

TUOLUMNE COUNTY COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS
REGULAR MEETING
AGENDA

Date/Time: Thursday, November 10, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m.

Location: Tuolumne County Board Chambers, 2 S. Green St., 4th Floor Sonora, CA 95370

Email &/or U.S. Mail comments to: Michael Roberson at mroberson@co.tuolumne.ca.us or: CAO Office 2 S. Green St. Sonora CA 95370 no later than 8:00 AM on the morning of the meeting.

CHAIRPERSON

Supervisor David Goldemberg

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

#1 Colette Such

#2 Shelley Muniz

#3 Larry Barsetti

#4 Dana Butow

#5 Jeanette Lambert

OTHER MEMBERS

ATCAA

-Joe Bors

City of Sonora

-Andy Merrill

Chicken Ranch Rancheria of
Me-Wuk Indians of California

-LeeAnn Hatton

Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians

-Darla Merlin

Tuolumne County Business Council

-Tom Crosby

Tuolumne County Sheriff

-Bill Pooley

Tuolumne County Veterans Services

-Kris Albrecht

Local Service Providers

-Interfaith/Cathy Peacock

Lived Experience

-Jennifer Salazar

STAFF

County Administrator

-Tracie Riggs

Homeless Services Coordinator

-Michael Roberson

Executive Clerk/Committee Secretary

-Jessica Alley

NON-VOTING ADVISORS

Adventist Health Sonora

Central Sierra CoC Youth Advisory Board

District Attorney's Office

Health & Human Services Agency Law

Enforcement

Superintendent of Schools Office

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

II. **ROLL CALL**

[5 min/Jessica Alley]

- Introductions during roll call
- Confirm quorum requirements are met *[Quorum = 9 members]*

III. **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 13, 2022 MEETING MINUTES**

[5 min/Jessica Alley/Attachment]

IV. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

[15 minutes maximum]

- Members of the public may be heard on any item **not** on the Commission's Agenda. A person addressing the Commission will be limited to three minutes. Comments by members of the public on any item on the agenda will only be allowed during consideration of the item by the Commission.

V. **DISCUSSION & UPDATES ON HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS
MONTH EVENTS & ACTIVITIES**

[10 min/ Shelley Muniz]

- Updates on Events & Activities
Public Comment

VI. **PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION ON CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FUNDING & COUNTY
PROGRAMS RELATED TO HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS**

[40 min/ Amy Arndt, Nicole Griswold, Wittney Hawkins]

- Presentation & Discussion
Public Comment

VII. **SERVICE PROVIDER REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

[15 min/Commission Members]

- Tuolumne County homeless services providers' reports & discussion on the work and needs of their organizations, limited to three minutes per person.
Public Comment

VIII. **TCCOH MEMBER REPORTS & DISCUSSION**

[15 min/Commission Members]

- TCCOH Members reports and discussion in a "Round Table" format limited to three minutes per person.
Public Comment

IX. **FUTURE MEETING DATES & TIMES REMINDER**

[2min / Supervisors Goldemberg]

- Thursday, December 8 @ 9 AM
- Thursday, January 12 @ 9 AM
- Thursday, February 9 @ 5:30 PM
Public Comment

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

Late agenda material can be reviewed at the County Administrators Office, 2 S Green Street, Sonora, CA 95370. If you require special assistance (i.e., auxiliary aids or services) in order to participate in this public meeting, please call (209) 533-5511 at least 48 hours prior to the start of the meeting to enable staff to make a reasonable accommodation to ensure accessibility to this public meeting.



**Tuolumne County Commission on Homelessness
(Minutes of the Meeting on October 13, 2022)**

DRAFT

<u>2022 TCCoH Membership</u>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Supervisor David Goldemberg - Chair								✓	✓	✓		
Colette Such, District 1 Rep.								✓	✓	E		
Shelley Muniz, District 2 Rep.								✓	✓	✓		
Larry Barsetti, District 3 Rep.								V	V	✓		
Dana Butow, District 4 Rep.								✓	✓	✓		
Jeanette Lambert, District 5 Rep.								E	✓	A		
Joe Bors, ATCAA								✓	✓	✓		
Andy Merrill, City of Sonora Rep.								✓	✓	A		
LeeAnn Hatton, Rep. Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California								E	E	✓		
Darla Merlin, Rep. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians								E	E	✓		
Thomas Crosby, Rep. Tuolumne County Business Council								V	✓	E		
Bill Pooley, Tuolumne County Sheriff								E	E	✓		
Kris Albrecht, Tuolumne County Veteran Services								✓	✓	✓		
Cathie Peacock, Interfaith								✓	✓	✓		
Jennifer Salazar, Lived Experience								V	E	✓		
NON-VOTING ADVISORS REP.												
Adventist Health Sonora												
Central Sierra Continuum of Care Youth Advisory Board												
Law Enforcement												
Superintendent of Schools Office									✓			
Tuolumne County District Attorney's Office								✓				
Tuolumne County Health & Human Services Agency								✓	✓	✓		

Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E Vacant = V

15 TCCoH Members = 9 Quorum

<u>Tuolumne County Staff in Attendance</u>	<u>Other Guests in Attendance</u>
Tracie Riggs, County Administrator	Sophia Kaufman, ATCAA
Michael Roberson, Homelessness Services Coordinator	Melissa Eads, City Administrator
Jessica Alley, Executive Clerk	

I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Goldemberg called the meeting to order at 9:09 am.

II. ROLL CALL

All Commissioners and staff introduced themselves. Jessica Alley confirmed a quorum of 9 Commissioners present. Commissioner Shelley Muniz arrived at 9:16 AM.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Bors made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 8th, 2022. Commissioner Butow seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the September 8th, 2022, minutes were approved with 7 yeas and 2 abstentions by Commissioners Merlin and Hatton.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (3 minutes per person)

Members of the public may be heard on any item not on the Board's Agenda. A person addressing the Board will be limited to five minutes. Comments by members of the public on any item on the agenda will only be allowed during consideration of the item by the Board.

No public comment.

V. STAFF REPORT & DISCUSSION

Updates and discussion on Safe Stay Shelter Community.

Michael Roberson, Homeless Services Coordinator gave an update on the Safe Stay Shelter Community project. He noted the Board of Supervisors gave direction for staff to look into the development of the High School Road site in Jamestown and identify estimated costs. He and other staff are identifying final costs and anticipate giving the Board of Supervisors an update sometime in November. The Board also advised staff to post the RFP (request for proposal) process, inviting companies to present their plan for managing the shelter site. Site management scope would include onsite presence, providing meals, security, and rules of engagement. Michael Roberson provided an estimation of costs for site management which he noted did not include infrastructure costs such as power, sewer, water, and the cost of shelter structures. He disclosed there may be possible cost savings available through Encampment Resolution Funds the county is possibly eligible to receive. Michael is anticipating a NOFA (Notice of Funding Available) to be released in November.

Supervisor Goldemberg contributed additional information regarding the Board's intent to move forward with the Safe Stay Shelter Community planning with no intent to expend general fund dollars.

Commission members asked questions regarding the Shelter Community's operation and infrastructure costs as well as site management and meal plans. Michael Roberson noted possibilities to collaborate with other agencies such as ATCAA (Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency) could cut costs. An additional suggestion was that the jail

could provide meals. Sheriff Pooley provided an estimation of current meal costs for the Jail and Juvenile Hall.

Public Comment:

A member of the public noted appreciation for the Commission and Staff's efforts and encourages outside agency collaboration.

Pablo Lopez with Public Health noted the availability of safe camping areas would be helpful and a long-term location would make it easier to provide other services.

Presentation and discussion on Housing First guidelines

Michael Roberson introduced the Corporation for Supportive Housing and provided a handout that described in basic terms what "Housing First" is and provided details regarding the compliance rules which are involved with Housing First funding.

Commissioner Merlin left the meeting at 9:33 AM and returned at 9:36 AM.

Commissioners provided questions and comments regarding shelter admission processes and the ability of participants to contribute to costs. It was clarified that the Health and Human Services Agency is looking into details related to the shelter admission process.

Commissioner Butow noted concerns of the public's limited knowledge regarding the Housing First model and asked if information regarding the model could be included in outgoing media regarding homeless awareness. Michael Roberson answered, yes information on the Housing First model will be included.

No public comment was provided.

VI. DISCUSSION OF HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH AD HOC WORK GROUP PLANS & CONSIDERATION OF SUPPORT

Workgroup member reports and Commission discussion

Michael Roberson introduced the Homelessness Awareness Month Ad Hoc and noted participants involved including Commissioners Salazar, Butow, Peacock, Muniz, and Merrill. Additional participants include Steve Nelson, Dawn Romani, and Sophia Kaufman.

The plan for the Homeless Awareness Month Ad Hoc is as follows:

- To present a resolution to the Board of Supervisors on November 1st proclaiming the month of November as Homelessness Awareness Month. Michael Roberson provided a draft of the resolution as well as presentation documents.
- Homelessness Awareness Month activities will include providing educational resources to the community regarding issues related to homelessness as well as encouraging the community to participate in upcoming volunteer events occurring on November 5th and a countywide watch party on Nov 16th.
- Michael Roberson introduced Sofia Kaufman from ATCAA who created the Homelessness Awareness Social Media Campaign. Sophia spoke about the plan for the campaign to humanize the issue of homelessness with testimony from local unhoused and recognizing individuals struggling in the community.

- Commissioner Muniz gave a summary of the Stuff the Bus event she and Commissioner Peacock are coordinating to be included in the Homelessness Awareness Campaign. The event is on November 5th, in the Walmart Parking Lot. Collected donations will be distributed through the Lambert Center and other local community centers.
- Commissioner Butow reported the other volunteer events occurring on November 5th. Michael Roberson noted Jessica Alley, the Executive Clerk is working on a digital sign-in sheet for the volunteer opportunities which will be posted to the county website.
- As part of the presentation, members of the public will be encouraged to participate in the upcoming afternoon TCCoH meeting on November 10th, making note of the recent decision to schedule some meetings for the afternoon to accommodate those who have been unable to attend morning meetings.

Commission members provided additional comments and gratitude towards all involved in the Homelessness Awareness Ad Hoc work group.

No public comment was provided.

Commissioner Peacock made a motion to approve the Homelessness Awareness Ad Hoc plans and submission to the Board of Supervisors on November 1st, 2022. Commissioner Hatton seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

VII. SERVICE PROVIDER REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Tuolumne County homeless services providers reports & discussion on the work and needs of their organizations

Supervisor Goldemberg explained this portion of the meeting is to give service providers an opportunity to inform the TCCoH with updates on various community projects. Michael Roberson noted this time slot is also for non-TCCoH member service providers to speak.

Pablo Lopez with Public Health provided information regarding the addition of a new health van which is now providing services to multiple locations around the community.

Lori Britt with Public Health shared a handout regarding the LICN grant which outlined their status and objectives including the new health van and a public resource directory. She noted the last directory was published in print version only in 2020. The new public resource directory will be published online with the ability to update as needed.

Commissioner Peacock noted they anticipate the resource directory to be launched to the public on paper and online by the end of October. Michael Roberson expressed interest to include the Resource Directory in the Homelessness Awareness Campaign.

Commissioner Peacock gave an update on Interfaith and her observations of servicing more singles and older seniors who are at risk of victimization. She noted the availability of free legal services for eviction issues seeing a large surge in usage. There will be a Consortium on November 17th at Saint Mathew Church, for different services providers to come together and share information between agencies and better help the community.

Supervisor Goldemberg noted his involvement with Commissioner Peacock on the Commission on Aging and spoke to the last commission meeting and issues covered related to nutrition.

Commissioner Muniz noted the first-year anniversary of having residents on-site at Resiliency Village and the knowledge they have gained through the last year's experiences. She noted personal encounters with villagers and a better understanding of everyone's perspectives and needs. Commissioner Muniz also commented on recently seeing more elderly in need. She spoke about new programs being implemented at Resiliency Village providing education and counseling opportunities for villagers.

Commissioner Merlin shared an update from the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians and the recent NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) and Super NOFO grant availability and the opportunities for grants involving veterans, senior housing, townhomes, and other infrastructure opportunities. USDA (U.S. Department of Agriculture) cooperative agreements could be available for receiving food from farmers. Commissioner Peacock is going to reach out to Commissioner Merlin and Supervisor Goldemberg recommended Commissioner Albrecht with Veteran services reach out to Commissioner Merlin as well.

Commissioner Muniz brought up the Food Recovery Program where she will be working with Commissioner Hatton with Chicken Ranch Rancheria to distribute provisions funded by the Climate Change Grant. Resiliency Village residents will be employed to assist in this project.

Commissioner Sheriff Pooley left the meeting at 10:25 AM.

Commissioners Peacock and Muniz shared concerns about the availability of providing shelter to individuals undergoing medical recovery. Supervisor Goldemberg noted Michael Roberson and Rebecca Espino, HHS Director will be touring Merced County regarding a navigation center and housing for respite care.

Michael Roberson also responded, noting he has addressed these issues with the Adventist Hospital Chaplin. He also plans to speak with Kathy Parker, the hospital's new Well-Being Director once she officially starts her new position at the end of October.

Public Comment:

A member of the public spoke about her involvement in a COVID-19 response team and detailed circumstances related to Project Room Key to isolate individuals in hotels. She noted the possibility to continue the good work of this project to help the homeless in need of respite housing.

VIII. TCCOH MEMBER REPORTS & DISCUSSION

TCCOH Members reports and discussion in a "Round Table" format.

Commissioner Hatton noted more grants related to youth prevention as opposed to elderly issues and her concerns that funding may not be as bountiful in current needed areas.

Commissioner Peacock asked about the navigation center RFP (request for proposal) process. Michael Roberson noted they are waiting for the grant to be approved which is anticipated to occur in February of 2023.

Commissioner Bors announced the receipt of approximately \$175 million in funding for the Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency.

Commissioner Albrecht reported observing a limit in the public's knowledge of the Veterans Office and the services they provide. He believes there are many Veterans in the community who are not aware of compensation claims and other services available to them.

Commissioner Butow expressed concerns about meeting the current needs of homelessness and inquired about the possibility to provide secure parking or shelters immediately. Michael Roberson responded, sharing the interest he has heard from local churches to provide more immediate housing assistance while other projects are developing. There is also a possibility for sheltering assistance funding to occur through ATCAA and the Community Development Department.

Michael Roberson reported on his current efforts gathering leaders from faith-based organizations to discuss what each organization was providing to the homeless and what they can do. Topics they covered included the possible implementation of a safe parking program, portable showers & restrooms, grab-and-go breakfast services, and a mobile navigation center with integrated case workers.

Commissioner Salazar noted her involvement with the Homelessness Awareness Work Group and the photoshoot. She collected testimonies for homeless individuals for the campaign and noted also seeing more elderly homeless with medical issues who have never been homeless before.

Michael Roberson provided an overview of meetings and collaborated efforts with local service providers and faith-based organization leaders. He reported that staff from the Community Development Department met with staff from the Stanislaus Housing Authority to discuss current and future housing projects in Tuolumne County. He also shared efforts to build housing capacity for the purpose of supportive and transitional housing. He noted that there may be funding through the Mental Health Services Act and the Department of Housing & Urban Development.

No public comment was provided.

IX. FUTURE MEETING DATES & TIMES REMINDER

Supervisor Goldemberg noted the next TCCoH meeting will be on Thursday, November 10th at 5:30 PM and the following meeting will be on Thursday, December 8th at 9:00 AM.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Goldemberg adjourned the meeting at 10:50 AM.



HOUSING FIRST

WHAT IS “HOUSING FIRST”?

Housing First is an approach to serving people experiencing homelessness that recognizes a homeless person must first be able to access a decent, safe place to live, that does not limit length of stay (permanent housing), before stabilizing, improving health, reducing harmful behaviors, or increasing income. Under the Housing First approach, anyone experiencing homelessness should be connected to a permanent home as quickly as possible, and programs should remove barriers to accessing the housing, like requirements for sobriety or absence of criminal history. It is based on the “hierarchy of need:” people must access basic necessities—like a safe place to live and food to eat—before being able to achieve quality of life or pursue personal goals. Finally, Housing First values choice not only in where to live, but whether to participate in services. For this reason, tenants are not required to participate in services to access or retain housing.

WHAT TYPE OF HOUSING IS CONSIDERED “HOUSING FIRST”?

Programs using Housing First generally fall into two categories:

- Supportive housing, which is an apartment made affordable through long-term rental assistance, paired with intensive services promoting housing stability.
- Rapid re-housing, which connects a family or individual to an apartment affordable through short-to medium-term rental assistance, along with moderate services designed to allow that household to increase their income sufficiently to be able to afford the apartment over the long-term.

While Housing First recognizes housing is a necessary precursor to treatment, Housing First does not mean “housing only.” On the contrary, Housing First acknowledges social services and care coordination are necessary elements of housing stability and quality of life.

CORE COMPONENTS OF HOUSING FIRST UNDER CALIFORNIA LAW

In 2016, the California Legislature passed Senate Bill 1380 (Mitchell). It required all housing programs to adopt the Housing First model.¹ The Legislation defined Housing First with these “core components”:

- Tenant screening and selection practices promote accepting applicants regardless of their sobriety or use of substances, completion of treatment, or participation in services.
- Applicants are not rejected on the basis of poor credit or financial history, poor or lack of rental history, criminal convictions unrelated to tenancy, or behaviors that indicate a lack of “housing readiness.”

¹ Codified as California Welfare & Institutions Code § 8255.

- Housing providers accept referrals directly from shelters, street outreach, drop-in centers, and other parts of crisis response systems frequented by vulnerable people experiencing homelessness.
- Supportive services emphasize engagement and problem solving over therapeutic goals and service plans that are highly tenant-driven without predetermined goals.
- Participation in services or program compliance is not a condition of housing tenancy.
- Tenants have a lease and all the rights and responsibilities of tenancy.
- The use of alcohol or drugs in and of itself, without other lease violations, is not a reason for eviction.
- Funding promotes tenant selection plans for supportive housing that prioritize eligible tenants based on criteria other than "first-come-first-serve," including, but not limited to, the duration or chronicity of homelessness, vulnerability to early mortality, or high utilization of crisis services.
- Case managers and service coordinators are trained in and actively employ evidence-based practices for engagement, including motivational interviewing and client-centered counseling.
- Services are informed by a harm-reduction philosophy that recognizes drug and alcohol use and addiction as a part of tenants' lives, where tenants are engaged in nonjudgmental communication regarding drug and alcohol use, and where tenants are offered education regarding how to avoid risky behaviors and engage in safer practices, as well as connected to evidence-based treatment if the tenant so chooses.
- The project and specific apartment may include special physical features that accommodate disabilities, reduce harm, and promote health and community and independence among tenants.

EVIDENCE BASIS

The federal and State government recognize Housing First as an evidence-based practice. In fact, a settled and growing body of evidence demonstrates—

- Tenants accessing Housing First programs are able to move into housing faster than programs offering a more traditional approach.²
- Tenants using Housing First programs stay housed longer and more stably than other programs.³
- Over 90% of tenants accessing Housing First programs are able to retain housing stability.⁴
- In general, tenants using Housing First programs access services more often, have a greater sense of choice and autonomy, and are far less costly to public systems than tenants of other programs.⁵

² Gulcur, L., Stefancic, A., Shinn, M., Tsemberis, S., & Fishcer, S. Housing, Hospitalization, and Cost Outcomes for Homeless Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities Participating in Continuum of Care and Housing First programs. 2003.

³ Tsemberis, S. & Eisenberg, R. Pathways to Housing: Supported Housing for Street-Dwelling Homeless Individuals with Psychiatric Disabilities. 2000.

⁴ Montgomery, A.E., Hill, L., Kane, V., & Culhane, D. Housing Chronically Homeless Veterans: Evaluating the Efficacy of a Housing First Approach to HUD-VASH. 2013.

⁵ Tsemberis, S., Gulcur, L., & Nakae, M. Housing First, Consumer Choice, and Harm Reduction for Homeless Individuals with a Dual Diagnosis. 2004; Perlman, J. & Parvensky, J. Denver Housing First Collaborative: Cost Benefit Analysis and Program Outcomes Report. 2006.

No. _____



Filed _____

By _____

Board Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

RESOLUTION
OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE

November 2022 Homelessness Awareness Month in Tuolumne County

- WHEREAS,** the month of November is recognized as Homelessness Awareness Month in the United States; and
- WHEREAS,** the purpose of the proclamation is to educate the public and advocate with and on behalf of people experiencing homelessness about the many reasons people are homeless, including the shortage of affordable housing in Tuolumne County; and to encourage support for homeless assistance service providers as well as community service opportunities; and
- WHEREAS,** the Tuolumne County Commission on Homelessness, an advisory group to the Board of Supervisors, desires to increase awareness in the community about homelessness and the system of care that is being developed to engage homeless community members on a pathway to permanent housing; and
- WHEREAS,** the staff of the Tuolumne County Health & Human Services Agency, to include Social Services, Behavioral Health and Public Health, work professionally, compassionately, and with expertise to bring support and resources to those who are homeless and at risk of homelessness with a concerted effort for placement in permanent housing; and
- WHEREAS,** the many organizations in Tuolumne County committed to sheltering, providing supportive services, and/or basic resources to people experiencing homelessness, are essential to the overall homelessness system of care; and
- WHEREAS,** the recognition in Tuolumne County that homelessness and risk of homelessness is a serious problem for many individuals and families in Tuolumne County; and
- WHEREAS,** the January 2022 Point in Time homeless count identified 266 unhoused individuals in Tuolumne County to include 98 who are chronically homeless, 54 who have a mental illness, 36 with a substance use disorder, and 15 who are veterans, 169 people who became homeless while living in Tuolumne County and 24 people who became homeless while living in other counties; and
- WHEREAS,** the number of Cal Fresh recipients in Tuolumne County as identified by Health & Human Services Agency identifies over 500 individuals without a home address; and
- WHEREAS,** the Homeless Management Information System has recorded that, YTD 2022, 92 individuals moved to HUD defined permanent housing while 92 others remain in transitional housing; and
- WHEREAS,** the National Coalition for the Homeless reports that 37.2 million Americans live below the poverty level, 580 thousand Americans are homeless on a typical night, 44 million Americans are at risk of suffering from hunger, 1 out of 6 children in the United States live in poverty; and
- WHEREAS,** the U.S. Conference of Mayors reports that top causes of homelessness among families were lack of affordable housing, unemployment, poverty, and low wages. The same report states that the top four causes of homelessness among unaccompanied individuals were lack of affordable housing, unemployment, poverty, mental illness and the lack of needed services, and substance abuse and the lack of needed services.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims November 2022 as Homeless Awareness Month.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors encourages all residents to recognize that hundreds of people in Tuolumne County do not have housing or are vulnerable to homelessness and need support from county, city and tribal governments, both public and private service entities, and citizens to address the many challenges of homelessness.

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE ON _____.

AYES: 1st Dist. _____
2nd Dist. _____
3rd Dist. _____
4th Dist. _____
5th Dist. _____

NOES: _____ Dist.
_____ Dist.
ABSENT: _____ Dist.
_____ Dist.
ABSTAIN: _____ Dist.

CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST: _____

No. _____

Board Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

HELPFUL HINTS FOR HELPING THE HOMELESS

Homelessness is a significant barrier to success for many in Tuolumne County. Homelessness is a community problem and solutions to homelessness will come from the community. Many people in Tuolumne County have a desire to help—the list below is intended to support those who want to make a difference.

1. Understand that there are many paths to homelessness and that not everyone experiencing homelessness is addicted to drugs and alcohol.

- Substance abuse can be both a cause and a result of homelessness, but a common stereotype of the homeless population is that they are all alcoholics or drug abusers. Substance abuse often arises after people lose their housing. And losing housing can come in a variety of ways:
- A costly car repair can lead someone to unemployment and ultimately eviction.
- A divorce can lead someone to being unsheltered.
- A medical emergency and lack of familial support can lead someone to homelessness.
- An unpaid utility bill can break a lease agreement and be a boot to the streets.

Most people will never know what it is like to try to survive without housing. Homeless persons and the people who assist them list the following as just some of the realities:

- The constant search for temporary shelter
- Inadequate food & nutrition
- Shortage of appropriate clothing
- Sexual victimization
- Harassment and physical assault
- Inadequate medical services
- Negative self-esteem
- Social isolation
- Development of mental health and/or substance abuse problems
- Poor prospects for employment and appropriate permanent housing
- Harassment

2. Get connected with community service providers and figure out how you can volunteer, donate goods, or give financial support.

Who knows the facts, figures and people experiencing homelessness better than the organizations who are already serving the homeless community? There may be “behind the scenes” information that you are not aware of. Which aspect of homelessness speaks to you the most? Align yourself with an organization who tackles that specifically and be a part of a long-term change. Partner with organizations whose sole mission is to provide support services aimed at making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Some of these agencies in Tuolumne County are:

- Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency www.atcaa.org
- Central Sierra Continuum of Care www.centralsierracoc.org
- Give Someone a Chance www.givesomeoneachancetc.org
- Habitat for Humanity www.habitattuolumne.org
- Interfaith Community Social Services www.interfaithsonora.com
- Lighthouse Ministries www.newlifelighthouse.org
- Nancy's Hope www.nancyshope.org
- Refuge Recovery www.facebook.com/TheRefuge2020/
- Resiliency Village www.resiliencyvillage.org
- Tuolumne County Health & Human Services Agency www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/219/Health-Human-Services

3. Don't avoid eye-contact when you encounter a person experiencing homelessness but rather, say hello and if appropriate, introduce yourself and enter into conversation.

Often, homelessness leads a person to experience chronic isolation. The long-term absence of social contact and loneliness morphs into a type of toxic stress which only leads to increased risk for unhealthy outlets. Most people experiencing homelessness are seen as “invisible” and avoided by the public. This type of social response takes a toll on mental health. No one deserves to be treated as if they are invisible. When appropriate, and possible, build relationship and rapport—just this little interaction will help them to feel “visible”. With so many individuals having a lack of community, or healthy community at that, your sincerity is invaluable.

4. Don't expect someone else to do what you can do.

We often assume that somebody will take action but more times than not, nobody does, so nothing gets done. Use your resources and privileges to strengthen your community by being solution driven. It's important to look at what part you can play in ending homelessness.

- If you are a landlord, can you have forgiveness for eviction history and help someone secure housing?
- If you are a business owner, can you provide an opportunity for financial gain that can help someone out of homelessness?
- If you are a banker, can you offer forgiveness accounts so someone with poor credit history can open a bank account?
- If you are a community member, can you learn about your community and resources to help be an agent of change?

It takes a community to help the community.

5. Refer your homeless neighbors to Tuolumne County Health & Human Services Agency.

Tuolumne County Health & Human Services Agency has Integrated Case Workers who will help those who are homeless or vulnerable to homelessness to determine if they are eligible for public assistance benefits in the areas of Social Services, Behavioral Health and Public Health. Health & Human Services will also provide support in connecting people to employment and related services. The Community Roots resource hotline can be reached at (209) 533-5719.

6. Involve Law Enforcement when necessary.

If you witness a dangerous situation or are in danger personally, call 911. If you need to contact law enforcement for something that is not an emergency call Sonora Police Department at (209) 532-8143 for needs inside Sonora City limits or Tuolumne County Sheriff (209) 533-5815 for needs outside of city limits.

7. Get Informed.

Housing & homelessness is complicated, and solutions are not easy. There are many resourcing agencies who have informative online content. Spend some time reading, watching, discussing, and considering how you can be an agent for social change. Start by connecting to some of the websites below.

Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week
Invisible People
National Association to End Homelessness
National Coalition for the Homeless
Urban Institute

www.hhweek.org
www.invisiblepeople.tv
www.endhomelessness.org
www.nationalhomeless.org
www.urban.org

Table 1

Content Calendar

**HELPFUL HINTS FOR
HELPING THE HOMELESS**

Understand that there are many paths to homelessness and that not everyone experiencing homelessness is addicted to drugs and alcohol

*Homelessness
Awareness Month*

[illegible]

**LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS HELPING
HOMELESSNESS**

AMSTERDAM COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY

GIVE SOMEONE A CHANCE

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY TUDICAL

ALLENDALE COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES

LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES

MAN'S WAY

PEOPLE'S CHOICE

65th STREET VILLAGE

YOU
HAVE THE
POWER TO
HELP.

VOLUNTEER DAY
SATURDAY, VOLUNTEERS ONLY, 10:00 AM
WAC 335 EDUCATION

HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH EVENTS

NOV
5

STUFF THE BUS

Sat, 9a-4p | Sonora Walmart

NOV
10

COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS MEETING

Thurs, 5:30pm | 255 Green St., 4th Floor

NOV
12

VOLUNTEER DAY

Sat, 9am-12pm | Various Locations

NOV
16

WATCH PARTY

Weds, 7pm | Wherever You Are

Homelessness
Awareness Month



Saturday, November 5th, 9 AM – 4 PM
Sonora Wal-Mart

Winter brings challenges for those without adequate shelter and clothing. The “Stuff the Bus” project allows our community to support people in need by providing the necessities for comfort and survival.

Please consider donating the following:

Jackets * Sweaters * Rubber boots * Gloves
Hats and beanies * Leggings * Warm socks * Long Johns
Tarps * Blankets * Sleeping bags * Sleeping pads * Tents
Hand warmers * Personal hygiene items
Flashlights * Batteries * Propane canisters

Sponsored by:

Resiliency Village, Nancy's Hope, Lambert Center, Interfaith
Chicken Ranch Rancheria

Call (209) 352-7763 for more information



Tuolumne County Public Health Department Care Coordination Services - Tuolumne

Core LICN Team and Key Partners

Project Team:

- Lisa Hieb-Stock, Deputy Direct, Grants Manager lhieb@co.tuolumne.ca.us
- Laurie Britt, Health Program Technician, Mobile van coordinator and Information Hub creator lbritt@co.tuolumne.ca.us
- Kimberly Freeman, Health Officer, Provider and evaluator
- Behavioral Health Specialist, Care Coordinator
- Nurse Practitioner, Mobile Van Provider

Key Partners/Community Stakeholders:

- Adventist Health Sonora
- Amador-Tuolumne Action Agency
- Behavioral Health
- Center for a Non-Violent Community
- Give Someone A Chance
- Mathieson Memorial Health Center
- Resiliency Village
- Social Services
- Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools

Project Aim Statement

Purpose statement:

Tuolumne County aims to improve the health outcomes of the target population, improve the availability and accessibility to health care, behavioral health care, including crisis response, and support services for the community using 3 main methods.

1. The Mobile Van will provide services needed to improve health outcomes such as mental health telehealth and family planning/STI testing in areas that are remote and lack comprehensive services, as well as areas where those who may not otherwise access services congregate (such as homeless encampments).
2. Care Coordination services will be available to assess and link s behavioral health specialist/care coordinator with individuals who lack resources, whose needs are related to a complex/chronic health condition, and/or to provide follow up and coordination with the hospital and clinics.
3. Online Resource Hub will replace the current static list of community resources which continually updates with partner information accessible to all.

Project Tasks, Outputs, Deliverables, and Progress

Mobile Van: We are working on obtaining a mobile van that will be used to provide health and behavioral health services needed to improve health outcomes in areas that are remote and lack the comprehensive services found in urban areas of the county. These services will include family planning, STD testing, and counseling. Have been in discussion with three different companies to discuss the specs and obtain an agreement.

Resource Hub: Creation of an online resource hub that is continually updated and accessible to all in the community. We have collected multiple partner agency resource guides and are compiling the data to create one massive resource guide. We have utilized air table for programs to update their specific information. We are looking into a website to build out the information hub using the current programmatic data we have obtained.

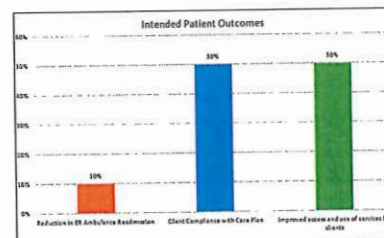
Care Coordination: We intend to assess and link individuals to care for those lacking resources, whose needs are related to complex/chronic health conditions, and/or to provide follow-up and coordination with the hospital and clinics. Have met with our behavioral health partners and they have a plan for staff once the mobile van is purchased and ready to deploy.

Project Measures and/or Stories of Impact

Once the mobile van is purchased and received, and our Care Coordination is established, we anticipate to gradually increase our individuals served, as reflected below:

	First 6 months	Remainder of Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Grand Total
Care Coordination					
Care Coordination Services	0	60	100	125	275
Interagency Council	3	6	12	15	36
Online Resource Hub	Building Capacity	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Mobile Van					
Telehealth Appointments	0	25	100	125	250
Health/Behavioral Health Screenings	0	50	200	300	550
Support Services	0	50	250	350	650
Health Navigation	0	25	50	100	205

Data pending, but anticipated outcomes are reflected below:



Challenges and Proposed Solutions

Purchasing a Van: purchasing a mobile unit has been a challenge due to limited space in our desired vehicle size. Additionally, the features we will need in the mobile unit have greatly exceeded our estimated van costs. We are currently looking to do a piece-meal solution where we have the bare necessities for our mobile unit, and then add-on features separately to keep costs within our budget.

Recruiting a Nurse Practitioner (NP) or Advance Care Practitioner (ACP): we have reached out to sister agencies to see if there is an interested applicant and barring progress on that front, will contract out for a NP or ACP.

Next Steps and Questions We Are Exploring

- Purchase a mobile van
- Hire a Nurse Practitioner or Advance Care Practitioner
- Set Interagency Council meetings for the next 6 months
- Purchase and create a website for the information hub

Questions to fellow grantees:

- Is there an appointment and billing system that people are using that is affordable and easy to use?
- Is there some sort of certification or designation/license needed in order to perform mental health services on mobile clinics?