

IT CAN BE DONE!

Presented by

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Is It Really Possible to...

- Implement a Homeless Program
 - Meet Concerns of the Community
- AND
- Promote Economic Development?

YES!

Mather Community Campus – Facility

- Mather AFB closed in 1993
- 22 buildings
- 31 acres
- \$46M value
- Adjacent to VA hospital and new office buildings

Mather Community Campus - Program

- **2 year transitional housing program**
- **Job training and employment focus**
- **Case Management, life skills and other services to enhance employment**
- **Primary funding through HUD McKinney-Vento Supportive Housing Program**

Mather Community Campus - Highlights

- 320 residents
- 40 units for evacuees
- Collaboration of 5 non-profit and government agencies
- Received HUD “Best of the Best” Award
- Served 1350 adults and 500 children in 10 years

Elements of Success

- Positive outcomes for participants
- Positive relationships with neighbors, schools, police
- Fiscal and organizational stability

Positive Outcomes for Participants

- 78% move to permanent housing
- 230% increase in income per person
- Children stabilized in school

Positive Community Relationships

- New city limits included Campus
- Residents participate locally
- School district active with parents and staff
- Support of sheriff and neighbors
- Mayor is now our biggest advocate

Fiscal and Organizational Stability

- County is the lead agency
- Non-profits provide expertise
- Collaborative spirit between agencies

History

- Initial community outrage
- Homeless providers united around one project
- Board of Supervisors approved on 3-2 vote
- Established Community Advisory Committee
- Instituted criminal background screening and drug testing
- Conducted independent evaluation

Working with Providers of Homeless Services

- Respect agencies' expertise
- Become familiar with successful programs
- Connect early and often with the Continuum of Care
- Assist agencies to obtain funding
- Provide encouragement, but keep it realistic

Working with Public Reaction

- Respect the community's sense of loss
- Find opportunities to educate as well as listen
- Commit to supporting quality programs
- Create a community advisory group
- Stand firm against NIMBY

Working with Decision-Makers

- Educate about successes elsewhere
- Build understanding about process
- Engage in on-going dialogue about constituent concerns
- Reinforce benefits of successful homeless programs to entire community

In Summary

- YES, It can be done!
- Embrace all the opportunities
- Identify staff, providers, and public who can mediate among all the parties
- Build a vocal coalition from all stakeholders
- Remember, it's the right thing to do!



QUESTIONS?