

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, September 10, 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

-Veronica Alvarado

Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians

-Darla Merlin

Tuolumne County Business Council

-Tom Crosby

Local Service Providers

-Larry Brunel

Lived Experience

-Anne-Brit Spears

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 8/13/26 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]

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

- No updates or report

VI. CAMP JUSTICE WORKGROUP UPDATE & RECOMMENDATIONS

[Subcommittee Workgroups/Committee Members/15 minutes]

- Camp Justice Update- Lighthouse Ministries Fundraiser
- Board of Supervisors Presentation September 22, 2026
- Discussion of Long-Term Planning and Service Strategies for Individuals with Complex Needs
- Pallet Project 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.

- CARE Court Status Report

(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]

- Discussion of Homelessness Committee Meeting Schedule Thursday, October 8, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m. Committee & Commissions Room/48 Yaney/3rd Floor
- Thursday, November 12, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m. Committee & Commissions Room/48 Yaney/3rd Floor
- Thursday, December 10, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m. Committee & Commissions Room/48 Yaney/3rd Floor

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURNMENT



Tuolumne County Homelessness Committee

Minutes of August 13th, 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.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	A	✓				
Stephanie Foster, District 4 Rep.	A	✓	✓	A	✓	A	A				
Chris Neves, District 5 Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
ATCAA, Joe Bors	✓	✓	✓	A	✓	✓	✓				
Andy Merrill, City of Sonora Rep.	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Veronica Alverado, Rep. Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California	✓	A	A	A	A	✓	A				
Darla Merlin, Rep. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians	A	A	✓	✓	A	✓	✓				
Thomas Crosby, Rep. Tuolumne County Business Council	✓	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Local Service Provider Larry Brunel (8/24)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Lived Experience, Anna-Britt Spears	A	A	A	A	✓	✓	✓				
NON-VOTING ADVISORS REP.											
Tuolumne County Sheriff	A	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Tuolumne County District Attorney's Office	A	A	A	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 Truman Kruse, DSS Admin. Support William Vanderheiden, DSS Supervisor David Vasquez-Tuolumne County Sheriff	Several unidentified community members.

I. Call to Order

Chair Jaron Brandon called the meeting to order at **9:00 AM**.

II. Roll Call & Introductions

Present Members:

- Jaron Brandon – Chair (Filling in for Ryan Campbell)
- Larry Brunel – Local Service Providers
- Joe Bors – ATCAA
- Andy Merrill– City of Sonora
- Jeff Klay – District 1 Representative
- Shelly Muniz – District 2 Representative
- Dawn Lien – District 3 Representative
- Chris Neves – District 5 Representative
- Darla Merlin – Rep. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians
- Thomas Crosby – Tuolumne County Business Council
- Anna-Britt Spears – Lived Experience

Quorum Confirmed: Yes (Minimum requirement: 7 members)

III. Oral Communication:

- None

IV. Approval of 7/9/2026 Meeting Minutes:

Motion to approve minutes from **July 9th, 2026**.

- **Motion:** Neves
- **Second:** Merrill
- **Vote:** approval, no opposition,

Public Comment:

No public Comment

V. Committee Membership

- No updates at this time.

VI. Camp Justice Workgroup update & recommendations:

William Vanderheiden:

- Today is move out day.
- Date moved due to fires and weather.
- William noted that the majority of donation are not helpful, Cause problems. Requested redirecting of donations to Nancy's Hope.
- Supervisor Brandon asked if there is currently signage to dissuade donations.
- Suggestions of social media posts and physical signs at the camp discussed.
- Shelly Muniz discussed the possibility of an article in the newspaper.
- William discussed the fire response. Praised deputy sheriff response time, smoothness of evacuation, and willingness of camp residents.
- Sheriff Vasquez praised the cooperation of camp residents once transported to the shelter.
- William discussed the positive effects of Camp residents forming relationships with deputy Sheriffs.
- Tom Crosby expressed desire to know where fire started. Whether from Camp or from highway.
- Supervisor Brandon expressed need for a plan to deal with potential backlash if the fire started at the camp.
- Michelle Clark discussed the central location of the Camp and the resulting quick responses of law enforcement and fire department.
- Supervisor Brandon stated that if the fire started in previous encampment locations the situation could have been much worse.
- William discussed the pallet situation. Desire to bring in accountability.
- Tom raised question about the current funding plan and financial situation.
- Michelle Clark informed the committee that Opioid Funding was approved for the project pending Board of Supervisors approval.
- Dawn Lien questioned what this will fund at the Camp.
- Michelle explained that the funding has been approved to fund the services currently paid for by ERF funds.
- Supervisor Brandon asked what discussions have been had regarding the long term bathroom situation.
- Michelle Clark discussed desire by the board to not create permanent infrastructure at the camp.
- Discussion of long-term plans for Camp Justice area.
- Tom discussed the use of trailer showers.
- Sheriff Vasquez discussed the effect of adding infrastructure leading to a constitutional right to live at the Camp Justice.
- Larry Brunel questioned if the Camp will ever be a non-temporary solution.
- Jaron Brandon stated that the purpose of the camp is to provide a stop gap for lacking space at other shelters. The Camp is intended to be temporary.
- Michelle Clark stated that camp stay deadlines are now being enforced. Hopefully, leading to increased engagement with services.

- Chris Neves asked how meetings with camp residents have gone.
- William stated that the current population at the Camp is difficult. None are ready to progress at this time. Former camp resident has spoken at the Camp praising William and county services.
- William discussed fund raising efforts with lighthouse ministries. Dinner with presentation on Camp Justice. All proceeds will go to funding individual needs for camp justice participants.
- William discussed the differences in restrictions between the county and a faith-based group.
- Hoping to generate money to increase positive outcomes from camp justice.
- William relayed news of delay in ERF grant award date to at least November 2026.
- William praised location of Camp allowing for quick response by law enforcement and fire fighters.

Public Comment:

- None

VII. Tuolumne County Homeless Services Staff Report:

William Vanderheiden:

- Navigation center population currently 46. 30 adults and 16 kids. Also 8 dogs and 5 cats.
- Behavioral health doing workshops twice a week, public health once a week.
- Community group not happy with navigation center, invited William to monthly meeting.
- After William spoke to them, they were no longer concerned. Most of concerns were unfounded.
- HDAP Trailer project has been filled with new group.
- Three trailers currently. In worse shape than previously, but still usable.
- Supervisor Brandon discussed public mobile home parks. Stated that he is in favor of taking over one if that becomes a possibility in the future.
- Currently working on partnering with public and behavioral health to incorporate smoking cessation and anti-littering program at navigation center.
- Andy Merrill stated that the City would be happy to host these projects as well.
- Discussion about smoking and anti-smoking resources
- Tom Crosby asked about the total camp justice population. William stated it is around fifty.
- Tom Crosby discussed the need for a conversation around the people that have been at the Camp long term and the path forward for them.
- Michelle discussed the idea of a multidisciplinary team to begin addressing more complex issues.
- Supervisor Brandon discussed the desire for the camp residents to be at the camp instead of other public places. Possibility of earning the right to stay longer than typically allowed.
- William discussed progress at the Miner's Motel. They will begin taking applications in October. Volunteer day following Saturday.

- Michelle discussed reductions in HDAP funding in relation to FEMA trailers.
- Supervisor Brandon requested update on Columbia Way. Michelle stated that it will be brought to the board soon. Requires full renovation.
- Tom Crosby noted that funding has been reduced across the region. Joe Bors noted that ATCAA's bigger issues have to do with funding the food bank instead of funding the shelter.
- Supervisor Brandon discussed other potential funding centers. Joe Bors stated intention to discuss with other County staff.
- Joe Bors discussed the process for which CBDG funding was applied for.
- Funding available to keep food bank open through May.

Public Comment:

- None at this time.

VIII. Community Organizations Reports

ATCAA:

- 19 served in July. 10 men, 7 women, 2 children.
- 5 have exited, 2 to permanent housing.
- Seeing a shift in the people arriving at shelter. Less interested in leaving shelter.
- Issues with people brought into the shelter that had to be terminated later.
- Discussion of statistical breakdown of shelter residents.
- One 77-year-old senior that moved into permanent housing.
- 13 beds currently open.

Board Comment:

- Supervisor Brandon discussed the possibility of larger acreage area on county land.
- Chris Neves discussed the reduced desire to engage by the current homeless population.
- Andy Merrill discussed personal skepticism of CARE Court program. Supervisor Brandon stated that Tuolumne County is a top performing county for the program.
- Andy Merrill discussed the approaching of the county's capacity to reach the current homeless population.
- Supervisor Brandon discussed the presence of mothballed juvenile facilities and the possibility of repurposing them for housing.
- Andy Merrill discussed the possibility of coordinating with other rural counties.
- Discussion of need for state or federal funding to fund this project. Possibility of regional funding.
- Discussion by group of mechanism to operate juvenile facilities for this purpose.
- Tom Crosby reiterated the possibility of using mechanisms within CARE Court program. Michelle Clark and Andy Merrill discussed the limitation of the CARE Court program.
- Supervisor Brandon discussed the need for funding sources if headway were to be made with this idea. Brought up public guardianship and conservatorship.
- Michelle Clark discussed the severity of restrictions and legal situation of conserving an individual. Need for it to be a last resort prior to implementation.
- Supervisor Brandon noted need for LPS reform at the state level.

- Discussion of what medical or personal situations can result in conservatorship.
- Andy Merrill brought up the possibility of this gridlocking court system with new cases. Reiterated need for cooperation between counties.
- Supervisor Brandon discussed medical reimbursements from federal government, as well as associated cuts.
- Discussion of Casa Viejos, Sonora Senior Living, and possibility of housing project. Issues include flooding.

Public Comment:

- None

Closing:

- Michelle Clark discussed Supervisor Campbells continued conflicts with meeting time. Possibility of moving meeting time.
- Discussion of who or what should be responsible for the discussion of homeless individuals that do not want to engage with services and a long-term plan for them.
- William provided some positive results of homeless individuals being housed and making progress.
- Tom proposed an action item to continue this discussion.

IX. Future Meetings

- **September 10, 2026, @ 9 AM** – Committees & Commissions Room, 48 Yaney, 3rd Floor
- **October 8, 2026, @ 9 AM** – Committees & Commissions Room, 48 Yaney, 3rd Floor
- **November 12, 2026, @ 9 AM** – Committees & Commissions Room, 48 Yaney, 3rd Floor

X. Announcements & Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Supervisor Jaron Brandon, at 10:37 AM.