

Reno and the USA's Homeless Problem

No End in Sight

Jeffrey Church is active in homeless issues having founded the Reno Police HELP (Homeless) Program and having served as founder and Board President of Reno's first 24-7-365 Homeless Center.

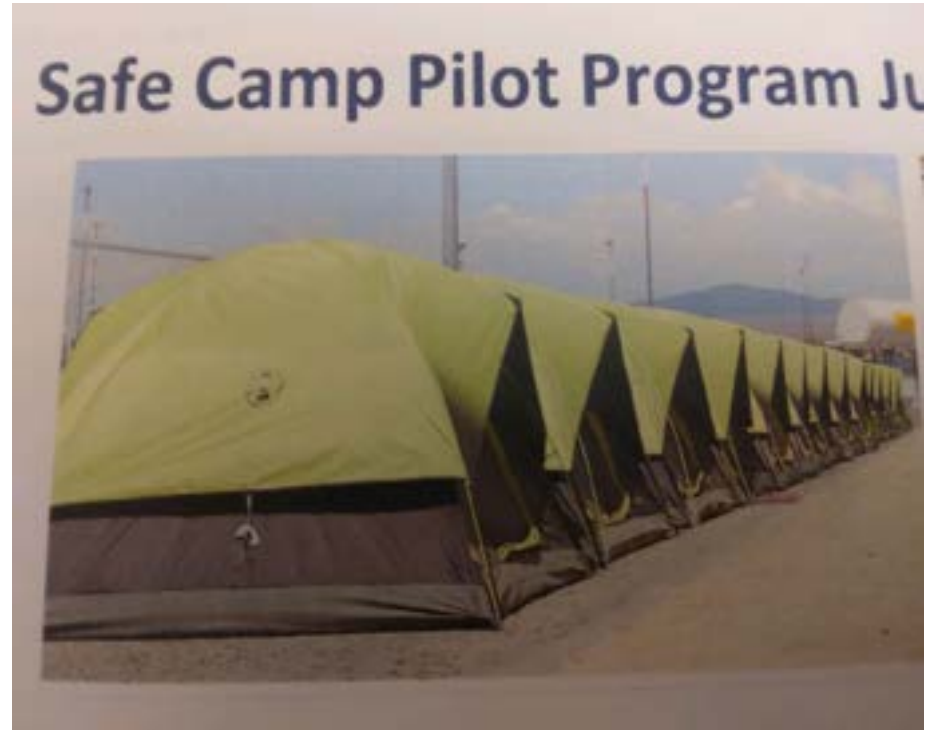
Jeff holds degrees in Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement and retired as a Sergeant at Reno PD and previously served with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department. He is also a retired USAF LtCol (Reserve) and VFW member.

His USAF values include: "Service Before Self"

He has served on numerous Boards and Committees and holds many awards for his community service.

Jeff may be available for speaking and consultation. RenoTaxRevolt@SBCGlobal.net

Follow him on "X" at WatchDogJeff



“I am for doing good to the poor, but...I think the best way of doing good to the poor, is not making them easy in poverty, but leading or driving them out of it. I observed...that the more public provisions were made for the poor, the less they provided for themselves, and of course became poorer. And, on the contrary, the less was done for them, the more they did for themselves, and became richer.”

— Benjamin Franklin



\$53 Million and \$15 Million a year for a Reno homeless center?
Are you kidding me?

A good idea gone terribly bad when the liberal bureaucrats got a hold of it!

Cares Campus Operations Funding and Expenses

Funding				
	FY24	FY23	FY22	Total
General Fund	\$ 17,576,804.41	\$ 17,417,356.14	\$ 8,478,973.00	\$ 43,473,133.55
Grants	\$ 889,773.88	\$ 3,434,058.07	\$ 3,928,047.44	\$ 8,251,879.39
Reimbursements	\$ 1,021,970.17	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,021,970.17
Donations	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 240,000.00	\$ 255,300.00
Total	\$ 19,493,848.46	\$ 20,861,414.21	\$ 12,647,020.44	\$ 53,002,283.11

Expenses				
	FY24**	FY23	FY22*	Total
Capital Improvements	\$ 218,732.89	\$ 486,774.24	\$ 2,085,963.00	\$ 3,117,851.60
Diversion and Assistance	\$ 50,509.72	\$ 33,375.91	\$ 3,151.84	\$ 81,023.13
Employee Cost	\$ 4,512,623.21	\$ 3,485,900.42	\$ 583,262.11	\$ 7,850,274.70
Non-Capital Expense	\$ 254,409.46	\$ 970,974.88	\$ 128,721.51	\$ 1,450,544.68
Operating Services	\$ 2,186,100.02	\$ 1,754,544.52	\$ 794,202.51	\$ 5,102,689.57
Operating Supplies	\$ 554,285.68	\$ 395,089.38	\$ 123,261.69	\$ 1,130,354.85
Professional Services	\$ 6,949,098.05	\$ 7,062,187.86	\$ 4,878,951.60	\$ 20,646,200.05
Repair and Maintenance	\$ 89,069.73	\$ 197,859.15	\$ 22,539.43	\$ 313,775.92
Utilities	\$ 258,157.04	\$ 329,632.61	\$ 171,786.66	\$ 796,626.77
Total	\$ 15,072,985.60	\$ 14,716,339.17	\$ 8,791,840.35	\$ 40,489,341.27

* FY22 not a full year as we began operating the Cares Campus September 1, 2021. This year was under an Interlocal agreement, Reno and Sparks contributed.

** FY24 actuals, year to date 7.25.24

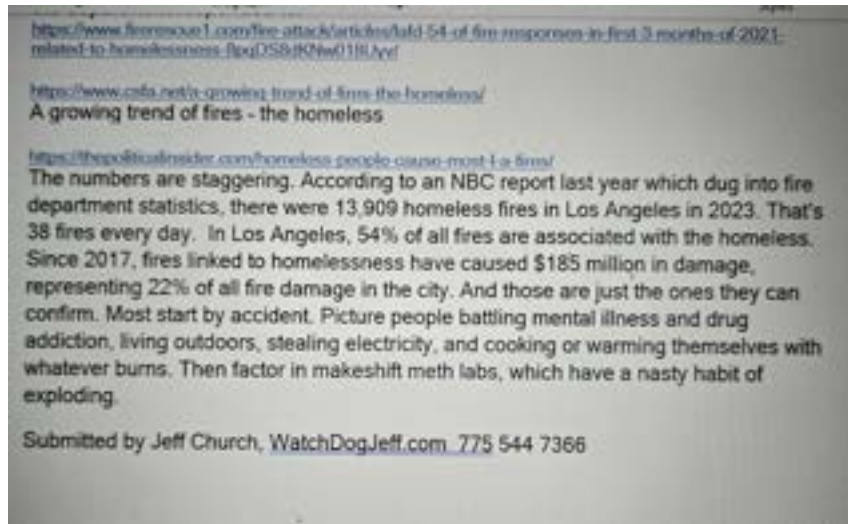
*** Year over year costs have increased over the years as buildings/staff/services have come online

Here's the Quick Solution Oriented Executive Summary

- 1) Kill the freebie unsuccessful costly enabling **Homeless Industrial Complex**
Show me one location where such plans actually work-none
- 2) **It is mental illness and addiction**, we must deal with that (not housing or jobs)
- 3) **Remote long term rehab facilities away from the temptations of drugs and alcohol:** Voluntary or Court Ordered- cheaper than jail
 - An earned tiered approach that includes everything from tents and open bay barracks to earned rooms and improved dining and extras.*
 - While somewhat enabling, this is a long-term facility as many can never escape mental illness under current medical treatments. That day is close when we can eliminate addiction desires and have new programs for the severely mentally ill.*
 - Allowing these people to fester and waste away on the streets is inhumane and a lose-lose for civilized society.*
- 4) Jail is the best bad choice for those that break the law
- 5) Disease, crime, fires, costs & as victims: Homeless are a Public Safety Crisis!

Homeless Presents a Public Safety Issue Not To Be Ignored

**50+% of all human caused fires
are started by Homeless**



**Cold, mental illness, tents, vacant
buildings: what could go wrong?**



What Do You Think Started All Those Devastating L.A. Fires

Winds don't start fires:

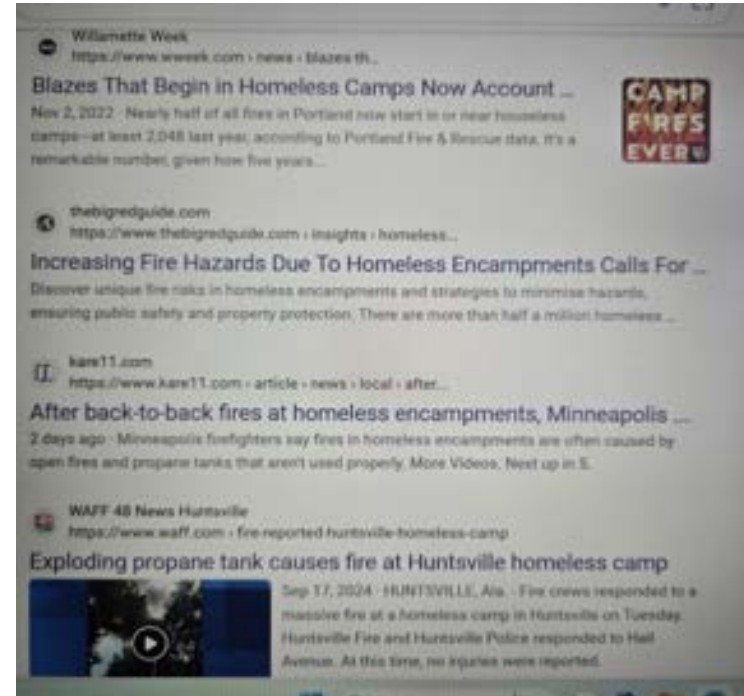
Homeless and homeless mentally ill Arsonists do

"LA wildfires: Police detain 'homeless suspect' for starting Kenneth fire"

City of Los Angeles -Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), which tracks "homeless fires"-incidents reported 13,909 such fires in 2023 -significant increase double the 7,149 recorded in 8,823 in 2021 and 11,595 in 2022. (Just the City of L.A.!)

Reno Fire also reports similar trends

(Reno KOLO News) "Homeless camp fires causing problems for firefighters and neighbors" "The Reno Fire Department reports that crews are responding to up to two calls per day of homeless camp fires. "I can't give you a dollar value but the time, the man power is significant and it takes those resources away from other parts of my city that need protection," Battalion Chief Mike Pilcher says.



Housing is NOT a Right!

These are your basic human rights: “Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men”

Government exists to provide collective safety and it has failed here.

Here is the Bottomline on Homeless Issues:

- 10 experts will have 10 opinions and nine simply want “more money”
- An entire industry and ‘Homeless Industrial Complex’ has sprung up in the last twenty years as things get worse.
- Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results
- In this Presentation you’ll see REAL options to address the issue.
- Hint: It is addiction and mental illness, period!
- As a civilized society we need to address that, not ignore that but in a tough love, basic and economical way
- We the ‘people’ have a ‘rights’ too. For laws to be enforced, to protect our livelihood from predators and thieves, to safety. Often these homeless advocates forget about the victims- the citizens.



The Problem is Real

Hep A Outbreak , Sanitation, Humane treatment
Citizen quality of life, legal issues



Disease Infested

Dead rat! Rat infestations up 50-100%



“I’ve got photos of half-clothed people passed out on pavement, sidewalks blocked by tents, bulky items, piles of poop and enough trash to fill the Grand Canyon.” (LA Times Article)

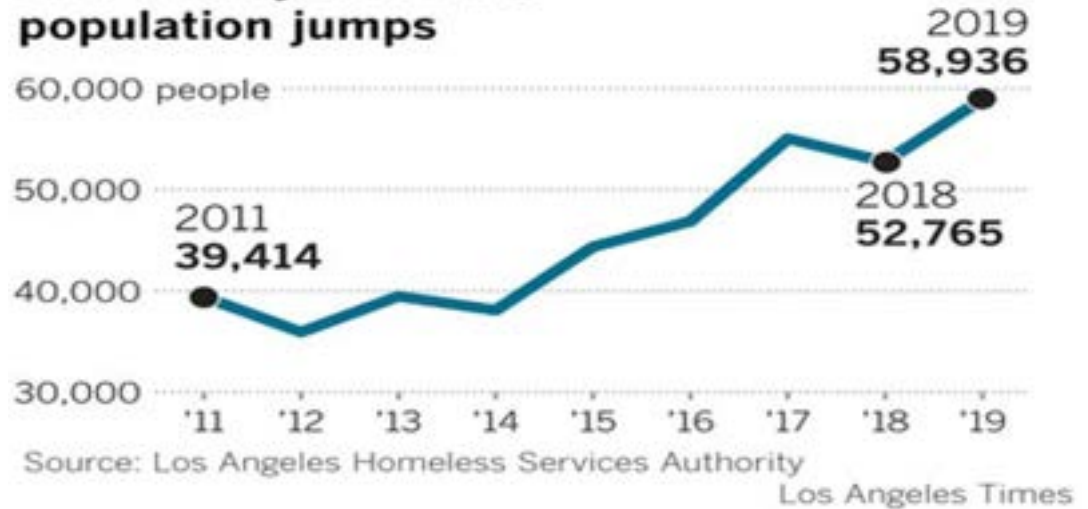
“We did house 20,000 people last year, but their replacements kept falling in behind them. Santana said ...The typical cost per unit is about \$500,000”

“Last week, I visited an apartment complex made from shipping containers in South L.A. ...The cost was just over \$100,000 per unit...” (LA Times Art)

2023 estimates: 75,518 people!

Affordable Housing NOT the Answer!

L.A. County homeless population jumps



Is there a Problem? YES!

Define the Problem (don't misdiagnose)

Street Homeless: Shelters & living on street!

Affordable Housing for working folks another story: Apples & Oranges

It's not jobs, it's not housing: Then what is the problem?

Mental Illness, Addiction, Criminals (Vagrants) and the rare homeless by misfortune.

Lots and lots of help is out there if wanted: non-profits, govt, etc.

You simply can't reason with severely mentally ill or addicted.

How would giving free housing to addicts, criminals and severely mentally ill help them or society?

Even if homeless individuals with mental illnesses are provided with housing, they are unlikely to achieve residential stability and remain off the streets unless they have access to continued treatment and services. http://www.nationalhomeless.org/factsheets/Mental_Illness.pdf

Los Angeles...Local authorities estimate that 30% of the county's homeless people have serious mental illness. (LA Times). **LA Times study estimate 67%!**

It has been shown that both treatment without housing and housing without treatment are ineffective for homeless individuals with mental illness.
<https://www.hcs.harvard.edu/~hcht/blog/homelessness-and-mental-health-facts>

Approximately one-third of the total homeless population includes individuals with serious, untreated mental illnesses according to a research summary compiled by the Treatment Advocacy Center.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2003) estimates, 38% of homeless people were dependent on alcohol and 26% abused other drugs.

<https://addictionresource.com/substance-abuse-and-homelessness> Jul 11, 2018 ·

A high percentage of homeless people have substance use disorders.

Many videos and website and options but see also:

“Los Angeles Paradise Lost” <https://kfiam640.iheart.com/content/2019-06-19-los-angeles-has-lost-its-paradise>

“Is Seattle Dying?” (Utube)

Dr Drew videos on homeless and disease

<https://sunbreakranch.com>

(addresses code compliance, tracking, enforce the law, solutions in San Diego, etc)

Indiana A.G. on Homelessness: Enforce the Law. Broken windows Concept/ Reagan quote

<https://video.foxnews.com/v/6077264512001>

Bakersfield (Kern County) Sheriff to enforce the law

Jeff's Take-Aways on the Reno (NV) CARES Campus:

1. Wonderful idea- state of the art facility for street homeless with resources. (but)
2. Cost way too high : a good idea gone terribly wrong
3. Open bay is adequate unless a step up is earned
4. Put the homeless to work inside facility & outside as we did (graffiti & trash clean up etc)
5. A rural location is better
6. Shelter is a taxpayer - Government responsibility, housing is not.
7. Homeless are still currently living in unheated tents in unsafe community areas- allow them to move on site. Warming area yes, heated tents and modular- No!
8. Allow safe secure car camping- that is their home!
9. It is mental illness and addiction. Giving an addict a base camp is not prudent. Mentally ill need long term help and we need NRS 113 reform as even California has (5150).
10. You seldom can “counsel” and addict into getting help. They like it at the time.
Sometimes jail is the best bad option.
11. Enforce the laws on camping and similar Countywide!
12. \$53 million outlay and \$15 million yearly for a few thousand homeless is unacceptable
13. Keep it simple: tent or open bay then earned tiered rewards

Step Two

A very rural full service in-resident
treatment center

Try it! Start on small scale
Got a better idea?

Mitigating Solutions: Build It and They Will Come

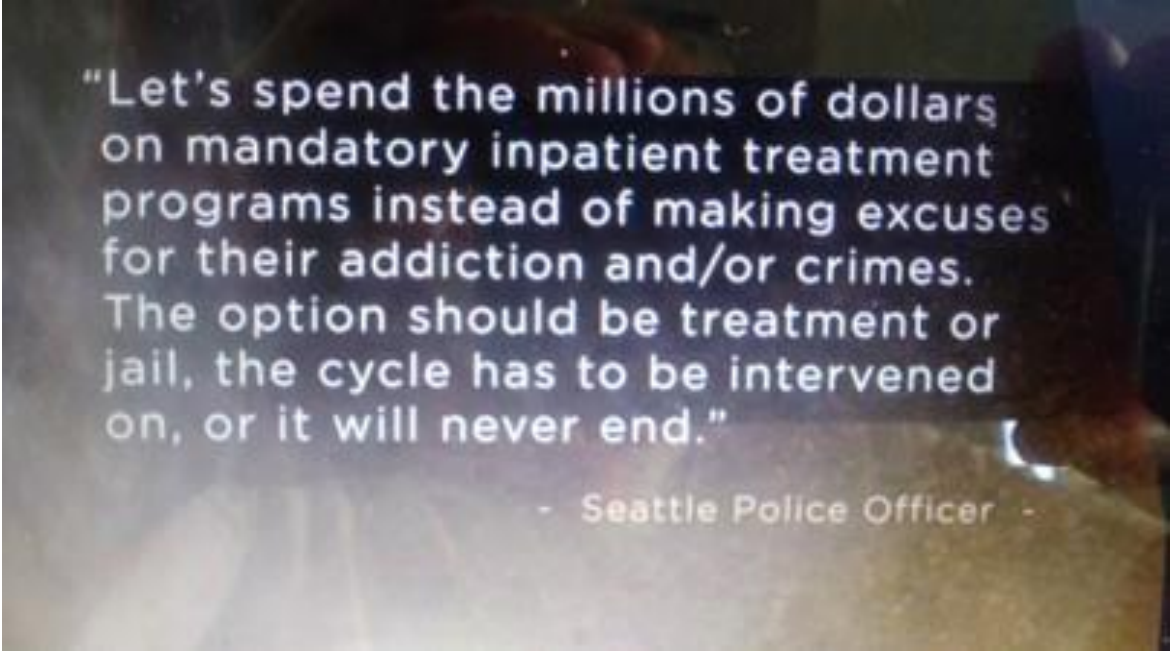
Far Away from temptations of drugs and alcohol



In-Resident facility, rural setting



TREATMENT: Voluntary, probation or court ordered This nails it!

A photograph of a person holding a sign. The sign has white text on a dark background. The text reads: "Let's spend the millions of dollars on mandatory inpatient treatment programs instead of making excuses for their addiction and/or crimes. The option should be treatment or jail, the cycle has to be intervened on, or it will never end." The person holding the sign is partially visible in the background, wearing a dark jacket.

"Let's spend the millions of dollars on mandatory inpatient treatment programs instead of making excuses for their addiction and/or crimes. The option should be treatment or jail, the cycle has to be intervened on, or it will never end."

- Seattle Police Officer -

Before addressing the real solutions, let's address the misconceptions and failed attempts!

THIS?



OR THIS?



Golden Bear Pine Grove 10-Person Cabin Tent \$149

So if they live in shabby tents by the river, look what we can get them for \$150 in a regulated, secure environment with available sanitary facilities and services!

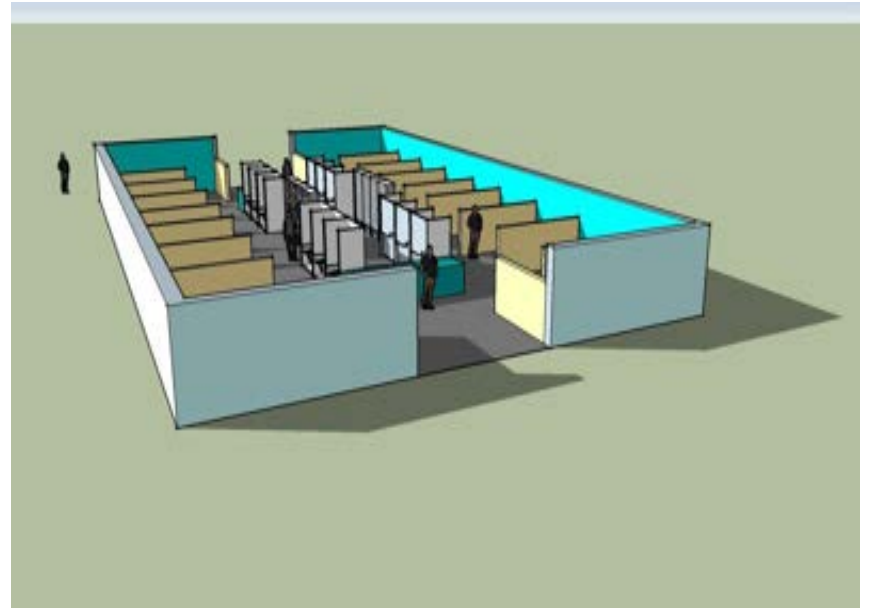


Current Situation Inhumane!

**Ruthless gang assaults and
terrorized homeless man at
Brodhead Park**



**Or a safe, sanitary inexpensive
facility away from the river and
tourism. Take back our parks!**

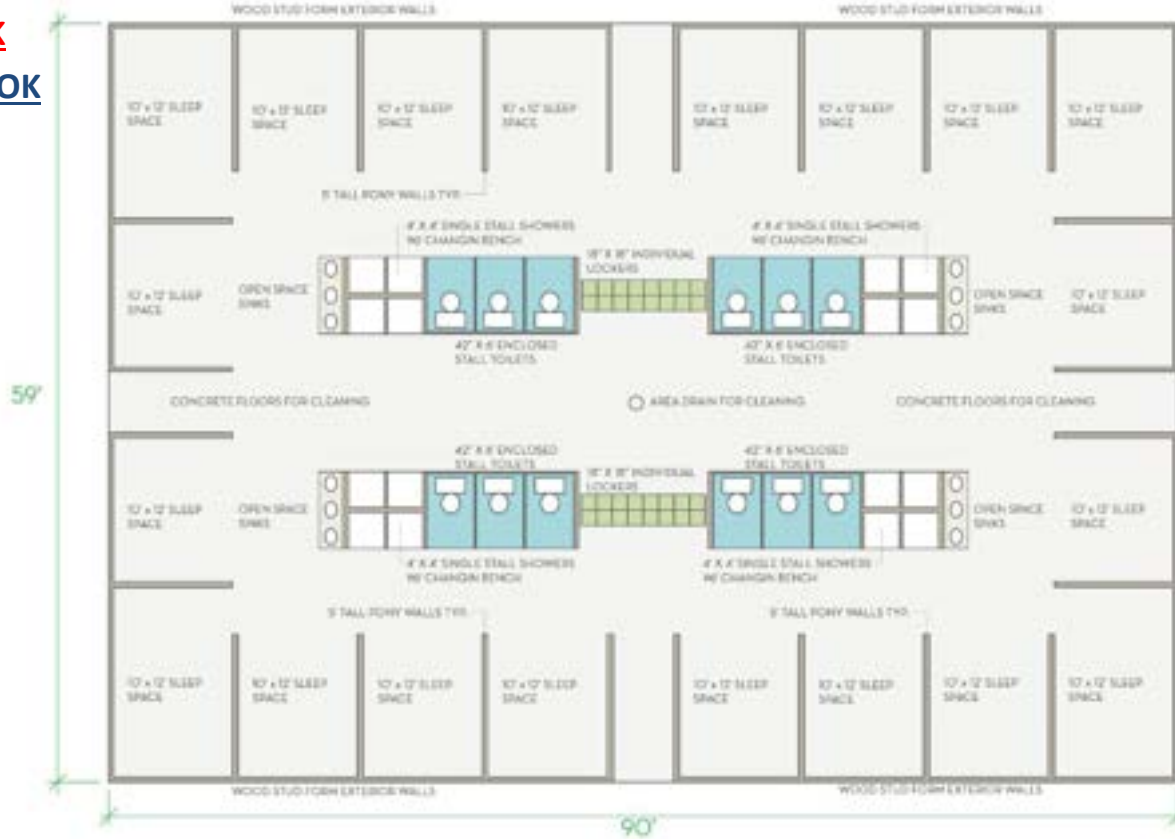


Very simple:

1. A safe pleasing environment in a Very rural location with ability to expand away from temptations of drugs and alcohol.
 2. Local no frills area to comply with court decisions
- * Housing does not always mean barracks, apartments or houses
 - * Did we mention that it's cheaper? Land, labor, etc.
3. Severely mentally ill, addicts need our help not enabling or being ignored.
Mental Health Commitments: Calif: AB 1194 (2015): ability to do court approved long term committals with all rights and court oversight adhered to.

Pets and family welcome!

- Pets OK
- Family OK



THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX

Housing does not always mean houses nor apartments nor open bay barracks
Can be the above plus covered camping areas, (Re-habed) RV Camping, etc.

Cost: Only \$12,000



Cost \$1000 to free: Residents rehab it



Work and education areas based on need:

Basic education

Trades

Automotive

Auto & RV Rehabilitation for internal use

Art & Music

Internal infrastructure and services from food, laundry, maintenance, safety, fire, security, etc.

“I’m staying here?” (Yes, in a safe clean well run facility)

Many prefer Camping over Barracks

Before



After



No Taj Mahal: Basics unless earned

Barrack style or



Tents and car camping need to be a part as many refuse barracks (I would) *Note how clean and organized- no clutter at this facility



More Thoughts

No More Freebies- basics or earn better



Strictly enforced- no junk



**Reno Riverwalk:
We can do better**



**Politicians need to Act!
Plan A not working**



SUMMARY

Plan A is not working

We have created an entire homeless Industrial Complex and few are willing to say that the king has no clothes. It is not working.

Show me one location where such plans actually work.

First: It is mental illness and addiction, we must deal with that

For those that want and or via court order we need a remote rehab facility away from the temptations of drugs and alcohol.

An earned tiered approach that includes everything from tents and open bay barracks to earned rooms and improved dining and extras.

While somewhat enabling, this is a long-term facility as many can never escape mental illness under current medical treatments. That day is close when we can eliminate addiction desires and have new programs for the severely mentally ill.

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