



Tuolumne County Commission on Homelessness (Minutes of the Meeting on November 10, 2022)

<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	✓	A	
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								✓	✓	✓	E	
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

* Deb Esque attended for Tuolumne County Veteran Services

<u>Tuolumne County Staff in Attendance</u>	<u>Other Guests in Attendance</u>
Christina M. Cunha, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk of the Board	Amy Arndt, Department of Social Services
	Nicole Griswold, Department of Social Services
	Wittney Hawkins, Department of Social Services

I . CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Goldemberg called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

II. ROLL CALL

All Commissioners and staff introduced themselves. Christina Cunha confirmed a quorum was present. Dana Butow joined at 5:35 PM and Jennifer Salazer joined at 5:38 PM.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Sheriff Pooley made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 13, 2022. Commissioner Barsetti seconded the motion. The minutes of October 13, 2022 meeting were approved with Commissioner Merrill abstaining.

There was no public comment.

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.

There was no public comment.

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

Commissioner Muniz provided an update on the Homelessness Awareness Month activities, including the "Stuff the Bus", "Volunteer Day", and "Video Watch Party". She noted how pleased she is with how the campaign is going and thanked all involved. Commissioner Muniz announced that all of the activity information has been placed on the County website on the "Virtual Bulletin Board @"<https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1505/Homeless-Services-Virtual-Bulletin-Board>.

Commission Butow encouraged everyone to sign-up through the link to the volunteer event. Commissioner Hatton stated that she has been encouraged by the conversations the campaign is generating. Commissioner Crosby noted seeing the "Volunteer Day" on mymotherlode.com. Further discussion ensued.

Public Comment:

Sophia Kaufman spoke about the social media campaign and volunteer information and how well it is going and encouraged all to voice their opinions.

Stan Harami spoke about a pallet shelter program in Oregon and noted he will share the information with staff.

A member of the public noted that Supervisor Haff had mentioned in the Board meeting that she would like to see the “Watch Party Video” on Access Tuolumne County.

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

Supervisor Goldemberg welcomed Amy Arndt, Nicole Griswold, and Wittney Hawkins from the Tuolumne County Health and Human Services Agency/Tuolumne County Department of Social Services to provide a presentation on California Department of Social Services Funding & County Programs Related to Housing & Homelessness. (see attached handout)

Amy Arndt introduced the presentation providing a brief overview of grant funding streams and common elements. She spoke of the Housing First approach and noted that the County of Tuolumne is looking through that lens with their programs

Nicole Griswold provided a summary of grant monies available and some of the specific criteria of the following: Bringing Families Home (for Child Welfare Services); CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP); Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP); Home Safe (APS). Nicole Griswold also responded to Commissioner Crosby’s question noting that the Department of Social Services collaborates with many agencies stating, “any and all”.

Nicole Griswold introduced Wittney Hawkins who is a Social Worker in Social Services specifically focused on the Homeless populations. She started in March and carries a very large caseload.

Witney Hawkins discussed the number of people they can help noting the importance of staying within grant funding guidelines. She stated the importance of stretching the money as far as possible to serve the most and most vulnerable, She also noted there is another social worker being hired to assist. She spoke of her work experiences and commitment to what she does and expressed that she is honored to help.

Amy Arndt provided further information regarding the timing of the money coming in and the need to move quickly to help. She noted none of the work could be done without the connections with all of the partners.

Commissioner Bors spoke of the funding differences between Social Services and ATCAA. He spoke of his connection with the Counties Consortium and noted that Tuolumne County is so much more engaged in combatting homelessness than other counties in the consortium.

Commissioner Such thanked them for their presentation.

Commissioner Merrill was happy to hear about more staff being hired. He spoke of a gap for individuals in need and the requirement to be clean and sober. He asked about rehabilitation services in Tuolumne County. It was noted that one of the homes does provide treatment. Several barriers to housing and services were discussed, specifically, Commissioner Hatton noted there are no detox facilities in Tuolumne County.

Commissioner Muniz provided her thanks to the staff for help.

Commissioner Barsetti asked what happens when the money is gone and noted that he believed that people will become homeless again. Amy Arndt noted that there are so many unknowns. They try to be prudent with hiring, and contracted programming and are always looking for new grants. The goal is to help individuals eventually live on their own and that might mean something different for each person and their needs.

Commissioner Butow noted her thanks and asked some specific questions regarding general fund vs. grant money from the state, who are the groups of people getting turned away from services and what types of housing do the staff think would be the most important for this population right now.

Amy Arndt noted that funding across the Health and Human Services Agency, including Behavioral Health and Public Health is from the State. Wittney Hawkins noted that people who live homelessly are always in survivor mode and housing is reserved for those people who are trying to work the program. They triage people and serve the most vulnerable. Wittney Hawkins noted that the best jumping-off point for housing people would be low-barrier housing options.

Commissioner Crosby provided thanks for their passion and caring and noted that housing is a difficult and complex issue.

Public Comment:

John Sullivan representing Give Someone A Chance (GSAC) and Lighthouse Ministries spoke of a success story involving Tuolumne County Department of Social Services.

Chris Kahn, Director of Refuse Recovery informed the group that he will be opening a new home for individuals 60 years and older. Also, they will be opening an alcohol & drug rehabilitation facility that will accept Medi-cal.

VII. SERVICE PROVIDER REPORTS & DISCUSSION

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

Dick Mitchel with GSAC reported that the engineering on the mobile laundry vehicle is almost complete and it will eventually travel around town with the shower bus.

John Sullivan reported that Lighthouse Ministries partnered with GSAC will be providing a Thanksgiving dinner at the red church next Wednesday.

Commissioner Muniz provided an update on the remodel at the Resiliency Village and noted their work with the Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians on their food waste recovery program to employ some of the residents, noted they are working with Mother Lode Job Training for job placements and are currently working on gathering information regarding a possible street outreach program. Commissioner Hatton explained a little about the food waste recovery program.

Jeanette Lambert, David Lambert Drop-in Center noted they are celebrating 25 years and that a Thanksgiving dinner will be provided at the center Monday. The center's new hours are 11 AM – 2 PM.

There was no public comment.

VIII. TCCOH MEMBER REPORTS & DISCUSSION

TCCOH Members reports and discussion in a “Round Table” format.

Commissioner Hatton announced a Narcan training scheduled for November 17, 2022, at 9 AM at St. Matthews Church.

Sheriff Pooley encouraged everyone to take a Narcan course.

Commissioner Bors announced the YES Partnership Auction taking place on December 9th, all the details are on the ATCAA website. He announced that ATCAA is sponsoring an adopt-a-family for the homeless shelter. Contact the shelter or ATCAA at 209.533.1397 for details. He expressed his gratitude and acknowledged Veterans.

Deb Esque was present for Kris Albrecht and reported on a grant opportunity for chronic homeless veterans through CalVets. She also noted there are funds available for homeless veterans 55 and older and for their widows, contact the Veterans Service Office.

Commissioner Merrill noted that the downtown homeless shelter needs outdoor furniture. He also noted that he is in the early stages of working with the Resiliency Village on a clean-up project in the City of Sonora.

Commissioner Barsetti noted the need for more mental health and drug services. He stated that the Housing First approach does not work and explained his experiences. A mobile van with boots on the ground is the way to go. Commissioner Hatton expressed her concern for Commissioner Barsetti's experiences with Housing First but noted it works for so many. Discussion ensued regarding Housing First opportunities. Also, Commissioner Bors noted that ATCAA is currently working with City of Sonora Policy Chief Vanderwiel on an outreach mobile van, and they have already hired an outreach officer for assistance.

Commissioner Butow stated she felt this was a very informative meeting and wished more people were present to hear the information. She noted she would like to see the information shared in this meeting out in the community.

Commissioner Crosby asked if anyone was aware of involvement in the CAREs Act. He reported on the housing collaborative meeting he attended today and noted they are working to identify housing barriers and to help remove them where possible.

Commissioner Salazar shared her experiences being homeless along with a brief personal story and noted her hope to soon have permanent housing. She works with 1pileatatime and is seeing that some folks she would run into in the past, are now receiving help and housing. She noted that in her opinion Housing First is the way to go. Homelessness is causing addiction, not the other way around.

Supervisor Goldemberg commented on a good meeting.

Public Comment:

A member of the public noted that the MHSA Survey is available online and encouraged everyone to give feedback to Behavioral Health by filling out the survey.

Richard Hofmeister an architect who submitted for the feasibility study noted he is interested in helping this community professionally, but also personally noted family who had taken their own lives with drugs.

IX. FUTURE MEETING DATES & TIMES REMINDER
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Supervisor Goldemberg noted the next TCCoH meetings will be:

Thursday, December 8th at 9:00 AM; Thursday, January 12 @ 9 AM; Thursday, February 9 @ 5:30 PM, all in the Board of Supervisor Chambers.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Goldemberg adjourned the meeting at 7:34 PM.

OVERVIEW - CA Department of Social Services (CDSS) Homelessness Programs Provided through Tuolumne County Department of Social Services (TCDSS)

For the Tuolumne County Commission on Homelessness Meeting, 11/10/2022

- **Bringing Families Home (for Child Welfare Services)**
 - o \$250,000 FY 21-22 one-time allocation funds must be expended by June 30, 2024.
 - o \$250,000 FY 22-23 one-time allocation funds must be expended by June 30, 2025.
 - o BFH offers housing stabilization and navigation, and housing-related case management and direct financial assistance to individuals/families who are
 - 1. receiving child welfare services;
 - 2. experiencing or at risk of homelessness, or in a living situation that cannot accommodate the child or multiple children in the home; and
 - 3. voluntarily agree to participate in the program.
 - o Use BFH funds to provide rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, connections to housing choice vouchers for families in the child welfare system.
 - 1. Financial Assistance: Rental assistance, security deposits, utility payments, moving costs, interim housing including hotel and motel vouchers
 - 2. Supportive services: Including but not limited to landlord recruitment, case management, housing outreach and placement, legal services, and credit repair.
- **CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP)**
 - o \$602,337 FY 21-22 one-time + ongoing allocation funds must be expended by June 30, 2024.
 - o \$602,337 FY 22-23 one-time + ongoing allocation funds must be expended by June 30, 2025.
 - o HSP offers housing assistance and case management for CalWORKs recipients (i.e. eligible families with child(ren) living in the household) who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and for whom housing instability would be a barrier to self-sufficiency or child well-being.
 - 1. Financial Assistance: Rental assistance security deposits, utility payments, moving costs, interim housing including hotel and motel vouchers
 - 2. Supportive services: Including but not limited to landlord recruitment, case management, housing outreach and placement, legal services, and credit repair.
- **Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP)**
 - o \$291,666 FY 21-22 one-time allocation funds must be expended by June 30, 2024.
 - o \$291,666 FY 22-23 one-time allocation funds must be expended by June 30, 2025.
 - o HDAP offers outreach, disability benefit application assistance, case management, advocacy, and housing assistance for individuals, youth, and families who are likely eligible for disability benefits and are experiencing or at risk of homelessness.
 - o Use HDAP to provide interim housing, rental assistance, housing navigation, case management, security deposits, utility payments, moving costs, legal services, and credit repair.
- **Home Safe (APS)**
 - o \$250,000 FY 21-22 one-time allocation funds must be expended by June 30, 2024.
 - o \$250,000 FY 22-23 one-time allocation funds must be expended by June 30, 2025.

- Home Safe program should be integrated into local efforts to prevent and end homelessness among older adults or people with disabilities and can complement efforts by serving Adult Protective Services (APS) clients who are experiencing homelessness or at imminent risk of homelessness as a result of elder or dependent abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation, as determined by the APS agency.
 - 1. Financial Assistance: Rental assistance, utility payments, moving costs, deep cleaning to maintain safe housing
 - 2. Supportive Services: Housing-related intensive case management, eviction prevention, landlord mediation.

Common elements of all CDSS Funded Programs:

- Services are voluntary.
- Follow Housing First requirements (WIC section 8255, CDSS ACL 19-114).
 - *As described by the National Alliance to End Homelessness, Housing First counters the traditional concept of “housing readiness”, which required people experiencing homelessness to address certain barriers, including behavioral health or substance-use issues, or to “graduate” through a series of services and programs, before being provided access to housing.*
 - *Instead of requiring people to stabilize before receiving housing, programs using a Housing First approach focus on helping people achieve housing stability before addressing other barriers that may exist.*
 - *Housing First-oriented programs are low or no barrier and client-centered, emphasizing client-choice. Housing is not viewed as a reward or incentive for achieving specific goals or participating in a specific program, but as necessary to help a family or individual stabilize and meaningfully access services, which are offered as needed on a voluntary basis.*
 - *In practice, this means that programs connect participants to permanent housing as quickly as possible with few to no preconditions, behavioral contingencies, or other barriers at enrollment or throughout the program.*
- Maximize spending on direct financial assistance and minimize administrative costs in order to ensure that all participants are provided housing assistance, advocacy, and supports.
- Follow evidence-based practices in homeless assistance and homelessness prevention
- Actively collaborate with local, state, and federal housing, homelessness, and health systems in order to make best use of available funding and link participants to necessary services.
- Collect, track, report, and measure relevant program outcomes and engage in continuous data quality improvement.
- Engage in training and technical assistance opportunities provided by CDSS.

Sources:

- *Notice of Fiscal Year 2022-23 Funding for the CalWORKs Housing Support Program, Bringing Families Home Program, Housing and Disability Advocacy Program, and Home Safe Program. California Department Of Social Services All County Welfare Directors Letter dated September 21, 2022.* https://www.cdss.ca.gov/Portals/9/Additional-Resources/Letters-and-Notices/ACWDL/2022/CL_9-21-22.pdf?ver=2022-09-22-131935-623
- *Putting the Funding Pieces Together: Guide to Strategic Uses of New and Recent State and Federal Funds to Prevent and End Homelessness. CA Business, Consumer Services & Housing Agency – Sept. 2021.* https://bcsh.ca.gov/calich/strategic_spending_guide.html