

From: Scott Howell scotthowell.utah@gmail.com
Subject: HB-342 HOMELESS PROVIDER OVERSIGHT AMENDMENTS
Date: Mar 8, 2019 at 7:18:26 AM
To: Local Leaders scottnhowell@live.com

Memo To: Senate Economic Development and Workforce Services Committee
Subject: HB-342 HOMELESS PROVIDER OVERSIGHT AMENDMENTS
Date: 3/8/2019

From: PIONEER PARK COALITION

The Pioneer Park Coalition (A non-profit organization whose members (750) include businesses, HOA's, citizens, and homeless individuals of the Rio Grande area) appreciate the excellent work of Senator Anderegg and House Minority Leader King in putting together this very critical legislation that begins the process of bringing greater accountability into our homeless initiatives.

DWS leadership and continuing support has been invaluable to Operation Rio Grande.

The PPC has full confidence that DWS will continue to focus on the homeless issues and bring a greater amount of data metrics to create dashboards that will help determine IF the millions of dollars that have been appropriated to homeless projects produce outcomes that truly help the homeless become more "self reliant, self sufficient and restore the dignity of work to all homeless individuals. We wholeheartedly support mental health services that are desperately needed as well for this community.

Unfortunately the Homeless Audit could not verify if the MILLIONS invested in shelters and other homeless services are getting the results and outcomes that legislators, citizens, and homeless individuals are expecting.

The PPC has THREE concerns about HB-342 and would ask that these be addressed during today's committee hearing.

1. When will the strategic plan be complete? The bill does not provide a date or a time frame. When we reviewed the meeting notes from the last HCC meeting, we learned that they have a target date of November 2019 to have a timeline for the eventual development of a strategic plan. No estimate was given regarding a completion date for the strategic plan.

We suggest that the Legislature provide firm deadlines in legislation to hold DWS and the HCC (Homeless Coordinating Committee) more accountable.

2. When will DTS begin and finish the development of data-gathering software for homeless service providers?

The bill does not provide any dates and we cannot tell from the bill whether DTS will wait until the strategic plan is completed before they begin work.

DTS must work with DWS, sooner than later, to develop the data metrics and produce dashboards that reflect the concerns of the audit to ensure that progress is being made on all of the auditors concerns and recommendations.

3. Who will actually create the content and then draft the strategic plan?

The HCC membership is composed of busy professionals who gather quarterly. Will DWS be responsible?

Will the HCC have adequate raw data to provide meaningful oversight over DWS?

Because of concerns raised in the audits, we want to be sure that oversight is meaningful.

Only an independent review of raw data and independent analysis can ensure such oversight.

The current bill fails to ensure that the HCC has the information and mandates that are necessary for them to act independently when needed.

For this reason, we urge you carefully consider if amendments to HB 342 are needed.

We trust DWS will accept the responsibilities/leadership to ensure this legislation will answer these questions and implement the necessary initiatives to continue the task of solving homelessness.....but as President Ronald Reagan stated "TRUST BUT VERIFY."

Thank you for your time, attention, SERVICE to the citizens of the great state of Utah.

Best Regards,

Pioneer Park Coalition