



Tuolumne County Homelessness Committee

Minutes of April 11, 2024 Meeting

APPROVED

<u>2024 TCHC Membership</u>	Feb 2023	Mar 9, 2023	Mar 20, 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Apr 2024
Supervisor David Goldemberg - 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	A
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	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Darla Merlin, Rep. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians	A	✓	E	✓	A	E	A	A	A	A	E	A	A
Thomas Crosby, Rep. Tuolumne County Business Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cathie Peacock, Interfaith	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	E
Jennifer Salazar, Lived Experience	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓
NON-VOTING ADVISORS REP.													
Tuolumne County Sheriff	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>Guests in Attendance</u>
Michael Roberson, Homeless Services Coordinator Robert Smith, DSS Unhoused Unit Supervisor	

I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Goldemberg called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

All Committee Members and staff introduced themselves. Michael Roberson confirmed a quorum was present.

III. APPROVAL OF 02/8/2024 MEETING MINUTES

Tom Crosby motioned to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2024, meeting. Andy Merrill seconded the motion.

There were no comments from the community.

The motion passed with unanimous approval of members Goldemberg, Such, Lien, Foster, Muniz, Hyske, Merrill, Crosby, and Salazar.

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Sheriff David Vasquez introduced himself and addressed the committee stating that he looks forward to partnership and support of the work of the committee.

V. TUOLUMNE COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES STAFF REPORT

Michael Roberson provided written reports for February 2024 and March 2024 related to his efforts as the Homeless Services coordinator for those months. Committee Members provided comments and questions.

Robert Smith, DSS Unhoused Unit Supervisor reported that updates of forms and process are underway. He further reported that the Navigation Center Site Resident Manager position is open, and applications are being received. He stated that the data dashboard has been updated and that temporary and permanent housing is being arranged for program participants. The FEMS trailers are being repaired and reconditioned for use in mobile home parks as transitional housing for clients.

Committee members Tom Crosby and Colette Such asked clarifying questions about the Navigation Center Resident Manager positions and qualifications. It was recommended that those interested look at the County website for more specific information about the requirements and scope of work.

Committee member Shelley Muniz asked for more information about the Sanctioned Camping program and communication to those who are homeless in our community. It was recommended that the conversation be postponed until later in the agenda/meeting.

There were no comments from the public.

VI. HOMELESS SERVICES PRIORITIES WORKGROUPS REPORTS

Landlord Education and Engagement: Tom Crosby & Michael Roberson reported out that because all housing vouchers are currently being utilized, the work group needs to reestablish direction and efforts.

Medical Respite: Stephanie Foster reported on Refuge Recovery efforts to operationalize a medical respite program in Tuolumne County through partnership with Anthem and Healthnet. The group hopes to have its doors open in mid-May.

Safe Camping: A report on this work group was deferred to later in the meeting.

Encampments Sanitation and Fire Abatement: Michael Roberson reported that through partnership with Deborah Regan, Solid Waste Director, the County was able to offer free dumping for a recent 1PileataTime initiative. Roberson also reported that the manager of Wal-Mart has agreed to provide trash bags for free for all community clean-up efforts.

Transitional Age Youth Housing: It was reported that Chicken Ranch Rancheria is acquiring a home to be used as housing for TAY who are homeless. Partnerships for services with community-based organizations are being developed.

Committee members and members of the public asked question regarding the development of the Medical Respite program.

VII. SANCTIONED CAMPING CONSIDERATION & RECOMMENDATION

Michael Roberson provided a draft memo addressed to the Board of Supervisors for presentation on April 16, 2024, for discussion by the Homelessness Committee related to a Sanctioned Camping program model and location.

Sheriff Vasquez stated that he is supportive of the initiative and location on Justice Center Drive and that through available funding, his department would be able to provide patrol and law enforcement at that site.

District Attorney Cassandra Jenecke expressed her support for this program and location.

Various Committee members expressed gratitude to the Sheriff for his engagement and support.

The committee agreed to add the need for program participants to secure, leash or crate their pets as a part of the program rules as well as change the cleaning days to just one time per month.

Committee member Shelley Muniz left at 10:30 a.m.

Community member Mary Ann Schmidt stated that she things this program is an important next step and that public involvement with program participants is necessary.

Representatives from the District Attorney's office and Sheriff Vasquez left the meeting at 11 a.m.

A motion to recommend the Justice Center Drive location and the program model with the additional participant rules to the Board of Supervisors was made by Andy Merrill and seconded by Nichole Hyske. The motion passed with unanimous approval of members Goldemberg, Such, Lien, Foster, Hyske, Merrill, Crosby, and Salazar.

VIII. CONSIDERATION & APPROVAL OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Because the Board of Supervisors members will all be at a conference on May 9, the Committee agreed to cancel the regular meeting on May 9 and call a special meeting on May 16 at 9 a.m.

The committee also discussed moving all future meetings to 9 a.m. as well as having open forum meetings in the evening as needed to better engage members of the community.

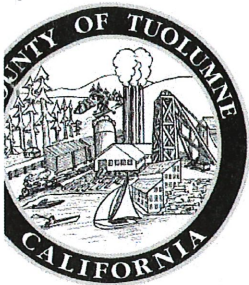
A motion to have all future meetings be at 9 a.m. was made by Tom Crosby and seconded by Andy Merrill. The motion passed with unanimous approval of members Goldemberg, Such, Lien, Foster, Hyske, Merrill, Crosby, and Salazar.

Future Meetings:

- ~~Thursday, May 9, @ 5:30 p.m. – Board of Supervisors Conference Room~~ Meeting Cancelled
- Thursday, May 16, @ 9 a.m. – Board of Supervisors Conference Room-Special Meeting
- Thursday, June 13, @ 9 a.m. – Board of Supervisors Conference Room
- Thursday, July 11, @ 9 a.m. – Board of Supervisors Conference Room

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Goldemberg adjourned the meeting at 11:19 a.m.



County Administration Office

Tracie M. Riggs
County Administrative Officer

April 11, 2024

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Michael Roberson, Homeless Services Coordinator
Annie Hockett, Health & Human Services Agency Director

Subject: **Consideration and direction on the Sanctioned Camping program model and location.**

Background

On December 13th, 2022, the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors approved nine Homeless Services Priority Projects, one of which is the development of a Safe Parking Program. The most recent Homeless Point in Time count from January of 2022 reports the number of unsheltered people in Tuolumne County to be 266. California Statewide Automated Welfare System data specifically related to Cal Fresh benefits for Tuolumne County shows over 800 people without a home address. As a result of Tuolumne County's shelter crisis and severe lack of affordable housing within the county, many people have resorted to living in their recreational vehicles, cars and tents which has created a variety of public health and safety issues. Under Board direction, County staff is developing ordinances to better support law enforcement efforts to move "campers" from public lands that are near or adjacent to critical infrastructure as well as temporarily close encampments for the purposes of cleaning & clearing the sites.

On December 19th, 2023, The Board of Supervisors gave direction to staff to pursue the development of a no-named Sanctioned Camping program that would include the following:

- Create a camping program that includes recreational vehicles, cars and tents all at one location
- The camping program should be developed as a pilot program
- Staff should seek to use County-owned property with priority on a parcel on Sanguinetti Road
- The site would be an open site with nighttime staffing
- The site should include sanitation, potable water and garbage service
- The site would be accessible 7 days a week

Multiple planning meetings with members of Tuolumne County Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA), Homeless Services, County Administration, Community Development, Tuolumne County Sheriff, Public Works, City of Sonora Manager, City of Sonora Chief of Police and the Board of Supervisor's policy advisory Homelessness Committee worked together to design a Sanctioned Camping program and operational model.

"We Support the Board of Supervisors in achieving their goals through service & collaboration with the County Departments and the Community"

Deliverables

Project Title	Description	Department(s)	Point Person(s)	Timeline/ Due Dates	Completed
Program Design	<i>Research & Development of Tuolumne County Safe Camping Programs</i>	HS Committee HHSA	Michael Roberson Work Group DSS Unhoused Unit	1/6/23, 1/19/23, 1/23/23, 6/7/23, 6/22/23, 8/29/23, 9/25/23, 1/5/24, 1/18/24, 2/2/24	✓
BOS Input & Direction	<i>Seeking input from BOS members on program development and essential elements</i>	County Counsel HS	Sarah Carrillo Michael Roberson	12/19/23	✓
Lived Experience Input	<i>Seeking input from those with Lived Experience</i>	HS Lunch Bunch	Michael Roberson	1/11/24	✓
Program Description	<i>Background, purpose & program information</i>	HS Committee HHSA	Michael Roberson Work Group DSS Unhoused Unit	2/2/24	✓
Participant Rules	<i>Expectations for all program participants</i>	HS Committee HHSA	Michael Roberson Work Group DSS Unhoused Unit	2/2/24	✓
Utilities Development	<i>Cost estimates for water & sewer construction and monthly service to include garbage</i>	HS TUD FM	Michael Roberson Antonia Ramirez Ed Hoad	2/5/24	✓
Program Services	<i>Program development, recruitment & schedule of HHSA & CBO's onsite services</i>	HHSA	Annie Hockett	2/9/24	✓
Site Development	<i>Scope of work & costing for grading, paving & striping</i>	HS PW FM	Michael Roberson Kim MacFarlane Ed Hoag	2/12/24	✓
Toilet Facilities	<i>Needs assessment, product identification and costing for toilet unit</i>	HS FM	Michael Roberson Ed Hoag	2/12/24	✓
Compliance	<i>Property use compliance</i>	HS CDD	Michael Roberson Brian Bell	2/15/24	✓
Lead Agencies Meeting	<i>In-person meeting with affected agencies</i>	CAO County Counsel County Counsel HHSA SO SO City of Sonora PD	Michael Roberson Sarah Carrillo Maria Sullivan Annie Hockett Neal Evans David Vasquez Melissa Eads Turu VanderWiel	2/29/24	✓
Community Outreach	<i>In-person meeting with adjacent neighbors and businesses</i>	BOS BOS HS HHSA	David Goldemberg Kathleen Haff Michael Roberson Annie Hockett	3/25/24	✓

Planning Meeting	<i>Discussion of ordinances & Sanctioned Camping</i>	CAO HS County Counsel County Counsel SO CDD CDD	Tracie Riggs Michael Roberson Sarah Carrillo Maria Sullivan David Vasquez Quincy Yaley Brian Bell	4/3/24	
CEQA	<i>Environmental review and/or requirements</i>	HS CDD CDD CDD	Michael Roberson Quincy Yaley Brian Bell Karen Gray	4/8/24	
Homelessness Committee Review	<i>Review, input and recommendation to BOS from Homelessness Committee</i>	HS Committee	Michael Roberson Committee Members	4/11/24	
BOS Presentation	<i>Presentation on program design, costs and funding</i>	HS HHSA	Michael Roberson Annie Hockett	4/16/24	

Purpose

The Sanctioned Camping Program will provide recreational vehicle, car and tent sites for individuals who are homeless to support enforcement of newly adopted local ordinances as well as to increase the health & safety of the entire community.

Program Information

- Accessible portable toilets, potable water, and garbage collection will be provided
- Both Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department and the Sonora Police Department will be given priority access/reserved spots
- The site will be open 7 days per week, 24 hours per day except for two mornings per week when the site must be vacated for cleaning
- A site manager, security firm or Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department will offer supervision or patrol oversight
- Tuolumne county HHSA Staff and community-based service providers will be on site daily on a rotating and scheduled basis, to offer services

Participant Rules

- Participants in the Sanctioned Camping Program will be encouraged to engage in services and to move toward more suitable housing and healthy lifestyle choices
- Camping in designated spots only
- Personal belongings must be contained in vehicles and tents
- Only personal and operable vehicles
- Construction of shelter space is not allowed
- Urinating and defecating in provided toilets only
- All garbage is to be placed in provided dumpsters
- The following are not allowed: weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol, violent verbal or physical acts, fires of any kind, loud music
- There is no charge to stay at the Sanctioned Camping site
- Only one domestic pet is allowed per program participant
- Pet care and facility clean-up are the sole responsibility of the owner

Stakeholder Input

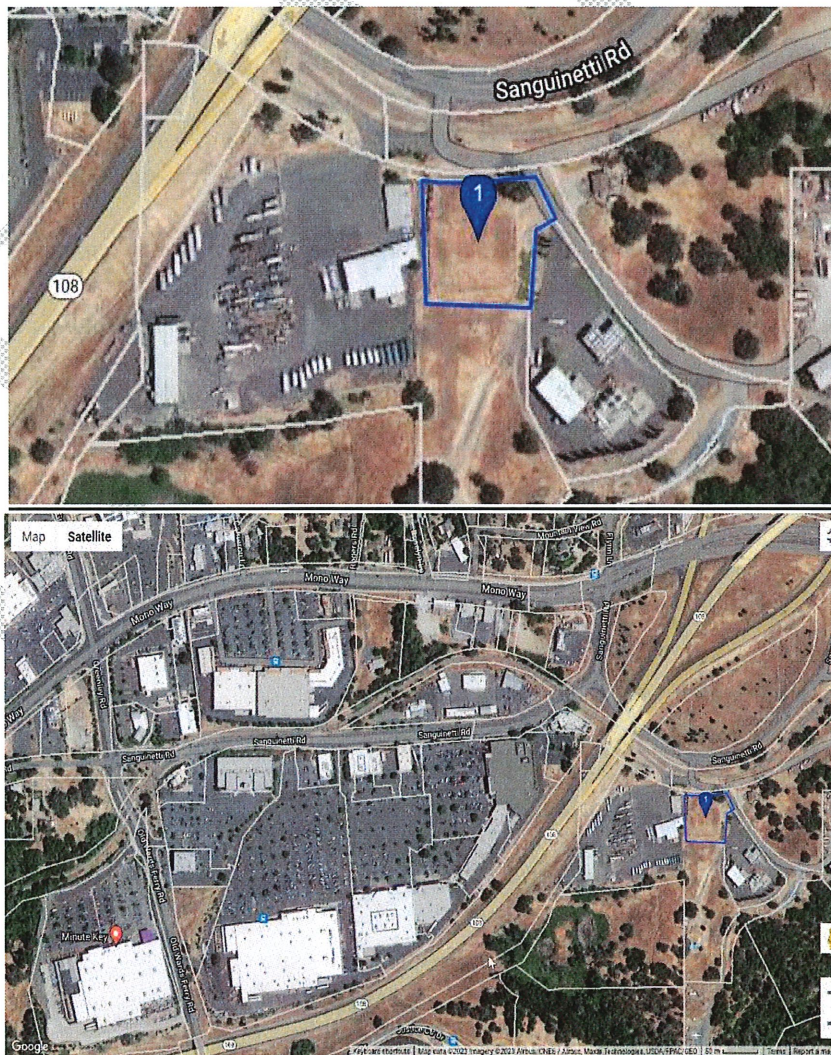
At the various stakeholder meetings, participants of the groups spoke to the program model. Suggestions & concerns were stated that were inconsistent with the Board direction to include County staff from Homeless Services, Community Development and the Sheriff's Office. Summaries of those considerations are listed below:

- Justice Center Drive is a better location
- Site management is expensive and would consume funding rapidly
- The Sheriff's Office has ideas on how to offer onsite patrol and enforcement
- The Sanctioned Camping program needs to be initiated for the health and safety of the entire community and not just to support enforcement of the new ordinances

Proposed Site Information

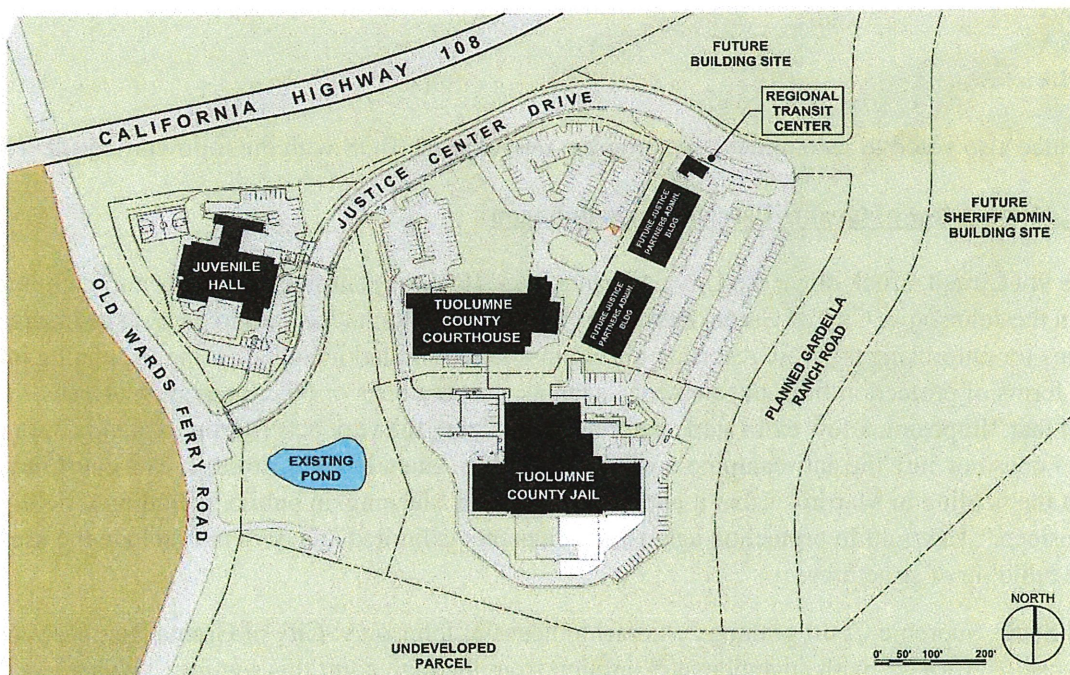
Sanguinetti Road:

- The proposed site is on County-owned property at 13051 Sanguinetti Road (APN 506-200-023-000).
- This property is .86 acres, fenced, gated and relatively flat.
- There is both water and sewer service available.
- The property is within walking distance of all relevant services.
- The property is outside both city limits and the sphere of influence.
- The property is adjacent to residential and commercial establishments who oppose the location.



Justice Center Drive:

- The proposed site is on County-owned property at Justice Center Drive (multiple parcels).
- The property is within walking distance of all relevant services.
- The property is outside both city limits and the sphere of influence.
- There is no adjacency to residential, commercial, tourism destinations or schools.
- The Sheriff is supportive of this location and is seeking ways to fund patrol and enforcement onsite.
- The property is outside both city limits and the sphere of influence.



TUOLUMNE COUNTY JUSTICE CAMPUS

Fiscal Impact

The County received \$125,000 as a part of the Encampment Resolutions Funds grant for the development of a Sanctioned Camping program. Homeless Services also has \$10,000 budgeted through the General Fund for inclement weather housing. An additional \$100,000 will be requested as a part of the Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Round 5 Competitive Grant application. Local service providers have been made aware of the need for funding to sustain this program. Both sites require approximately \$80,000 of site improvements to include grading and rocking.

Monthly operational costs are described as follows:

- Full-time site manager and relief costs are \$14,000 per month.
- Unarmed private security for 10 hours per day costs are \$13,500 per month.
- Provision and cleaning of portable toilets, hand washing stations and bottled water are \$1500 per month.

Model #1 Costs & Sustainability:

Based on a model with 10 hours per day of unarmed private security and basic provisions, sustainability for the program would be 3.6 months.

Model #2 Costs & Sustainability:

Based on a model with no on site management and Tuolumne County Sheriff's Office patrol and enforcement with basic provisions, sustainability for the program would be 36.6 months. The deadline for the expenditure of the grant funds is June 30, 2027.

Homelessness Committee Recommendation

On April 11, 2024 The Homelessness Committee reviewed the program model and site selection, and made the following suggestions:

- TBA
- TBA
- TBA

The Committee also voted to recommend this program model to the BOS with the following result: TBA

Supreme Court Review of Grants Pass v. Gloria Johnson

In 2022, the 9th Circuit struck down the City of Grants Pass' (Oregon) enforcement of its anti-camping ordinance in the Johnson v. City of Grants Pass case. The City of Grants Pass' anti-camping ordinance relied on civil citations for enforcement before resorting to criminal sanctions and included verbiage banning individuals from using forms of protection from the elements, such as sleeping bags or other bedding materials. The 9th Circuit held that "Imposing a few extra steps before criminalizing the very acts Martin explicitly says cannot be criminalized does not cure the anti-camping ordinances' Eighth Amendment infirmity." The court further iterated that the holding in Martin "is that it applies to the act of 'sleeping' in public, including articles necessary to facilitate sleep." The right to protection against the elements is limited and does not include the use of stoves, fires, or the building of structures.

The United States Supreme Court granted certiorari to hear the Johnson v. City of Grants Pass case and it will be heard the week of April 22, with an anticipated opinion from the high court this summer. We expect the Court will provide clarification regarding the various 9th Circuit appellate decisions limiting local jurisdictions efforts to enforce against hazards caused by homeless encampments.

Land Use/General Plan/CEQA Evaluation

Land Use/General Plan/CEQA evaluations on both properties are currently being conducted by the Tuolumne County Community Development Department staff.

Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors approve the Sanctioned Camping program model and give direction on location.

DRAFT

February 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

- Participation in the Central Sierra Continuum of Care Governance & Sustainability Committees
- Established next steps for a County staff conversation 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
- Presented the priorities of Homeless Services with Annie Hockett, Health & Human Services Agency Director, in an interview with Mother Lode Views.
- Hosted Volunteer Day at the Navigation Center
- Discussion with local church regarding possible volunteerism in Homeless Service projects

Collaboration

- Meetings with HHSA staff for discussion on operations and coordination of housing initiatives to include the Navigation Center Residential Site Manager job description and approval process (Job description was approved by Board of Supervisors on 2/27/24)
- Attended Public Health training on Adverse Childhood Experiences

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 that included onsite security, building development updates, and trespassing enforcement.

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

- Homelessness Committee & community stakeholders meeting to advance the development of a “Sanctioned Camping” program to seek input on program model, location, supervision and operations. Meetings with participating agencies and adjacent neighbors are forthcoming with a tentative presentation to the Homelessness Committee and the Board of Supervisors in April of 2024
- Homelessness Committee & community stakeholders meeting to advance the development of a “Transitional Age Youth” facility to include lead efforts by Chicken Ranch Rancheria with supporting roles by the County and other community-based service providers
- Homelessness Committee & community stakeholders meeting to advance the development of a “Medical Respite” program. The California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal (Cal AIM) through partnership with Healthnet and Anthem has contracted with Refuge Recovery to be a Community Support Provider that includes housing & housing navigation services, medical respite services and sober living support. Refuge Recovery hopes to be operational in the Spring of 2024 and plans to host an admission training for agencies who would make referrals.
- Homelessness Committee & community stakeholders meeting to advance the development of a “Sanitation & Fire Abatement in Encampments” program. With support from Supervisor Anaiah Kirk and Tuolumne County Solid Waste Director, Deborah Reagan, an agreement was discussed to allow for 1PileataTime and Jennifer Salazar to dispose of garbage collected from public lands at the local transfer station without fees. Solid Waste will continue to develop this process in support of local efforts to improve health & safety in Tuolumne County. Walmart has offered garbage bags, free of charge, and is exploring the possibility of donating fire extinguishers.

Housing Acquisition & Development

- Developed and released Request for Qualifications for Architectural & Construction Services for Columbia Way, Snell Street & Highway 108 properties, hosted a bid-walk, and posted the required Q & A
- Playground development, permitting and contract for Navigation Center

March 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

- Participation in the Central Sierra Continuum of Care Governance & Sustainability Committees
- Guest speaker at a Twain Harte Soroptimist meeting to discuss Tuolumne County Homeless Services system of care, their sponsorship of the Navigation Center and their future involvement in helping to set-up travel trailers with necessary items for HHSA clients
- Meetings with community members on Tuolumne County Homeless Services for education & engagement

Collaboration

- Meetings with HHSA staff for discussion on operations and coordination of housing initiatives to include the Navigation Center Residential Resident Manager job description and approval process (job description was posted for recruitment on 3/25/24)
- Participated in second round interviews for Director of Social Services

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 that included onsite security, building development updates, trespassing, and enforcement
- Participated and reported on Homeless Services at the Tuolumne County Social Services Consortia
- Organized and attended community meeting on the Parrotts Ferry Road Behavioral Health housing initiative
- Conducted tour of Navigation Center for members of Sierra Bible Church and received their 25 “care-kits” for Building #2 residents

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
- Research and discuss with capital projects team grant funds for Veteran’s Housing

Homelessness Committee

- Homelessness Committee & community stakeholders meeting to advance the development of a “Sanctioned Camping” program to seek input on program model, location, supervision and operations. Meetings with participating agencies and adjacent neighbors are forthcoming with a tentative presentation to the Homelessness Committee and the Board of Supervisors in April of 2024

Housing Acquisition & Development

- Conducted interviews with responders to the Housing Initiatives RFP for Architectural Design and Construction services for needed work on the Snell Street, Highway 108 and Columbia Way properties and presented proposed contract to hire 4Creeks Architectural Services to the Board of Supervisors on 2/27 which was approved
- Playground development, permitting and contract for Navigation Center