

Minutes of Homeless Steering Committee Meeting 2-22-18

1. Homelessness Needs Assessment

The steering committee considered undertaking a Needs Assessment study, which would require hiring an outside consultant and going through the formal process that would take several months. Due to the time and potential cost the members felt that it was more important to develop our own strategies for now based on the group's observations and experience. However, it was acknowledged that a Needs Assessment will be needed when applying for grant funding.

Nichol Mulford, from Victory Village, suggested that we could use the Needs Assessment from the Continuum of Care (CoC) study already put together for the tricounty region. She said she would look into it and report back to the committee at the next meeting.

2. Homeless Housing

Mayor Gonsalves and Jackson City Council member Bob Stinson told the group that preliminary discussions had occurred with a property owner about a possible location of a shelter facility. Due to the early stages of discussions no details were provided to the committee.

3. PIT Count vs. Alternative Data Sources for Counting the Homeless

Due to the discrepancies between the 2017 PIT count and CalFresh data furnished by the County Health & Human Services department, it was discussed whether or not another PIT count during the summer months should be performed. It was decided that there was value in having such an assessment so we are looking into funding for it. The estimated cost for the count is \$10k.

4. Homeless Workshop

I briefly shared with the group that Chairwoman Morgan wanted a workshop on homelessness to be an agenda item before the Amador County Board of Supervisors at the March 27th Board of Supervisors meeting. At present that workshop is being set up.

5. Mission Statement, Goals & Reasons why

We re-hashed our goals and mission statement.

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to compassionately serve the homeless; identifying needs and gaps in services in order to efficiently address homelessness in our county.

Goals:

- Develop a comprehensive understanding of homeless issues in Amador County

- Developing awareness of and coordination amongst all active participating agencies & groups in the area
- Identify unmet needs for the homeless and the provider agencies
- Make recommendations for short term and long term solutions to problems
- Identify necessary funding sources or means of accomplishing goals
- Create a document describing Amador’s homeless situation and recommendations
- Work to implement recommendations and improve the situation in a measurable way

Reasons:

- Impact to merchants
- Substance abuse (alcohol, opiate, and methamphetamine)
- Used needles in parks and school yards
- Using library as day shelter
- Making parks unusable
- Public health issues in make shift camps
- Crime
- Situation appears to be getting worse
- Compassion

6. Website

An update on the ability of the County to host a webpage with Homeless Task Force meeting agendas and minutes was given.

7. Committee Reports

The following people agreed to the represent/participate on the specific committees.

Committee	Members
Food & Meals	Beth Stanton, Susan Ross, Cindy DelFava, Tyx Pulskamp, & Francine
Funding	Frank Axe, Pat Crew, & Nina Machado
Housing	Connie Gonsalves, Bob Stinson, Raj Rambob, Tyx Pulskamp, Nichol Mulford, and Joelle Miller

Food/meals: Susan Ross and Beth Stanton gave an update on the hot meals and food distributions that occur monthly around the County. Abbreviated calendars of these two activities are presented below. A complete set of documentation of the exact days, times and locations for these activities can be found at the Interfaith Food Bank (IFB) website www.feedamador.org (under Get Help).

Hot meals are served everyday with the exception of Sunday in the Jackson area in particular and at other locations in the County too over the course of the month.

In addition Susan Ross indicated that she had reached out to many of the area churches.

Hot Meals Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Sierra Wind (noon) Seventh Day Adventist (4 – 5:30 pm)	Faith Lutheran (9 – 12 pm)	Community Church (6 pm)			St. Patrick's (9 – 11 am)
	Sierra Wind (noon)	Faith Lutheran (9 – 12 pm)	Community Church (6 pm)		Faith Lutheran (4:30 pm)	St. Patrick's (9 – 11 am)
	Sierra Wind (noon) Seventh Day Adventist (4 – 5:30 pm)	Faith Lutheran (9 – 12 pm)	Community Church (6 pm)			St. Patrick's (9 – 11 am)
	Sierra Wind (noon)	Faith Lutheran (9 – 12 pm)	Community Church (6 pm)			St. Patrick's (9 – 11 am)
				St. Patrick's (5 – 7 pm)		

Food Distribution Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Senior Distribution	Sutter Creek 7 th Day Adventist Church 4-5:30 (Seniors only)	Sierra Baptist Church 10-12 (Seniors only)	Amador Co Senior Center 10-12 Plymouth City Hall 10-11:30 (seniors only)	Ione Community Methodist Church 10:30-11:30 (Seniors only)		
Senior Distribution			Pine Grove – Upcountry Community Center 1-4 (Seniors only)	Camanche Lake Community Center 12-2 (Seniors only)		
EFAP & IFB Distribution	Sutter Creek 7 th Day Adventist Church 4-5:30	Various Locations	Mt. Zion Church 3-5	River Pines Town Hall 11-12:30		Ione Community Methodist Church 10:30-12:00
EFAP & IFB Distribution	St. Mary of the Mtn Church 9-11					Fiddletown Community Church 10-12

1) IFB – Interfaith Food Bank
 2) For full details of the distributions sites please see IFB website at www.feedamador.org

Funding: nothing to report

Housing: Members for this committee were chosen and agreed to meet and begin discussing the current new sheltering opportunity as well as additional options.

8. Speakers

- Homeless Issues in Jackson – Sgt. Mynderup (JPD)

Sgt. Mynderup provided his first hand experiences with the homeless community in the Jackson. He indicated it would get much worse before it would get better.

- Overview of Sierra Wind – Katrina Ozier

Katrina provided a brief overview of the services that Sierra Wind provides the homeless community primarily in and around the Jackson area. Sierra Wind provides a hot meal 5 days a week to anyone, clothing, phone service, counseling, and more.

- Community Outreach – Tyx Pulskamp

Tyx Pulskamp shared with the members his own personal outreach to homeless people in the County. Feedback from his conversations included the need for persons with a car to be able to park and sleep overnight in a location with bathroom facilities.

In addition Tyx said he and Trina and Trixie, from Sierra Wind, will be handing out backpacks containing water, sunscreen, toiletries, etc at a booth at Dandelion Days in Jackson on March 17th & 18th.

9. Actions

- Due to the large attendance of the meeting Jim Foley will look into procuring a larger conference room in the HHS building for our meetings.
- Invite Mark Bonini from probation to come and speak
- Obtain a copy of the continuum of care document