

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, April 10, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.

Location: Tuolumne Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2 S. Green Street, 4th 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 Ryan Campbell

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions during roll call

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

III. APPROVAL OF 02/13/2025 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/15 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. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS REPORTS

[*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)

VII. SANCTIONED CAMPING CONSIDERATIONS

[*Committee Chair/ Committee Members/45 minutes*]

- Staff will provide an update on the sanctioned camping pilot program. Sheriff’s Office will provide recommended program changes to increase safety and improve program delivery.

Public Comment (limited to three minutes per person)

VIII. STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKGROUP UPDATE

[*Subcommittee Workgroup/Committee Members/15 minutes*]

- Subcommittee will provide an update on workgroup progress in developing updated strategic plan.

Public Comment (limited to three minutes per person)

IX. FUTURE MEETINGS

[*Committee Chair/2 minutes maximum*]

- Thursday, May 8, 2025 @ 9 a.m. – Committees & Commissions Room/48 Yaney/3rd Floor
- Thursday, June 12, 2025 @ 9 a.m. – Committees & Commissions Room/48 Yaney/3rd Floor
- Thursday, July 10, 2025 @ 9 a.m. – Committees & Commissions Room/48 Yaney/3rd Floor

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS & ADJOURNMENT



Tuolumne County Homelessness Committee

Minutes of February 13th, 2025, Meeting

DRAFT

<u>2025 TCHC Membership</u>	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	June 2025	July 2025	Aug. 2025	Oct. 2025	Nov. 2025	Dec. 2025
Supervisor: Ryan Campbell - Chair		✓								
Colette Such, District 1 Rep.		A								
Shelley Muniz, District 2 Rep.		✓								
Dawn Lien, District 3 Rep.		✓								
Stephanie Foster, District 4 Rep.		A								
Jeanette Lambert, District 5 Rep.		A								
ATCAA, Joe Bors		A								
Andy Merrill, City of Sonora Rep.		A								
Wittney Hawkins, Rep. Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California		✓								
Darla Merlin, Rep. Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians		✓								
Thomas Crosby, Rep. Tuolumne County Business Council		✓								
Local Service Provider Larry Brunel (8/24)		✓								
Lived Experience Phil Hickenbottom		✓								
NON-VOTING ADVISORS REP.										
Tuolumne County Sheriff		✓								
Tuolumne County District Attorney's Office		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>
Annie Hockett, HHSA Director Will Vanderheiden, DSS Social Worker Tyler Jackson, DSS Admin. Support	Mary Anne Schmidt Several other unidentified community members

I. Call to Order

Chair Ryan Campbell called the meeting to order at **9:05 AM**.

II. Roll Call & Introductions

Present Members:

- Ryan Campbell – Chair,
- Phil Hickenbottom – Lived Experience
- Dave Vasquez – Tuolumne County Sheriff
- Larry Brunel – Local Service Providers
- Tom Crosby – Tuolumne County Business Council
- Wittney Hawkins – Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians of California
- Annie Hockett – Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
- Shelly Muniz – District 2 Representative, Compassion Outreach
- Dawn Lien – District 3 Representative
- Mercy Rust – As proxy for Darla Merlin, Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians

Quorum Confirmed: Yes (Minimum requirement: 7 members)

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve minutes from **November 9, 2024**.

- **Motion:** Crosby
- **Second:** Muniz
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval, no opposition, no public comment.

IV. Oral Communications

- Members of the public expressed appreciation for Ryan Campbell as Chair.
- Questions raised about the meeting location change and ensuring proper notice for community members.
- Public directed to sign up for email notifications via the county website.

V. Tuolumne County Homeless Services Staff Report

William Vanderheiden – Social Worker, Tuolumne County Unsheltered Unit

Camp Justice Update

- Since September, 117 individuals have been served.
- 58 current residents, up from usual 45-50 due to increased need.
- 41 individuals transitioned to stable housing.
- 13 individuals removed for rule violations.

- Partnership with ATCAA to transition individuals through the housing continuum (Camp → Shelter → Navigation Center → Transitional Housing).
- Weekly TCSO walkthroughs for safety and emergency response coordination.
- **Ongoing challenges:**
 - **Trash collection:** Increased dumpsters to two 2-yard bins (previously one).
 - **Food donations:** Issues with inappropriate donations (e.g., raw ingredients, bulk items residents cannot prepare). Nancy's Hope designated as the preferred donation site.
 - **Overcrowding:** 17 trailers in 10 spots, 39 tents in 14 spots. Coordination with Code Compliance and Sheriff's Office for management.

Navigation Center Update

- 10 residents (8 adults, 2 children).
- One room open, working on repairs to open additional space.
- Success stories:
 - Family of five and elderly woman transitioned to stable housing.
- Ongoing workshops on credit building, job applications, and financial literacy.
- Partnership with Food Bank to reduce food insecurity.

HDAP Trailers Update

- Fully occupied.
- Residents working towards SSDI benefits and long-term housing solutions.

VI. Community Organization Reports

- **Compassion Outreach:** Organizing a Celebration of Life event for six individuals who have passed away.
 - Event Date: **February 21st, 1:30 PM @ Red Church.**
- **GSAC and Nancy's Hope:** Merging efforts to improve services and streamline operations.
- **Refuge Recovery Center:**
 - Serving 60-75 individuals, some transitioning to housing assistance.
 - 7 facilities focused on behavioral health, men's/women's residential treatment, and medical respite.
- **Hope Team:**
 - Applying for a mobile medical services grant in partnership with Dr. Matheson.
- **Me-Wuk Band:**
 - Women's support group available for Native residents at Camp Justice.

VII. Homeless Services Committee Structure Discussion

- Discussion on whether the committee should remain board-directed or transition into a community-led model.
- **Concerns:**
 - Changing Board of Supervisors (BOS) priorities.
 - Financial constraints on the county.
 - The committee's ability to act independently and strategically.
- **Proposals:**
 - HHSA to take the lead in forming a strategic advisory group.
 - Consideration of a smaller working group (5-10 members).
 - Camp Justice status needs resolution by July—currently operating \$25,000 under budget.
- **Public Input:**
 - Concerns over losing the community-led nature of the committee.
 - Camp Justice should remain a focus—without it, homelessness will disperse back across the county.
- **Action:**
 - **Tom, Annie, and Shelly** will form strategic advisory group that will:
 - Prepare options for the committee to review regarding a smaller workgroup that can support HHSA.
 - Assess other options such as transitioning from a board-directed to community-led governance.

VIII. Future Meetings

- **March 13, 2025, @ 9 AM** – Committees & Commissions Room, 48 Yaney, 3rd Floor.
- **April 10, 2025, @ 9 AM** – Same location.
- **May 8, 2025, @ 9 AM** – Same location.

IX. Announcements & Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Chair, Ryan Campbell, at 10:48 AM.