarded the projects.