

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, May 14, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m.

Location: Tuolumne County Committees & Commissions Room/48 Yaney/3rd Floor

Email &/or U.S. Mail comments to: Michelle Clark at MClark@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 Ryan Campbell

Supervisor Mike Holland, Alternate

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

#1 Jeff Klay

#2 Shelley Muniz

#3 Dawn Lien

#4 Stephanie Foster

#5 Chris Neves

OTHER MEMBERS

ATCAA

-Joe Bors

City of Sonora

-Andy Merrill

Chicken Ranch Rancheria of

Me-Wuk Indians of California

-Wittney Hawkins

Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians

-Darla Merlin

Tuolumne County Business Council

-Tom Crosby

Local Service Providers

-Larry Brunel

Lived Experience

-Vacant

NON-VOTING ADVISORS

Tuolumne County Sheriff

Tuolumne County District Attorney

STAFF

HHSA Assistant Director

-Michelle Clark

DSS Supervisor (Unhoused)

-William Vanderheiden

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions during roll call

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

III. 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.
(*Public Comment (limited to three minutes per person)*)

IV. APPROVAL OF 4/9/2026 MEETING MINUTES

[Committee Chair/Attachment/5 minutes]

(*Public Comment (limited to three minutes per person)*)

V. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

[Committee membership expiration and vacancies 5 minutes]

- Status of Lived Experience position

VI. CAMP JUSTICE WORKGROUP UPDATE & RECOMMENDATIONS

[Subcommittee Workgroups/Committee Members/15 minutes]

- RV/Trailer Deadline (Week of March 30, 2026): Post removal update
- Pallet Project: Status Update

(*Public Comment (limited to three minutes per person)*)

VII. TUOLUMNE COUNTY HOMELESS SERVICES STAFF REPORT

[Department of Social Services Team Members/ Committee Members/30 minutes]

- Staff will report on Homeless Services projects and initiatives and answer questions from Committee members and the public.
- Strategies for Supporting Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Residing in Trailers/RVs
(*Public Comment (limited to three minutes per person)*)

VIII. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS REPORT

[Committee Members/Community Members/15 minutes]

- Members of the Committee will be given the opportunity to share updates on community projects addressing homelessness in Tuolumne County.
(*Public Comment (limited to three minutes per person)*)

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

[Committee Chair/2 minutes maximum]

- Thursday, June 11, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m. Committees & Commissions Room/48 Yaney/3rd Floor
- Thursday, July 9, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m. Committee & Commissions Room/48 Yaney/3rd Floor
- Thursday, August 13, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m. Committee & Commissions Room/48 Yaney/3rd Floor

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURNMENT



Tuolumne County Homelessness Committee

Minutes of April 9th, 2026, Meeting

DRAFT

<u>2026 TCHC Membership</u>	Jan 2026	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	June 2026	July 2026	Aug. 2026	Sept. 2026	Oct. 2026	Nov. 2026	Dec. 2026
Supervisor: Ryan Campbell - Chair	✓	✓	✓								
Jeff Klay, District 1 Rep.	A	A	✓								
Shelley Muniz, District 2 Rep.	✓	✓	✓								
Dawn Lien, District 3 Rep.	✓	✓	✓								
Stephanie Foster, District 4 Rep.	A	✓	✓								
Chris Neves, District 5 Rep.	✓	✓	✓								
ATCAA, Joe Bors	✓	✓	✓								
Andy Merrill, City of Sonora Rep.	A	✓	✓								
Wittney Hawkins, Rep. Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California	✓	A	A								
Darla Merlin, Rep. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians	A	A	✓								
Thomas Crosby, Rep. Tuolumne County Business Council	✓	A	✓								
Local Service Provider Larry Brunel (8/24)	✓	✓	✓								
Lived Experience, VACANT	A	A	A								
NON-VOTING ADVISORS REP.											
Tuolumne County Sheriff	A	✓	✓								
Tuolumne County District Attorney's Office	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>
- David Vasquez – Tuolumne County Sheriff - Michelle Clark, HHSA Assistant Director - William Vanderheiden, Social Services Supervisor - Truman Kruse, DSS Admin. Support	- Lisa Silva, Mastercare - Nikki Hyske, Mastercare - Amber Anderson, former Camp Justice resident - Gary Starks, former Camp Justice resident - Jen Salazar - Several unidentified community members.

I. Call to Order

Chair Ryan Campbell called the meeting to order at **9:25 AM**.

II. Roll Call & Introductions

Present Members:

- Ryan Campbell – Chair
- Larry Brunel – Local Service Providers
- Andy Merrill – City of Sonora
- Jeff Klay – District 1 Representative
- Shelly Muniz – District 2 Representative
- Dawn Lien – District 3 Representative
- Stephanie Foster – District 4 Representative
- Chris Neves – District 5 Representative
- Joe Bors – ATCAA
- Thomas Crosby – Tuolumne County Business Council
- Darla Merlin (proxy present) – Tuolumne Band of Mi-Wuk Indians

Quorum Confirmed: Yes (Minimum requirement: 7 members)

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes from **March 12th, 2025**.

- **Motion:** Merrill
- **Second:** Neves
- **Vote:** approval, no opposition, Tom Crosby Abstains, no public comment.

IV. Committee Membership:

- Welcoming Jeff Klay as District 1 representative on March 24th.
- Reappointment of Dawn Lien by the Board of Supervisors on March 24th.
- Lived Experience position vacancy will go to the board April 21st

Public Comment:

No public Comment

V. Oral Communication

Public Comment:

- Statement by Amber Anderson from camp justice. Feels we have gotten off course with camp justice pilot program. Thought pallet program has not followed intended purpose. Rules and regulations need to be clearer. Removal of trailers has put people back on the street. Says her trailer has been removed. Believes guidelines have become too extreme.
- Statement by Gary Starks on trailer removal. Believes he was denied due process in his removal. Was invited to property and doesn't understand why they were removed. Believes his constitutional rights were violated, and that trailer residents were discriminated against.

VI. Camp Justice Workgroup update & recommendations:**William Vanderheiden**

- All trailers have been removed at this point.
- Has not been easy process, many community members involved.
- Some have been transitioned to the Refuge, others have been transferred to the Navigation Center
- Due to the 60-day trailer extension, only two trailers needed to be destroyed instead of the eight planned for, prior to the extension.
- Amador county has praised the efforts at camp justice.
- Police Department has had to deal with trailers that had moved to parking lots around the city of Sonora. Chris Neves and William Vanderheiden accompanied police.
- Chris Neves provided information about the trailers illegally camping in parking lots.
- One trailer resident is entering a rehab facility.
- Pallet update: Purchased with a Public Health grant. Originally purchased enough for 4-6 sites. Researching funding opportunities to purchase more pallets. Expanding to 8 pallets per site.
- 3 sites currently have pallets.
- Meeting to explain new camp justice rules to residents. Residents will have to sign, acknowledging that they received the rules.
- Shelly Muniz requested that William address the concerns brought up in oral communications William stated that as the camp has progressed the presence of trailers has become incompatible with the purpose and future of the camp. Trailers increased fire risk, caused black water and gray water dumping, and generally increased costs. Trailers largely do not fit program model. Camp was acting in part as a trailer park with inadequate hook-ups, which would have inevitably shortened the lifespan of the camp.
- Question by Larry Brunel about future of evicted trailers. William stated there are no easy solutions. Chris Khan offered to store trailers while participants were in his program. In order to go to a trailer park the trailer must be registered, insured, owner must make three times rent, and trailer must be in livable condition.
- Andy Merrill asked if it is worthwhile to agendize the trailer issue and explore possible solutions.
- Ryan Campbell brought up that trailer issue was brought up to the board of supervisors and met with disinterest. Ideal solution would be for a nonprofit to step in.

- Tom Crosby brought up issues with the definition of shelter. Camp Justice is not a shelter it is a sanctioned encampment. Goal of county should be to encourage a nonprofit to provide a solution.
- Andy Merrill brought up the lack of subsidized housing resources for rural areas as opposed to urban areas. Possibility of bringing up issue to the State.
- Tom Crosby discussed the fact that on a per unit cost camp justice is operating at a significantly cheaper rate than similar program in Modesto.
- Michelle Clark discussed County zoning issues related to trailers.

Public Comment:

- Amber Anderson stated she believes there has been miscommunication. Removal of trailers should have been on a case-by-case basis. Disagreed with assessment of the trailer conditions. Does not know what to do now that she has been removed from camp justice.
- Gary Starks stated that his trailer is not an RV. His presence was not hurting anyone. His trailer and the area around it was very clean. Questioned if there were trailers that could be an exemption, smaller trailers without septic system.

Back to Board:

- Ryan Campbell expressed appreciation for public comments
- Joe Bors stated that the committee is trying to solve these issues. Have only gotten approval for the sanctioned encampment. Would like to continue this conversation.
- Discussion of reagendaizing this topic.
- Andy Merrill stated that this committee cannot allocate funding. Expressed need for trailer residents to contact Board of Supervisors members.
- Tom Crosby stated that we are still trying to find funding to sustain Camp Justice. Would like to launch another initiative to address the trailer concerns and gaps around them.
- Question from Dawn Lien to public commentators as to their end goal as to living situation. Amber Anderson stated concerns about other at the camp, and her issues with the process with which trailers were removed. Goal for Gary Starks was to “boondock” and leave the state at a later time.

VII. Tuolumne County Homeless Services Staff Report:

Behavioral Health Presentation:

Lindsey Lujan, Evan Hammond

- Sharing legislative changes for MediCal eligibles for transitional rent
- Transitional rent approved as part of MediCal benefits.
- Mandate of the managed care plans.
- When state opens medical insurance companies have opportunity to take contract.
- Managed care plans must now offer transitional rent.
- Global path meaning it can only be used once.
- State has designated the priority populations for this benefit.
- First population is county behavioral health clients. Second is anyone involved in the judicial system.

- Requirements currently include: Must be homeless or at risk of homelessness, and enrolled in behavioral health services with the county.
- This benefit does not cover deposits, it only covers rent, and only up to the market value of your county.
- One use per household.
- You must engage with a community services and support provider in order to establish a long-term goal.
- Behavioral Health's role is eligibility. Must meet with a provider within behavioral health to eventually get referral to program.
- Transitional rent continues to be underutilized.
- Behavioral Health is not a housing agency, and cannot share information about the services of individuals engaging with Behavioral Health.
- Typically, clinician or case manager sends referrals. Once referral is received, an assessment is scheduled. Once an assessment is concluded a scoring framework is applied, which generates a score to assess the need of the client and which housing support is most appropriate. Emphasized that this process is highly individualized.
- If transitional rent is determined to be the most appropriate care plan, a referral will be sent to a housing and community support agency to develop a housing plan, so the client is able to maintain housing.
- Behavioral Health is also the conduit for payments. There is a payment process in place that works quickly.
- 130 housing assessments were completed over the last two years. Out of those 19 clients received rental assistance. Of those 19, 3 utilized rental assistance to get into a new apartment. Typically used to cover back rent.

Miners Motel and Columbia Way:

- ERF grant budget modification was approved by HCD.
- Habitat for Humanity was awarded the bid for the Miner's Motel.
- Columbia Way has been approved by the board as surplus property.
- Following the same process as Miners Motel

VIII. Community Organizations Reports

Nancys Hope:

- Food recovery program going ahead.
- Meeting again on April 27th, discussing leadership and mission.

ATCAA:

- Reduction in capacity down to 14 beds due to City of Sonora inspection.
- Impacts ability to get grants due to lack of capacity.
- Unsure of reason for reduction in capacity.
- Jill Engle stated that resident numbers have been reduced from 23 to 16 prior to reduction. By the 19th numbers had been reduced to 15. Will be down to 14 soon.
- During process three residents moved to navigation center, two moved to apartment

- or other housing.
- County Health van was at facility providing education.
- New toilet and dishwasher provided.
- Andy Merrill asked how many residents were now homeless due to the reduction in capacity. It appears that none returned to homelessness.
- No complaints were received about the ATCAA facility prior to inspection.
- Capacity determined by square footage and fire prevention measures. Would need to increase fire safety measures to increase capacity according to inspector.

Navigation center:

William Vanderheiden:

- Currently 38 residents, 25 adults, 13 children, 7 cats, 5 dogs
- Unitarian Universalists have purchased a dog run.
- Water use assessment, ATCAA offered to replace current facilities with more water efficient ones.

Resiliency Village:

- Joe Bors shared there will be a gala on April 23rd.
- \$150,000 match for donations.

IX. Future Meetings

- **May 14, 2026, @ 9 AM** – Committees & Commissions Room, 48 Yaney, 3rd Floor
- **June 11, 2026, @ 9 AM** – Committees & Commissions Room, 48 Yaney, 3rd Floor
- **July 9, 2026, @ 9 AM** – Committees & Commissions Room, 48 Yaney, 3rd Floor

X. Announcements & Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Chair, Ryan Campbell, at 11:00 AM.