



Tuolumne County Commission on Homelessness (Minutes of the Meeting on September 8, 2022)

<u>2022 TCCoH Membership</u>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Supervisor David Goldemberg - Chair									✓			
Colette Such, District 1 Rep.									✓			
Shelley Muniz, District 2 Rep.									✓			
Dana Butow, District 4 Rep.									✓			
Jeanette Lambert, District 5 Rep.									✓			
Joe Bors, ATCAA									✓			
Andy Merrill, City of Sonora Rep.									✓			
LeeAnn Hatton, Rep. Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California									E			
Darla Merlin, Rep. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians									E			
Thomas Crosby, Rep. Tuolumne County Business Council									✓			
Bill Pooley, Tuolumne County Sheriff									E			
Kris Albrecht, Tuolumne County Veteran Services									✓			
Cathy Peacock, Interfaith									✓			
Jennifer Salazar, Lived Experience									E			
Vacant – District 3									V			
NON-VOTING ADVISORS REP.												
Adventist Health Sonora												
Central Sierra Continuum of Care Youth Advisory Board												
Law Enforcement												
Superintendent of Schools Office									✓			
Tuolumne County District Attorney's Office												
Tuolumne County Health & Human Services Agency									✓			

Present = ✓ Absent = A Excused = E Vacant = V

15 TCCoH Members = 9 Quorum

<u>Tuolumne County Staff in Attendance</u>	<u>Other Guests in Attendance</u>
Tracie Riggs, County Administrator	
Michael Roberson, Homelessness Services Coordinator	
Brock Kolby, Deputy Director for Behavioral Health	
Christina Cunha, Executive Assistant/Deputy Clerk of the Board	

I. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Goldemberg called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

II. ROLL CALL

All Commissioners and staff introduced themselves. Christina Cunha confirmed a quorum of 9 Commissioners present, noting District 3 representative vacancy. Supervisor Goldemberg also called out for Advisor representatives present, noting the Superintendent of Schools Office and Tuolumne County Health & Human Services, specifically Behavioral Health representation. Commissioner Andy Merrill arrived at 9:09 a.m.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Christina Cunha provided clarification on Commissioner's absences on August 18, 2022. Jeanette Lambert, LeeAnn Hatton, and Darla Merlin were all excused absences.

Commissioner Bors made a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 18, 2022, noting the excused absence modifications. Commissioner Butow seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved with modifications.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (3 minutes per person)

Members of the public may be heard on any item not on the Board's Agenda. A person addressing the Board will be limited to five minutes. Comments by members of the public on any item on the agenda will only be allowed during consideration of the item by the Board.

A member of the public stated that the appointment of Jennifer Salazar to the Commission was a great decision.

V. CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE MEETING DATES & TIMES

Discussion and consideration of approving proposed regular TCCOH meetings for the remainder of 2022: Thursday, October 13, 2022, @ 9 AM, Thursday, November 10 @ 5:30 PM, and Thursday, December 8 @ 9 AM.

Supervisor Goldemberg introduced the item and opened the floor for discussion. Michael Roberson explained the reasoning for the proposed dates/times. Commissioner Bors supported the proposed dates and times. Without further discussion and no public comment, Commissioner Bors made a motion to approve the proposed meeting dates and times of Thursday, October 13, 2022, @ 9 AM, Thursday, November 10 @ 5:30 PM, Thursday and December 8 @ 9 AM to take place in the Board Chambers. Commissioner Muniz seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Supervisor Goldemberg noted that in December the Commission will solidify meeting dates for the calendar year 2023.

VI. STAFF REPORTS & DISCUSSION

- **Updates and discussion on Safe Stay Shelter Community**

Michael Roberson, Homeless Services Coordinator summarized his presentation at the Board of Supervisors meeting on September 6, 2022, and encouraged everyone to watch the Board meeting video. Specifically, there were questions regarding utilities and timing along with operations, site-specific concerns, and some requiring follow-up from staff and County Counsel. Michael noted that he will be returning to the Board with a complete checklist of everything that has been done/researched along with costs for moving forward.

He also spoke about the RFP for site operators and the extremely high cost. The plan will be re-shaped, and a new RFP will be released.

Supervisor Goldemberg spoke about the budget discussion at the Board meeting.

Commissioners asked how they can help, stated concerns regarding speed limit signs on High School Road, and asked about funding and moving forward, and rapid housing opportunities. They also spoke of concerns for folks with medical needs and the senior population and the possibility of providing night shelters. Discussion continued with Michael Roberson and Tracie Riggs providing an explanation and noting follow-up needed.

Public Comment:

A member of the public asked about the survey and the location.

Staff reminded public that according to Brown Act rules a discussion or conversation cannot occur during public comment. Public was encouraged to follow up with staff after the meeting for answers to questions.

A member of the public asked about timelines for grants and regarding speed on high school road.

A member of the public asked about cost and infrastructure.

A member of the public spoke about the qualifications of individuals and that not all will be served through the process.

A member of the public spoke regarding housing first and the policy on law enforcement.

- **Discussion on Permanent Supportive Housing**

Michael Roberson, Homeless Services Coordinator asked Brock Kolby from Behavioral Health to speak about permanent supportive housing, its purpose, and what is available in Tuolumne County. Michael Roberson spoke regarding future funding opportunities for permanent supportive housing.

Commissioners noted the need for walk-in medical clinics, community outreach, and health vans. Commissioners also inquired regarding current capacity versus need and the importance of everyone working together to share information and facility availability. Also mentioned was the need to prioritize homeless individuals' needs and services.

Under public comment, a member of the public spoke of facilities that fully count on grant funding and what happens to the homeless individuals when the funds run out.

- **Discussion on November Homeless Awareness month and formation of Ad Hoc committee**

Micheal Roberson requested volunteers to assist with developing a November Homelessness Awareness Month campaign and encouraged those who can take the time to put the work in, to sign-up. He noted he is already aware that Jennifer Salazar will want to help. Commissioner Bors, Peacock, Butow, Muniz, Lambert, and Merrill volunteered to help. Discussion continued.

Public Comment:

A member of the public expressed their support for the idea to help with the public perception of the homeless population.

VII. TCCOH MEMBER REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Commissioner Crosby noted concerns regarding fire risks at pallet shelter homes and volunteered to research fire mitigation measure and bring it back.

Commissioner Bors spoke of some statistics he collected regarding homelessness occurring for individuals in the counties they reside or travel to other counties. The data shows that roughly 88% of all respondents became homeless in the County they reside.

Commissioner Butow emphasized the importance of low-barrier sites where people can just exist or have a safe site. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Peacock stated that Interfaith received a lot of requests from tourists who run out of food and money. She would like to have direct contact with the Office of Emergency Services during emergencies so she can assist. She noted that Interfaith is getting contacted by Calaveras County regarding moving Tuolumne County people back over from their shelters. She reminded everyone that not all homeless people want to be housed and the shower bus is lined up to stop at Interfaith.

Commissioner Muniz thanked everyone and emphasized the importance of places to stay for those with medical issues, which should be considered a priority. She also noted that currently seven individuals are housed at Resiliency Village.

Commissioner Lambert spoke regarding individuals with mental health needs and the importance of developing relationships with them to assist with getting them connected with services. She stated her support for tents for the homeless population, but it must be managed.

There was no public comment.

VIII. SERVICE PROVIDER REPORTS & DISCUSSION

Steve Nelson works with homeless on Stockton Road for laundry services. Over the years he has developed relationships with these individuals noting comfort and security are important to them.

Don Sullivant with Lighthouse Ministries (non-profit) spoke of his affiliations and work with the homeless population serving meals at the red church, the shower bus, and adult

and teen challenges for individuals who suffer from substance abuse. He noted the importance for all service providers including, non-profits, faith-based, etc. should be communicating. He also noted that some of the homeless population have burnt bridges and are no longer welcome in shelters, however, some have made life changes, how do they have new opportunities?

Commissioner Muniz announced that Resiliency Village is having their first fundraiser on September 24, 2022, with Patch Adams as the special guest, and BZ Smith providing storytelling with dinner, dessert, and music. Tickets are available at <https://resiliencyvillage.org/village-faire-gala/> and must be purchased prior to the event.

There was no further discussion or public comment.

Supervisor Goldemberg and Michael Roberson thanked everyone for attending. Commissioner Peacock suggested changing the tables around for the next meeting for better viewing.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Goldemberg adjourned the meeting at 11:03 AM.