

TUOLUMNE COUNTY HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

“The purpose of the Tuolumne County Homelessness Committee is to serve the County Board of Supervisors by advising on policy and practices related to services and programs that affect the County’s residents who are currently or at risk of experiencing homelessness.”

Date/Time: Thursday, November 14, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m.

Location: Tuolumne County Committees & Commissions Room, 48 Yaney Avenue, 3rd Floor - Sonora, CA 95370

Email &/or U.S. Mail comments to: Annie Hockett at ahockett@co.tuolumne.ca.us or: CAO Office 2 S. Green St. Sonora CA 95370
no later than 8:00 AM on the morning of the meeting.

CHAIRPERSON

Supervisor David Goldemberg

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

#1 Colette Such

#2 Shelley Muniz

#3 Dawn Lien

#4 Stephanie Foster

#5 Jeanette Lambert

OTHER MEMBERS

ATCAA

-Joe Bors

City of Sonora

-Andy Merrill

Chicken Ranch Rancheria of
Me-Wuk Indians of California

-LeeAnn Hatton

Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
-Darla Merlin

Tuolumne County Business Council
-Tom Crosby

Local Service Providers
-Larry Brunel

Lived Experience
-Phil Hickenbottom

NON-VOTING ADVISORS

Tuolumne County Sheriff

Tuolumne County District Attorney

STAFF

HHSA Director

-Annie Hockett

DSS Unhoused Unit Supervisor
-Robert Smith

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions during roll call

- Confirm quorum requirements are met [*Quorum = 7 members*]

III. APPROVAL OF 10/10/2024 MEETING MINUTES

[*Committee Chair/Attachment/5 minutes*]

Public Comment (limited to three minutes per person)

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

[*Committee Chair/Community Members/15 minutes*]

- Members of the public may be heard on any item **not** on the Committee’s agenda. A person addressing the Committee will be limited to three minutes. Comments by members of the public on any item on the agenda will only be allowed during consideration of the item by the Committee.

V. TUOLUMNE COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES STAFF REPORT

[*HHSA Team Members/ Committee Members/20 minutes*]

- Staff will report on Homeless Services projects and initiatives and answer questions from Committee members and the public.

Public Comment (limited to three minutes per person)

VI. CAMP JUSTICE REPORT

[*HHSA Team Members/Community Members/10 minutes*]

- Staff will report on activities to prepare the sanctioned camping program for the winter season.

Public Comment (limited to three minutes per person)

VII. HOMELESS SERVICES PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

[*Committee Chair/ Committee Members/25 minutes*]

- Committee will review and discuss Homeless Services Priority Framework for 2025.

Public Comment (limited to three minutes per person)

VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS

[*Committee Chair/2 minutes maximum*]

- Thursday, December 12, 2024 @ 9 a.m. – Committees & Commissions Room/48 Yaney/3rd Floor
- Thursday, January 9, 2025 @ 9 a.m. – Committees & Commissions Room/48 Yaney/3rd Floor
- Thursday, February 13, 2025 @ 9 a.m. – Committees & Commissions Room/48 Yaney/3rd Floor

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURNMENT



Tuolumne County Homelessness Committee

Minutes of October 10, 2024, Meeting

DRAFT

<u>2024 TCHC Membership</u>	Jan 2024	Feb 2024	Apr 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	Aug. 2024	Oct. 2024	Nov. 2024	Dec. 2024
Supervisor: David Goldemberg - Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Colette Such, District 1 Rep.	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Shelley Muniz, District 2 Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	A		
Dawn Lien, District 3 Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A		
Stephanie Foster, District 4 Rep.	V	✓	✓	A	✓	A	✓	✓		
Jeanette Lambert, District 5 Rep.	✓	A	A	✓	✓	✓	A	A		
ATCAA, Joe Bors	✓	✓	✓	✓	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	E	A	A	✓	✓	✓	A	A		
Thomas Crosby, Rep. Tuolumne County Business Council	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Local Service Provider Larry Brunel (8/24)	✓	✓	E	E	V	V	✓	✓		
Lived Experience Phil Hickenbottom	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
NON-VOTING ADVISORS REP.										
Tuolumne County Sheriff			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
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>
Michelle Clark, HHSA Assistant Director Tami Mariscal, Behavioral Health Director Will Vanderheiden, DSS Social Worker Pandora Armbruster, TCBH Admin. Support	Jason Revord, One Pile at a Time Chris Neves, Sonora PD Other unidentified community members

I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Goldemberg, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

Committee Members and staff introduced themselves. There were eight members present to secure a quorum for the committee. Members present were Supervisor Goldemberg, Collette Such, Stephanie Foster, Joe Bors, LeeAnn Hatton, Thomas Crosby, Larry Brunel, and Phil Hickenbottom. Members absent were Shelley Muniz, Dawn Lien, Jeanette Lambert, Andy Merrill, and Darla Merlin.

III. APPROVAL OF 08/08/2024 & 09/19/2024 MEETING MINUTES

Collette Such moved and Joe Bors seconded a motion to approve the August 8, 2024, Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion passed. (Ayes: 7 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 1 Members absent: 5 - Shellie Muniz, Dawn Lien, Jeanette Lambert, Andy Merrill, and Darla Merlin)

Collette Such noted that there was a misspelling on Page 2, last paragraph of the September 19, 2024, Meeting Minutes. It should read Big Hill, not Bid Hill.

Collette Such moved and Joe Bors seconded a motion to approve the September 19, 2024, Meeting Minutes with the correction noted above. Motion passed. (Ayes: 8 Nays: 0 Members absent: 5 - Shellie Muniz, Dawn Lien, Jeanette Lambert, Andy Merrill, and Darla Merlin)

IV. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Jason Revord, One Pile at a Time, asked for volunteers for an upcoming clean-up project slated for a homeless encampment located between Mill Villa and Woods Creek mobile home parks. Currently, there are several piles of debris that need to be hauled out by hand as it is in a location not readily accessible by heavy equipment. This cleanup is scheduled for the 26th and 27th of October. Volunteers are needed for these efforts. Jason also expressed concern about 3 travel trailers currently stationed in Woods Creek Park and the amount of rent being paid for them by the County of Tuolumne while they sit unoccupied.

Supervisor Goldberg explained that several trailers had been donated by FEMA to the County of Tuolumne. Those trailers were in various states of disrepair. Michelle Clark, Health & Human Services Assistant Director, informed the group that these 3 trailers have been undergoing necessary repairs before they can be occupied. The trailers assigned to Department of Social Services qualify as transitional housing and must be occupied by an applicant that meets specific social services program requirements. Once repairs have been completed, vetted occupants will be placed in each unit. Currently, one unit is already occupied with the other two almost ready for occupancy.

Several committee members expressed concerns and requested an update on the status of the trailers from William Vanderheiden, DSS Social Worker, at the next meeting. Supervisor Goldemberg explained that the upcoming Staff Reports scheduled to be presented at this meeting may supply more information on this topic and suggested that the committee move forward to hear those reports before continuing with this discussion.

Members also requested clarity regarding their scope and responsibilities as members of this committee as well as direction from the Board of Supervisors as to what their expectations from the committee are. Members also requested guidance on how to request an item to be placed on the agenda. Supervisor Goldemberg advised such request can be sent to Annie Hockett, HHSA Director.

V. TUOLUMNE COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES STAFF REPORT

William Vanderheiden, Social Worker with the Unhoused Unit at the Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) reported there are currently three trailers identified for transitional housing through

the Housing and Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP). This program targets elderly and disabled individuals who are experiencing homelessness and are likely eligible for disability benefits. The first person was moved in last Friday and two other individuals are vetted and cleared to move in as soon as repairs are completed. Plans are in place to have these units full by the 15th of this month. There is a fourth trailer that has not yet been placed in a park.

Tami Mariscal, Behavioral Health Director, informed the group that Tuolumne County Behavioral Health also received 3 trailers from FEMA. These trailers have been earmarked for the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) Grant. This grant addresses the immediate housing needs of people experiencing homelessness who have severe mental illness or substance use disorders. All the department's trailer housing is identified as 18-month transitional housing. Two trailers are placed in parks, with one currently occupied and the other being viewed by a potential tenant today. The Behavioral Health Department follows the Housing First model whenever applicable. This allows for the participant to choose from available identified properties. Tami explained that program development, policies and procedures, necessary repairs and the associated contracts, utility connections, and continued stigma, all contribute to the delays in getting these properties filled as quickly as the department would like.

Supervisor Goldemberg requested that County staff develop a brief bullet point timeline report on how these trailers were acquired and the processes involved in preparing them for occupancy to be delivered at next month's meeting.

Tami updated the committee on the department's Parrotts Ferry Property recently purchased and renovated to prepare for participants' occupancy. The department is pleased to announce that the property will be fully occupied by the end of October.

William Vanderheiden shared that the first family has been placed in the Navigation Center. The center is not yet fully staffed, but work is ongoing to identify who the next occupant will be. The Navigation Resource team will be meeting on the 25th of October with the hope that the next identified occupants will be moved in the following week. Once the Navigation Center is fully staffed, more occupants can be placed. Staff continue to work with those participants currently housed in hotels by aiding with transitioning them into more permanent housing solutions as funding is reduced. The goal is to keep participants from returning to the homeless encampments. William reported that Camp Justice is currently occupied by approximately 40 people, 5 have transitioned out and 5 new occupants have moved in. Of the 5 who have left, 3 were placed in stable housing and 2 left to unknown whereabouts. William expressed gratitude for all those working together to provide solutions to those impacted by homelessness and shared his appreciation of the sheriff's deputies making regular rounds at the Camp. Their compassion and empathy have really helped to foster relationships with those on site.

Sheriff Vasquez, Tuolumne County Sheriff's Department, shared his impression of the county's extraordinary efforts to reduce homelessness and appreciated the innovative ideas, compassion and outreach of county staff and the community in coming together for this cause.

Mr. Vanderheiden informed the group that water is now available at Camp Justice and winterization efforts are being discussed with staff and their community partners. Hazel Mitchell offered to donate plastic pallets to get people off the ground and out of the mud in the event of inclement weather. Conversations continue within the community to troubleshoot potential impacts to those that are unsheltered. He requested that those on the committee reach out to him if they have additional ideas.

Joe Bors requested a status update regarding fill stations at Camp Justice with the use of grant money of approximately \$30,000. Joe Bors offered to send information to Annie Hockett, HHSA Director, regarding the proposal of two outdoor standup water dispensaries with bottle fill stations and adult height drinking fountains. He would like to see the model that includes a drinking station for dogs too. They have mechanical timers and shut offs and he is willing to work on donation the funds for

this effort.

Preparing for rain and snow at Camp Justice was noted and it was suggested that it be added to the next committee meeting agenda. A community member suggested the use of re-grind paving materials to fill the lot at Camp Justice to assist with muddy ground and low areas that may be impacted by rain.

VI. HOMELESS SERVICES PRIORITIES DISCUSSION

Supervisor Goldemberg reviewed previous efforts gained through monthly meetings.

LeeAnn Hatton recommended that the committee's objectives align with current funding, outlining specific grants and government guidelines that determine placements and restrictions. Tom Crosby offered to create a spreadsheet that could assist with practical information on each funding source, their requirements, the alignment with how monies are being used, and the organizations responsible, updating as each item is resolved. Michelle Clark offered that staff may already have something in place regarding funding and how it aligns with requirements. Tom Crosby requested a meeting with Annie Hockett to support the development of the aforementioned spreadsheet prior to the next committee meeting to optimize planning of priorities for the next year.

The group held a roundtable discussion. Phil Hickenbottom requested help with plastic totes for those in the homeless encampment. Tom asked Phil to let him know the preferred type of tote and send that information to him.

Sheriff Vasquez asks those involved with housing efforts or concerns related to homelessness to reach out to him for information and assistance. His team is working diligently with community partners to alleviate some of the identified issues within the City of Sonora and County of Tuolumne.

LeeAnn Hatton notified the group of Round 3 Tribal Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (Tribal HHAP) Program funding. A youth space will be opening in November, and a learning space for those age 18 to 24 will be open as well.

LeeAnn noted that the Human Trafficking Hotline in place is for those to use to report any suspicions so that these reports can be compiled and tracked for future resolution. Training will be available next week at Columbia College facilitated through the Blue Campaign.

Supervisor Goldemberg requested an update on assistance vouchers for the unhoused elderly. Tom explained that funding is currently on pause as assistance vouchers are not yet in place.

Stephanie Foster reported out on the increase in those receiving services at the Refuge. One of the issues her team has identified is potential participants not wishing to leave their pets. Staff are sharing creative ideas to process solutions to this concern such as puppy programs, etc.

A community member shared their appreciation of the Sheriff's efforts at Camp Hope, specifically about their use of a drone over the camp to reduce crime and potential fire outbreaks.

VII. FUTURE MEETINGS

- 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
- Thursday, January 9, @ 9 a.m. – Committees & Commissions Room/48 Yaney/3rd Floor

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Goldemberg adjourned the meeting at 11:38 am.