On June 3, 2016 Smart Solutions helped coordinate a meeting between over 30 organizations working on housing in Santa Cruz.

We heard from Elissa Dennis who is the Senior Affordable Housing Finance Consultant of Community Economics in Oakland. She talked about actions they have taken and that have worked in their community including organizing an Affordable Housing Week.

The mission of this emerging network is to take on the extraordinary shortage of housing for both working families of modest means and for our most vulnerable Santa Cruz County residents in two ways: 1) Build and mobilize broad support for government policies and community solutions that will facilitate the creation and preservation of housing units that serve these populations; and 2) Build and mobilize broad support for specific housing development projects whose primary
Petition Here!

What Are Smart Solutions?
1. Evidence-based
2. Produce measurable results
3. Cost effective
4. Benefit the entire community
5. Take a step toward ending homelessness
6. Support the dignity of each individual

Our VISION is a Santa Cruz County in which every community member has some form of safe shelter, and where homelessness is a rare occurrence.

Our MISSION is to build the community will to reduce and ultimately end homelessness in Santa Cruz County through education and collaborative action.

Ally Spotlight: Rayne Marr

Rayne Marr is the Homeless Services Coordinator for Santa Cruz County. She has been a Santa Cruzan for 30 years and was first inspired to become a part of the local effort to end homelessness at the Smart Solutions to Homelessness summit that took place in 2012.

Rayne now plays an active role in facilitating the implementation of the "All In" county wide plan. Rayne's goal is to cross the boundaries necessary in order for the plan to be successful.

One of Rayne's main projects is the Winter Shelter, which is facing significant challenges this year. She has been collecting best practices, looking at what other communities have done, and is involving many different stakeholders in the discussion. She is hoping to have her recommendation ready for the County Board of Supervisors and local city councils by August 2016.

If you would like to be a part of the winter shelter conversation you can email Rayne at: Rayne.Marr@santacruzcounty.us

If you would like to be involved please email us at: schousingadvocacynetwork@gmail.com

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