



Tuolumne County Homelessness Committee

Minutes of June 13, 2024, Meeting

FINAL

<u>2024 TCHC Membership</u>	Apr 2023	May 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	June 2024
Supervisor David Goldemberg - Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Colette Such, District 1 Rep.	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shelley Muniz, District 2 Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A
Dawn Lien, District 3 Rep.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Stephanie Foster, District 4 Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	V	V	V	✓	✓	A	✓
Jeanette Lambert, District 5 Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓
ATCAA	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	E
Andy Merrill, City of Sonora Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A
LeeAnn Hatton, Rep. Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓
Darla Merlin, Rep. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians	✓	A	E	A	A	A	A	E	A	A	✓	✓
Thomas Crosby, Rep. Tuolumne County Business Council	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cathie Peacock, Interfaith	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	E	E	V
Jennifer Salazar, Lived Experience	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NON-VOTING ADVISORS REP.												
Tuolumne County Sheriff	E	✓	A	A	✓	✓	A			✓	✓	✓
Tuolumne County District Attorney's Office	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	E	A

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 9:16 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. APPROVAL OF 05/16/2024 MEETING MINUTES

Member Colette Such requested a grammatical correction of the name 1pileatatime.

Tom Crosby motioned to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2024, meeting. Colette Such seconded the motion.

There were no comments from the community.

The motion passed.

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

A member of the public shared concern about water availability for those in the encampment adjacent to the Tuolumne County Justice Center.

V. TUOLUMNE COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES STAFF REPORT

Michael Roberson provided written reports for May 2024 related to his efforts as the Homeless Services coordinator for those months. Roberson provided a specific update on the Sanctioned Camping, the Navigation Center and his transition to Assistant Director of the newly formed General Services Agency.

Member LeeAnn Hatton suggested a “model campsite” be developed as an example for campers instead of having a move-out time for cleaning each week. Member Colette Such asked for clarification on how many people will be moved into the Navigation Center when it first opens and she suggested that the City of Sonora be considered as a part of the allocation for waste disposal under the pilot program that Solid Waste has initiated with 1pileatatime. Member Tom Crosby expressed emphasized that the leadership that the Homeless Services Coordinator had provided be sustained with the staff transition and under Annie Hockett’s leadership.

Committee member Stephanie Foster arrived at 9:32 a.m.

Committee member Merci Rust, representing Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians, arrived at 9:38 a.m.

Public comment included concerns about how the priority for law enforcement referrals at the Sanctioned Camping site will work, future budget for homeless services in light of County & State budget cuts, the solid waste partnerships with community-based organizations, and who is responsible for services if community-based organizations should stop providing their services.

VI. HOMELESS SERVICES PRIORITIES WORKGROUPS REPORTS

Landlord Education and Engagement: Tom Crosby & Michael Roberson reported out that they has a meeting with a local property manager and the president of the Tuolumne County Association of Realtors to discuss what steps could be taken to develop a process for homeowners/landlords to rent out individual rooms as a house-share agreement instead of renting the house to one person/family only. It was explained that the group is working to develop a type of resource packet for both landlords and renters.

Encampments Sanitation and Fire Abatement: Michael Roberson reported that Deborah Regan, Solid Waste Director, is working for approval to allow Compassion Outreach to dispose of trash picket up form public lands to be dumped without charge. Member Salazar reported that the manager of Wal-Mart has not been available to discuss his offer of garbage bags and fire extinguishers. Roberson stated that he would follow-up.

Life Skills: Michael Roberson reported that the work group met to discuss who should be added to the work group as contributors to the development of a resource list of services for the unhoused.

Committee members and members of the public asked question regarding the development of these programs.

VII. FORMATION OF LIFESKILLS WORKGRORUP

Undersheriff Neal Evans reported that an application for the Proposition 47 Diversion grant was submitted in collaboration with the District Attorney. The grant focusses on vocational programs for those who are justice involved but not incarcerated and will involve several agency within the Tuolumne County Government. Michael Roberson reported that the Homelessness Committee will be given opportunity as a community stakeholder group to interact with Sherriff David Vasquez at future Homelessness Committee meetings.

Members of the committee asked clarifying questions.

There were no public comments.

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

Supervisor Goldemberg reviewed the schedule of future meetings and stated that there is a possibility of future meetings being relocated to the committee meeting room that is being developed in the Francisco building.

- Thursday, July 11, @ 9 a.m. – Board of Supervisors Conference Room
- Thursday, August 8, @ 9 a.m. – Board of Supervisors Conference Room
- Thursday, September 12, @ 9 a.m. – Board of Supervisors Conference Room

There were no public comments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Goldemberg adjourned the meeting at 10:22 a.m.

May 2024 Monthly Report

Submitted by
Michael Roberson, Homeless Services Coordinator



The following is a status update of Homeless Services initiatives that have been directed and/or approved by the Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors. The report covers a time period from March 2022 to the present. Every initiative has been a collaborative effort from multiple County departments and staff members.



Represents an initiative that is completed and may be on-going.

Priority & Summary	Status
Homeless Management Information System A Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals and families and persons at risk of homelessness	
Coordinated Entry The Coordinated Entry System (CES) is a Continuum of Care (CoC) established system-wide process to quickly and equitably coordinate the Housing & Urban Development (HUD) requirements of access, assessment, prioritization and referrals to housing and services for people experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness.	
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. The Refuge Recovery in partnership with Healthnet and Anthem have recently opened a supportive housing recuperative care program.	
Distributive Housing 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. Currently, the county has housing programs in Sonora, Soulsbyville, Jamestown & Columbia.	
Homeless Services Data Dashboard Through collaboration of HHSA and GIS staff, a data dashboard has been developed to show referral information, supportive service for both transitional and permanent housing as well as other social service needs. The dashboard can be found at https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1505/Homeless-Services-Virtual-Bulletin-Board .	

Homeless Services Virtual Bulletin Board A virtual bulletin board has been developed to offer the community information on local, state and nation-wide efforts to reduce homelessness as well as some information specific to Tuolumne County Homeless housing initiatives. The bulletin board can be found at https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/1505/Homeless-Services-Virtual-Bulletin-Board.	
Community Advisory Teams In neighborhoods where housing initiatives are being developed, advisory teams made up of members of that specific communities have been and are being developed to share updates, progress and problem-solve any type of issue that have arisen.	
Ordinances Two new ordinances (Critical Infrastructure and Clean & Clear) have been developed and enacted to better support law enforcement efforts to abate unsafe and unhealthy encampments.	
Volunteers Volunteers from the community have served at several housing initiatives locations by completing cleaning, organizing and minor repairs tasks. An email list has been created to easily recruit volunteers for future needs.	
Community-Based Organizations Tuolumne County Homeless Services continues to seek partnership with local service providers to reduce homelessness in Tuolumne County. To that end, regular participation in the Central Sierra Continuum of Care as members of the governance committee is a priority. Rapid Rehousing grant funds have been contracted with Amador Tuolumne Community Action Agency for administration through their programs. Support for funding through CalAIM initiatives for delivery of services for Refuge Recovery has been consistent. Collaboration with 1pileatatime is on-going.	
Faith-based Organizations Several faith-based organizations have contributed to the many volunteer opportunities to serve at the various housing initiatives as well as helped to kick off the “Sponsor-A-Room” program at the Navigation Center. Efforts to support and partner in homeless services in the community will continue.	
Homelessness Committee Staff supports the committee chair to create the agenda, post meeting notifications, agendas and final documents as well as support the membership. Several efforts to more greatly align the work of the group with what is expected of a policy advisory committee to the County Supervisors have been completed.	
Grants Management Staff effort and collaboration across most County departments is essential in applying for, managing and reporting on grants. In the last two years, Tuolumne County Homeless Services has been awarded approximately \$12 million in grants for housing and services through the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention grants, Permanent Local Housing Allocation, Encampment Resolution Funds grant, Behavioral Health Bridge Housing grant, and Mental Health Services Act. Researching and applying for future grants is an on-going task	



Represents an initiative that is under development and in-progress.

Transitional Age Youth Housing Development and provision of supportive housing for Transitional Age Youth (TAY) ages 18-25 years old is under way by the Chicken Ranch Rancheria in Jamestown. They recently acquired a triplex and are seeking community service providers to bring services to program participants.	
Community Toolkit on Homelessness A community toolkit will address County policy and practice related to citizen rights, law enforcement efforts and homelessness as well as next steps for both businesses and private priority owners	
Navigation Center Navigation Centers provide intensive case management to connect people to the unique care and housing solutions they need. Clients receive personalized support to help address housing barriers such as lack of personal identity documents, employment opportunities, or histories of eviction. The Tuolumne County Navigation Center has a housing component which is temporary (up to six months) and low barrier with on-site case management, streamlined access to social services and medical care, and coordinated entry into pathways to permanent housing. The County purchased a 50-bed facility in July of 2023 and anticipates opening to services in July of 2024.	
Transitional Housing Transitional housing is temporary housing for up to two years and is offered with supportive services for individuals who need longer housing supports to support better long-term outcomes of self-sufficiency and permanent housing. Tuolumne County has purchased three homes for use as transitional housing that are currently in the architectural design and construction planning stage.	
Safe Parking/Sanctioned Camping A Safe Parking/Sanctioned Camping program is intended for adults who are using their vehicles or tents as housing. The Sanctioned Camping Program will provide an environment on County property where County and community-based service providers will make contact with campers to discuss eligibility and service options as a way to move into more stable housing. The site currently under development is located near the Tuolumne County Law & Justice Center and will include portable toilets, garbage service and potable water and will be regularly patrolled by staff from the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department. Move-in is anticipated to be mid-June of 2024. This initiative will also support law enforcement efforts to restrict use of public lands for parking and camping by unhoused individuals consistent with the establishment of new County ordinances.	
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. A Homelessness Committee work group is seeking to engage landlords through collaboration with property management companies and the Tuolumne County Association of Realtors to encourage house share programs—a concept built on the principle of leasing rooms instead of a whole house to maximize bed capacity.	
Increase in Permanent Housing Increased capacity for permanent housing in Tuolumne County is paramount to solutions for homelessness. Homeless housing initiative include developing permanent supportive housing. Tuolumne County Community Development is also in collaboration with Stanislaus Regional Housing Authority to coordinate efforts for acquiring grant funds as well as creating partnerships	

with developers and other stakeholders that are attractational and supportive and that will yield an increase in permanent housing capacity. Recent updates to Title 17 address long-term needs and development of housing of all kinds.	
Strategy to Reduce Homelessness County staff across departments worked with an organization called ChangeWell to establish a continuum of housing that is service enriched in an effort to support those who want supportive services. This continuum includes outreach, interim housing, transitional housing, and permanent housing. County staff is mid-way through a second training round with ChangeWell to determine staffing needs and the necessary funding.	
Life Skills Training A Homelessness Committee work group is seeking to gather community partners to establish a resource list of services providers in Tuolumne County that offer services that would help develop skills necessary to be housed. These services may include the development of day labor programs, job boards, internships, health, education, and vocational training programs.	
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.	
Sanitation & Fire Abatement in Encampments Compassion Outreach and 1PileataTime are providing garbage pick-up service at encampments. For those camps that are on public land the Tuolumne County Solid Waste department is partnering to provide free garbage disposal through a County agreement with Cal-Sierra Waste Management. Future discussion about providing potable water and fire-extinguishers will take place as a part of the scope of work for the Homelessness Committee work group.	
Outreach County Social Services staff teams continue to be involved in outreach efforts and to connect the unhoused to eligible benefits and services. Involvement includes participation in encampment abatements and the City of Sonora HOST(Homeless Outreach Support Team) program.	
Bed Capacity Tuolumne County homeless housing bed capacity under development is 105 and is delineated as follows: Interim Housing (up to 6 months) =50 beds, Transitional Housing (up to 18 months)=18 beds, Permanent Supportive Housing (more than 18 months): 37 beds.	



Represents an initiative that will be developed at a future time.

House Share Program Development of matching system for available bedrooms in homes to connect homeowners and those in need of housing.	
Homelessness Prevention Identifying funding sources and program development to prevent homelessness for those who are vulnerable to homelessness.	



Represents updates to Homeless Services staffing and services

Homeless Services Coordinator As of June 3, 2024, Michael Roberson is serving in the staff capacity as the Assistant Director of the General Services Agency which oversees capital projects, procurement, Information Technology and Facilities Management. His homeless services related responsibilities will continue to be the oversight of the development of the interim, transitional and permanent homeless housing properties. He will continue in collaboration with HHSA to work on transitioning responsibilities for support of the Homelessness Committee and involvement in the Central Sierra Continuum of Care to HHSA. His responsibilities were not related to direct services.	
Homeless Services Direct services will continue to be the responsibility of HHSA under the leadership of Annie Hockett, Agency Director. Plans include the development of a Homeless Services division of Social Service to streamline services and better align staff with clients, available resources, and service delivery.	