



**Tuolumne County Homelessness Committee
(Minutes of the Meeting on February 08, 2024)**

FINAL

<u>2024 TCHC Membership</u>													
Supervisor Anaiah Kirk - Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Colette Such, District 1 Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓
Shelley Muniz, District 2 Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dawn Lien, District 3 Rep.						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓
Stephanie Foster, District 4 Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	V	V	V	✓
Jeanette Lambert, District 5 Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	A
Joe Bors, ATCAA	✓	A	E	E	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	E	✓	✓
Andy Merrill, City of Sonora Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
LeeAnn Hatton, Rep. Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Darla Merlin, Rep. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians	✓	A	✓	E	✓	A	E	A	A	A	A	E	A
Thomas Crosby, Rep. Tuolumne County Business Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cathie Peacock, Interfaith	E	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓
Jennifer Salazar, Lived Experience	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓
<u>NON-VOTING ADVISORS REP.</u>													
Tuolumne County Sheriff	A	E	✓	✓	E	✓	A	A	✓	✓	A		
Tuolumne County District Attorney's Office		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

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

13 Committee Members = 7 Quorum

<u>Tuolumne County Staff in Attendance</u>	<u>Other Guests in Attendance</u>
Michael Roberson, Homeless Services Coordinator	
Tanya Bruchacek, Executive Clerk	

I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Kirk called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Cathie Peacock and Jennifer Salazar arrived at 5:32 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

All Committee Members and staff introduced themselves. Tanya Bruchacek confirmed a quorum was present.

III. APPROVAL OF 01/11/2024 MEETING MINUTES

Joe Bors motioned to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2024 meeting. LeeAnn Hatton seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with a 10-3-1 vote with Supervisor Kirk abstaining and Andy Merrill, Darla Merlin and Jeannette Lambert absent. Andy Merrill arrived at 5:46 p.m.

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Nicki Hyske introduced herself as the Shelter Service Coordinator for the Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency (ATCAA).

Annie Hockett introduced herself as the new Director of the Health and Human Services Agency.

Robert Smith introduced himself as the Social Services Supervisor.

Cathie Peacock, Interfaith Director provided comment regarding the Senior Center requesting assistance from the City of Sonora and County of Tuolumne regarding “no overnight camping” signage.

Leann Hatton provided comment on educating the community.

Member of the public provided comment on the staff report in the January 11, 2024 minutes.

Jennifer Salazar provided comments remembering the unhoused who have died in our community.

V. TUOLUMNE COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES STAFF REPORT

Michael Roberson, Homeless Services Coordinator provided a report on the status of the site management job descriptions for the navigation center. Escrow has closed on the following properties: Snell, Columbia Way, and Highway 108. The next phase will be contractors submitting their interest and qualifications, scope of work, and that Veteran’s housing will take the longest.

Annie Hockett, Health and Human Service Director provided comment that they are hoping to see the site management job description within 60 days and the site management includes the use of relief positions.

Committee Members provided comments and questions.

VI. HOMELESS SERVICES PRIORITIES WORKGROUPS REPORTS

Michael Roberson, Homeless Services Coordinator provided a report on the work group model, the groups will bring recommendations to the Homelessness Committee and the recommendations will then be brought to the Board of Supervisors.

Landlord Education and Engagement: Tom Crosby provided an update addressing the housing voucher programs available through Housing Choice, mainstream vouchers and the Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority. He addressed supply and demand of housing and vouchers causing a waitlist, mechanics of programs, expanding the workgroup team and outreach and education to potential landlords.

Medical Respite: Guest Chris Kahn from Refuge Recovery collaborating with Anthem and HealthNet to provide medical services will be at the next workgroup. Dawn Lien shared that she is already seeing success with an unhoused individual being placed post-operative through Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency (ATCAA).

Safe Camping: The county-owned property known as the Sanguinetti loop is being considered for the unhoused parking|camping location and has a \$125,000.00 allotment. This water and sewer infrastructure, low-barrier location intends to provide spaces for RV, passenger vehicles and tents with the intent to guide people to available services and a pathway to better health. Instead of safe camping, committee members recommended alternative names such as legal camping or sanctioned camping.

Encampments Sanitation and Fire Abatement: Deborah Reagan Tuolumne County Solid Waste Director, Jason Revord from onepileatatime, the manager from Walmart and additional community members have been invited to join the conversation.

Transitional Age Youth Housing: LeeAnn Hatton has invited members of the community to partner with the work group.

Committee members provided comments and questions.

Member of the public provided a comment in the form of a question regarding pets at the safe camping site.

Member of the public provided a comment regarding landlord education, matching house-sharing clients to include SSI and SDI recipients should the waitlist for housing vouchers be extensive and support for weekly social services resource visits to the parking site.

Member of the public provided comment on the stigma of the homeless individual when medical emergencies and lack of affordable housing contribute to the unhoused community including the elderly and support of landlord and community education

Member of the public provided comment on data suggesting that it is rare for the unhoused to migrate and that in the rare case that they do they are in search of employment in addition to housing.

Member of the public provided comment on the structure of the work-group, public participation, and retrieving information on work-group discussions.

VII. FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TIMES

- Thursday, March 14, @ 9 a.m. – Cancelled
- Thursday, April 11, @ 9 a.m. – Board of Supervisors Conference Room
- Thursday, May 9, @ 5:30 p.m. – Board of Supervisors Conference Room
Public Comment (limited to three minutes per person)

Michael Roberson provided comment that Supervisor Goldemberg would be out of town and at this time it seemed prudent to cancel for March.

Supervisor Kirk extended his appreciation to the committee and the extensive work that each member brings to the committee and community.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Kirk adjourned the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

January 2024 Monthly Report



TUOLUMNE COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES

Engaging the unsheltered on a path to permanent housing

Progress and development of Homeless Services initiatives

Submitted by Michael Roberson, Coordinator

Advocacy

- Appointed to the governance board for the Central Sierra Continuum of Care
- Participated in the annual Point in Time Count in Tuolumne County
- Reengaged with ChangeWell, a consultant for the California Department of Social Services, to help with identifying service gaps and funding sources for both current and future services

Collaboration

- HHSA meetings regarding housing initiatives and service delivery
- Participated in the formation of job descriptions for residential site manager/aids
- Housing Pathways meeting organized by Chicken Ranch leadership to discuss homeless services housing development with other housing providers to build partnership and eliminate redundant efforts
- Tuolumne County transit leadership on transportation needs for housing initiatives program participants
- Social Services Consortia meeting to network with and learn from other service providers

Community Engagement

- Monthly meeting with the Navigation Center Community Advisory Team (residents of Willow Springs, Sonora Vista and Soulsbyville School staff) to discuss concerns and impacts of the Navigation Center in the Soulsbyville area

Grants

- Administration of Encampment Resolution Funds and the creation of reporting mechanisms through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Participate in regular meetings/discussions on Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Round-5 grant application
- Researching grant funds for Veteran's Housing

Homelessness Committee

- Establish 2024 Homeless Services Priorities for Board approval
- Development of Work Groups to drive various Homeless Services priorities to include Landlord Education & Engagement, Medical Respite, Safe Camping (moving forward in response to BOS direction), Sanitation & Fire Abatement in Encampments & Transitional Age Youth Housing

Housing Acquisition & Development

- Complete pest, roof and home inspections on new housing acquisitions
- Closed escrow on Columbia Way, Snell Street, Highway 108 properties
- Developed and released Request for Qualifications for Architectural Services
- Playground development, permitting and contract for Navigation Center

Lived Experience

- Hosted monthly “Lunch Bunch” with homeless community members to seek input on 2024 Homeless Services Priorities



TUOLUMNE COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES

Engaging the unsheltered on a path to permanent housing

PRIORITY PROJECTS 2024

On December 14, 2023, The Tuolumne County Homelessness Committee approved the following priorities list, in priority order, as the establishment of the committee work program for the year. These priorities were also discussed with a gathering of unhoused Tuolumne County residents for their input on January 11, 2024. The Board of Supervisors approved these priorities on February 6, 2024. The committee has established work groups comprised of committee members, County staff and community-based organizations to develop the program priorities prior to making final recommendations to the Board.

Life Skills Training

Development of day labor programs, job boards, internships, health, education, and vocational training programs for people who are unsheltered.

Transitional Age Youth Housing

Development and provision of supportive housing for Transitional Age Youth (TAY) ages 18-25 years old.

Medical Respite Housing

Post-surgical rehabilitation housing for the unhoused who need medical procedures that are currently being denied because of their housing status and lack of safe and healthy housing to heal in.

Safe Parking/Camping

Development of a safe parking/camping program that supports law enforcement efforts to restrict use of public lands for parking and camping by unhoused individuals consistent with the establishment of new County ordinances. This program would also include an outreach effort to engage individuals in services.

Landlord Education & Engagement

Private market landlords are critical partners in the work to help people quickly exit homelessness. Strong connections to landlords are even more important in high-cost, low-vacancy markets, where affordable housing options are limited and even those with a voucher may find themselves unable to locate a unit. Successful landlord partnerships are locally driven and involve ongoing engagement. No single approach is the answer, the unique needs and assets of each community must be considered. Partnership with Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency (ATCAA), Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority, Tuolumne County Association of Realtors, local property managers and landlords are essential in this effort. Core components should include a housing locator, a housing manager, a centralized housing hotline, housing search assistance, risk mitigation funds for landlords, mediators, subsidies for flexible funds, education classes and landlord recruitment events.

Homelessness Prevention

Identifying funding sources and program development to prevent homelessness for those who are vulnerable to homelessness.

Sanitation & Fire Abatement in Encampments

Providing sanitation, water, garbage and fire-safe services for encampments.

House Share Program

Development of matching system for available bedrooms in homes to connect homeowners and those in need of housing.

Distributive Housing

Continued development and implementation of distributive housing is a model that Tuolumne County currently uses through services provided by HHSA staff. Homes designated for specific purposes and distributed around the County could be used for Veteran's, women, families, recovery, recuperation, or support to those with a mental health diagnosis. Shared housing agreements and rent amounts would be structured fairly. For those who need personal, or housing supports, services would flow through HHSA and community-based service providers. In addition, active participation in a care plan would be required.