



Tuolumne County Homelessness Committee

Minutes of September 19, 2024, Meeting

FINAL

<u>2024 TCHC Membership</u>	Aug 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July, 2024	Aug, 2024	Sept, 2024
Supervisor David Goldemberg - Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Colette Such, District 1 Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Shelley Muniz, District 2 Rep.	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	E
Dawn Lien, District 3 Rep.	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E
Stephanie Foster, District 4 Rep.	✓	E	V	V	V	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓
Jeanette Lambert, District 5 Rep.	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	A	✓
ATCAA	E	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	E
Andy Merrill, City of Sonora Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	A	✓	A	A
LeeAnn Hatton, Rep. Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Darla Merlin, Rep. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians	A	A	A	A	E	A	A	✓	✓	✓	A	A
Thomas Crosby, Rep. Tuolumne County Business Council	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Local Service Provider Cathie Peacock/Larry Brunel (8/24)	✓	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	E	E	V	V	✓	✓
Lived Experience Jennifer Salazar/ Phil Hickenbottom (9/24)	A	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
NON-VOTING ADVISORS REP.												
Tuolumne County Sheriff	A	✓	✓	A			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tuolumne County District Attorney's Office	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	E	A	A	A	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 Annie Hockett, HHSA Director William Vanderheiden, DSS Unhoused Unit Tami Mariscal, Behavioral Health Director	

I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Goldemberg called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Committee Members and staff introduced themselves, including new member Phil Hickenbottom as a lived experience representative. Michael Roberson confirmed a quorum was present.

III. APPROVAL OF 08/8/2024 MEETING MINUTES

There was no motion made nor were there public comments.

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Jen Salazar expressed concerns about County Staff and programs as well as her thoughts that she was “kicked off” the Homelessness Committee. Supervisor Goldemberg explained that at the September 17, 2024, Board of Supervisors meeting, that all applications were considered, including hers and that the Board appointed the lived experience seat to another applicant.

Jason Revord expressed concerns about the Sanctioned Camp.

(Committee member Stephanie Foster arrived at 9:27)

V. TUOLUMNE COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES STAFF REPORT

Michael Roberson provided a written report for August 2024 related to efforts in Homeless Services with emphasis on the status of housing initiatives and their development. Roberson also gave an update on the facilities efforts and needs at the Sanctioned Camp. Annie Hockett gave an update on the staffing and opening of residential services at the Navigation Center. Hockett also updated the Committee on Health & Human Services staff efforts at the Sanctioned Camp and invited both Sheriff Vasquez and Social Worker William Vanderheiden to report on their involvement.

Various Committee members asked questions/or made comment:

- Colette Such suggested that an effort to educate the public on not donating useless things to those living in the Sanctioned Camp.
- LeeAnn Hatton reminded the Committee that Compassion Outreach has advised the community that homeless people do not need donations of items that they cannot use, and that the accumulation of personal items are not necessarily helpful. Hatton also emphasized that mental health services are a needed support for those who are unsheltered.
- Phil Hickenbottom expressed his desire to continue in partnership with Jason Revord to help with the trash issue at the Sanctioned Camp and possibly coordinate with Deborah Reagan from Tuolumne County Solid Waste for reduced or free dump fees.
- Tom Crosby suggested a tactical approach that includes signs advising people to not drop off donations at the Sanctioned Camp. He also expressed concerns about the failed fencing between the Sanctioned Camp and Highway 108 (Caltrans property).

Members of the public commented regarding the possibility of developing a work camp located on personal property in the Big Hill area, the legality of signs posted at the Sanctioned Camp, and questions about the Behavioral Health Housing that is under development.

VI. HOMELESS SERVICES PRIORITEIS UPDATE

Michael Roberson distributed an updated status list of the Homeless Services Priority Projects for the last two years.

Committee member Tom Crosby suggested that those priorities that have not been developed be reconsidered and reprioritized. Supervisor Goldemberg emphasized that time be scheduled at future meetings for the committee to reconfirm or establish new priorities.

There were no public comments.

VII. GOVERNOR NEWSOM EXTERNAL AFFAIRS TOUR REPORT

Supervisor Goldemberg reported on a tour that he and County staff conducted with members of Governor Newsom's Office of External Affairs on September 18th. The tour highlighted County efforts in the area of homeless housing, Office of Emergency Services and home-hardening and the Master Stewardship Agreement which involves forest fuels reduction and management.

There were no committee nor public comments.

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

Supervisors Goldemberg highlighted future meetings and described the location for future meetings in the Committees & Commissions Room on the 3rd floor of the Francisco building located at 48 Yaney Street.

- Thursday, October 10, @ 9 a.m. – Committees & Commissions Room/48 Yaney/3rd Floor
- Thursday, November 14, @ 9 a.m. – Committees & Commissions Room/48 Yaney/3rd Floor
- Thursday, December 12, @ 9 a.m. – Committees & Commissions Room/48 Yaney/3rd Floor

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURNMENT

Members of the Committee reported out on the work of the organizations with whom they are affiliated as well as made mention of upcoming special events.

Supervisor Goldemberg adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

August 2024 Monthly Report



*Progress and development of Homeless Services initiatives
Submitted by Michael Roberson, Coordinator*

This will be the last monthly Homeless Services Report. All future reporting on the development of housing initiatives will be through the General Services Agency monthly report. The September Homelessness Committee Meeting will also be the last meeting that Michael Roberson supports. The Tuolumne County Health & Human Services Agency Director, Annie Hockett and their team, will be providing staff support to the Chair, Supervisor Goldemberg, for this Board Policy Advisory Committee beginning in October to include agenda formation, meeting notifications, minutes and postings as well as updates on Homeless Services.

Collaboration

- Regular meetings and points of contact with Health & Human Services Agency, Community Development, Sheriff's Office, and County Counsel for updates and responses to homelessness related concerns and issues with emphasis on the Sanctioned Camp program and the effects of the Supreme Court/Grants Pass decision and Governor Newsom's recent Executive Order related to encampment resolutions. A presentation was made to the Board of Supervisors on August 20th with specific direction sought on the continuation and operation of the Sanctioned Camp program.
- Participate in the Governance Committee for the Central Sierra Continuum of Care.
- Interact with California State Association of Counties as requested for information related to the reduction of homelessness in Tuolumne County.

Community Engagement

- Organize/participate in meetings with both the Soulsbyville & Columbia Advisory Teams related to housing initiatives in those communities.
- Work with Twain Harte Soroptimist in supporting their efforts to be involved in supporting homeless housing initiatives to include the Navigation Center and Social Services trailers.

Grants

- Budget review of Homeless Cost Center related to housing initiatives and grant funds.
- 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 and long term low-interest loans for Veteran's Housing. Currently, information received from CSAC on available funds is being pursued.

Homelessness Committee

- Support the Committee Chair, Supervisor David Goldemberg, with the development of the agenda, agenda postings and minutes and minutes postings. Presented to the Board of Supervisors, applications for the vacant “lived-experience” seat on the Homelessness Committee.
- Clarified progress on the various work groups who are focused on the 2024 Homeless Services Priorities (see separate document).

Sanctioned Camping

- Tuolumne Utilities District has completed work to make on-site water service available. Staff has authorized work with a local plumbing contractor to connect the service, install and secure a backflow preventer and provide for a water spigot. At the recommendation of Joe Bors from ATCAA, the County is partnering with the Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District to use grant funds to provide the water service and to install a bottle filling station. Bottled Water is still being delivered weekly.
- See notes above about a presentation to the Board of Supervisors on August 20th.
- Weekly litter pick-up on site has been arranged with a Probation Work Release crew.
- Provided more portable shade structures to HHSA staff to offer to campers.
- Added an additional portable toilet onsite.
- Probation work release crews move through the camp to pick up garbage on Tuesdays.
- HHSA is implementing a schedule for community-based service providers to be on-site.
- Participated in cross-department meetings to establish an operational plan for permanent signage of rules and boundaries, fencing, weekly vacating days & hours, and site cleaning as well as trespassing people who are not in compliance.

Housing Acquisition & Development

- The Navigation Center sustained damage from a burst water line in Building B and mitigation/reconstruction efforts are underway. Building A was not damaged, and opening will not be delayed as a result. Architectural plans for ADA parking improvements are under way.
- Architectural/construction plans for transitional housing on Snell Street are near completion with the next steps being plan review and permitting by the Building Department. Once approved and permits issued, the job will go out for contractor bidding which is expected to be early Fall.
- Architectural design for the transitional housing and permanent housing site at Highway 108 are in development and will follow a similar process to the Snell Street initiative.
- The Columbia Way Veteran’s Housing is in the beginning stages of architectural design. Funding for the purchase and design of the property has already been committed while the construction phase still needs funds.

Homeless Services 2024 Priorities Progress Report



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 attractional 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 Sonoma 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.

<i>Homeless Services Coordinator</i> 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.	
<i>Homeless Services</i> 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.	