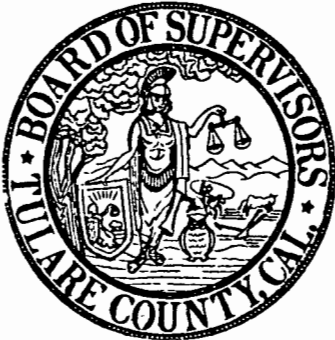


BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF GRAND JURY)
RESPONSE – HOMELESS HEALTH AND) Resolution No. 2018-0575
SANITATION)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR CROCKER, SECONDED BY SUPERVISOR SHUKLIAN, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD JUNE 26, 2018, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: SUPERVISORS CROCKER, VANDER POEL, SHUKLIAN, WORTHLEY,
AND ENNIS
NOES: NONE
ABSTAIN: NONE
ABSENT: NONE



ATTEST: MICHAEL C. SPATA
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: Mary Ravello
Deputy Clerk

1. Considered, modified as needed, and approved the responses to the 2017/2018 Tulare County Grand Jury Final Report entitled: "Homeless Health and Sanitation."
2. Authorized the Chairman to sign the response letter.



**Board of Supervisors
COUNTY OF TULARE
AGENDA ITEM**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KUYLER CROCKER
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

J. STEVEN WORTHLEY
District Four

MIKE ENNIS
District Five

AGENDA DATE: June 26, 2018

Public Hearing Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
County Counsel Sign-Off	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT PERSON: Julieta Martinez PHONE: 559.636.5000

SUBJECT: Grand Jury Response – Homeless Health and Sanitation

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Consider, modify as needed, and approve the responses to the 2017/2018 Tulare County Grand Jury Final Report entitled: "Homeless Health and Sanitation"
2. Authorize the Chairman to sign the response letter.

SUMMARY:

The 2017/2018 Tulare County Grand Jury Final Report requests a response from the Board of Supervisors regarding the report entitled: "Homeless Health and Sanitation" (See attached copy of the report.)

The Board is required to provide comments to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within 90 days after the report is filed with the Presiding Judge.

The draft response to the report is attached for consideration. It is requested the Board modify the draft, as needed, approve the response to the Grand Jury, and authorize the Chairman to sign the Response Letter.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

There is no Fiscal Impact associated with the response to this request.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

The County's Strategic Plan includes the Organizational Performance Initiative,

SUBJECT: Grand Jury Response – Homeless Health and Sanitation
DATE: June 26, 2018

which provides for the objective evaluation and measurement of County program performance. The Board's approval of the Grand Jury Final Report responses assist in the fulfillment of this initiative by ensuring accurate information is available to all residents.

ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:



Julieta Martinez
Chief of Staff

cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment(s) Grand Jury Report – Homeless Health and Sanitation
Draft Response Letter



TULARE COUNTY GRAND JURY
 5963 S Mooney Boulevard Visalia, CA 93277
 PHONE: (559) 624-7295
 FAX: (559) 733-6078
 E-MAIL: grnd_jury@co.tulare.ca.us
 WEB: http://tularecounty.ca.gov/grandjury/

ATTENTION: Chairman Steve Worthley
 AGENCY: Tulare County Board of Supervisors
 ADDRESS: 2800 W. Burrel Ave., Visalia, CA 93291

California Penal Code §933.05 (f) mandates that the Tulare County Grand Jury provide a copy of the portion of the final Report that affects that agency or person of that agency two working days prior to its public release. Advance release or disclosure of a Grand Jury Report is prohibited prior to its public release.

Attached is a copy of your portion of the 2017-2018 Tulare County Grand Jury Final Report.

California Penal Code §933(c) requires a response to said document. Depending on the type of respondent you are, a written response is required as follows:

- PUBLIC AGENCY:** The governing body of any public agency that is required to respond must do so within NINETY (90) DAYS from the date this report was approved as final by the Presiding Judge.
- ELECTIVE OFFICER OR AGENCY HEAD:** All elected officers or heads of agencies that are required to respond must do so within SIXTY (60) DAYS from the date this report was approved as final by the Presiding Judge.

Please be advised, this portion of the final report was approved as final by the Presiding Judge on 4/12/18.

YOU MUST SEND YOUR RESPONSE TO EACH OF THE FOLLOWING:

The Honorable Judge Brett Alldredge
 County Civic Center, Room 303
 221 S Mooney Blvd
 Visalia, CA 93291

Tulare County Grand Jury
 5963 S Mooney Blvd
 Visalia, CA 93277

Tulare County Board of Supervisors
 2800 W. Burrel Ave
 Visalia, CA 93291
 (For County Agencies Only)

Received by: Alyssa Unte
 Report Name: Homeless Health and Sanitation
 Delivered by: Tom O'Neil
 Release Date: April 19, 2018

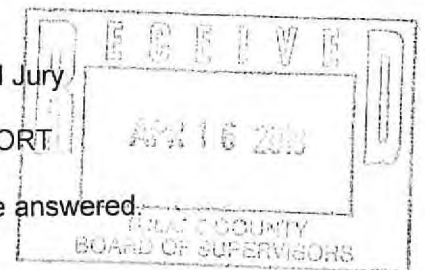
Date: 4/16/18
 Response Due by: July 15, 2018
 Date and Time: 4/16/18 11:30

Howard Stroman, Foreman 2017/2018 Tulare County Grand Jury

PREPARE A SEPARATE RESPONSE FOR EACH REPORT

California Penal Code §933.05 mandates the manner in which responses are to be answered:

See reverse for Penal Code §933.05 information.



§933.05. Response to Grand Jury Recommendations--Content Requirements; Personal Appearance by Responding Party; Grand Jury Report to Affected Agency

(a) For purposes of subdivision (b) of §933, as to each grand jury finding, the responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:

(1) The respondent agrees with the finding.

(2) The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefore.

(b) For purposes of subdivision (b) of §933, as to each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:

(1) The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.

(2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.

(3) The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This time frame shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.

(4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefore:

(c) However, if a finding or recommendation of the grand jury addresses budgetary or personnel matters of a county agency or department headed by an elected officer, both the agency or department head and the board of supervisors shall respond if requested by the grand jury, but the response of the board of supervisors shall address only those budgetary or personnel matters over which it has some decision-making authority. The response of the elected agency or department head shall address all aspects of the findings or recommendations affecting his or her agency or department.

(d) A grand jury may request a subject person or entity to come before the grand jury for the purpose of reading and discussing the finding of the grand jury report that relates to that person or entity in order to verify the accuracy of the findings prior to their release.

(e) During an investigation, the grand jury shall meet with the subject of that investigation regarding the investigation, unless the court, either on its own determination or upon request of the foreperson of the grand jury, determines that such a meeting would be detrimental.

(f) A grand jury shall provide to the affected agency a copy of the portion of the grand jury report relating to that person or entity two working days prior to its public release and after the approval of the presiding judge. No officer, agency, department, or governing body of a public agency shall disclose any contents of the report prior to the public release of the final report.

HOMELESS HEALTH AND SANITATION

BACKGROUND:

Homelessness continues to be a serious and complex problem in Tulare County. According to the homeless, there are many different reasons for their circumstances. Some of these include job loss, eviction, substance abuse, criminal background, or mental health difficulties.

Resolving homeless issues requires resources available through various agencies and groups. Tulare County is actively assisting the reported 600-700 unsheltered homeless persons seeking assistance. Many unsheltered individuals are not accounted for in the census of homelessness.

There are major challenges facing the homeless due to poor living conditions and difficulty accessing health care, which exposes them to communicable infections.

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION:

The Tulare County Grand Jury (TCGJ) decided to open an investigation to determine the extent of unmet needs and available resources for health and sanitation of the unsheltered homeless.

Public concern and press coverage of homeless health and sanitation issues, such as the recent southern California hepatitis A outbreak and other communicable infections, prompted this investigation.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

1. Interviewed Tulare County health officials.
2. Interviewed a non-profit agency representative.
3. Interviewed homeless individuals.
4. Reviewed specific documents.
5. Attended various meetings.

FACTS:

1. Homeless persons do not have access to personal or private sanitary facilities.
2. The homeless use public facilities or available water outlets for their hygienic needs.
3. Project Homeless Connect provides referral to health and dental care annually.
4. The January 2017 Annual Homeless Connect event provided access to services for 885 guests.

5. Two thirds of adults surveyed at the Homeless Connect event self-identified as having a disabling condition.
6. Homeless Connect assists guests with applying for disability resources.
7. The public health clinics and FQHCs are mandated to provide outpatient care regardless of insurance or ability to pay.
8. Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), such as Family Healthcare Clinics, are available within Tulare County.
9. Two public health clinics are available in Farmersville and Visalia.
10. Unsecured personal property belonging to the homeless, including toiletries, is often stolen or discarded.
11. Programs to securely store homeless belongings are not currently available.
12. Transportation is needed to get to necessary services.
13. Tulare County has recently approved a Homeless Initiatives Program Coordinator position in Health and Human Services.

FINDINGS:

- F1. Housing assistance requires documentation, such as tax returns for income verification.
- F2. Documentation is difficult to obtain for necessary services.
- F3. Transportation passes are not readily accessible.
- F4. Access to services is often complicated or unobtainable due to a lack of necessary identification or documentation.

CONCLUSION:

The health and sanitation of the homeless could benefit from improved communication, cooperation, and coordination within the various support agencies. Transportation, health care, access to facilities, housing services, and assistance with applications for documentation and financial support could help lift people out of homelessness.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- R1. Increased direct outreach to the homeless should be provided.
- R2. Reduce difficulties for homeless to obtain housing.
- R3. Research possible funding sources for portable shower facilities and increased restroom access.
- R4. Investigate transportation accessibility to services and resources.

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

1. Health and Human Services Department
2. Tulare County Board of Supervisors
3. Tulare County Association of Governments

Disclaimer

Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Section 911, 924.1 (a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Section 924.2 and 929).



June 26, 2018

The Honorable Bret Alldredge
Tulare County Superior Court
County Civic Center, Room 303
221 South Mooney Boulevard
Visalia, CA 93291

RE: Grand Jury Report: "Homeless Health and Sanitation"

Dear Judge Alldredge:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, the following are the Board's responses to the findings and recommendations included in the 2017/2018 Tulare County Grand Jury Report titled "Homeless Health and Sanitation." The Board of Supervisors has consulted with the Health and Human Services Agency as well as the Resource Management Agency to assist with these responses.

Findings and Board Responses

Finding 1

Housing assistance requires documentation, such as tax returns for income verification.

Response: The Board agrees with this finding.

Finding 2

Documentation is difficult to obtain for necessary services.

Response: The Board does not agree with this finding. The Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) administers State and Federal housing assistance programs and is required to assist applicants in obtaining the necessary documentation.

Finding 3

Transportation passes are not readily accessible.

Response: The Board partially agrees with this finding. Though not free of costs, the Tulare County Try-TCaT program works with homeless shelters in the County to provide discounted passes to those needing transportation. To date, the program has successfully approved 111 applicants.

Finding 4

Access to services is often complicated or unobtainable due to a lack of necessary identification or documentation.

Response: The Board disagrees with this finding. HHSA is required to assist participants in obtaining documents under State and Federal laws as it pertains to their housing programs.

Recommendations and Board Responses

Recommendation 1

Increased direct outreach to the homeless should be provided.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. HHSA conducts outreach through their Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) Grant. The County has also established the Homeless Task Force which meets on a monthly basis. It is open to members of the public who may need information in regards to County resources. County staff also promotes resources fairs and health fairs through various outlets including social media and word of mouth.

Recommendation 2

Reduce difficulties for homeless to obtain housing.

Response: The recommendation cannot be implemented as all County departments must comply with the State and Federal regulations.

Recommendation 3

Research possible funding sources for portable shower facilities and increased restroom access.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. County staff is continuously seeking funding opportunities in the form of State or Federal Grants to provide the resources needed to assist the homeless population in the County. The ultimate goal in seeking this funding is to find a permanent housing solution for the homeless population in Tulare County.

Recommendation 4

Investigate transportation accessibility to service and resources.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. As stated previously, the Try TCaT program has alleviated some of the transportation barriers by providing discounted passes to various homeless individuals. Staff has worked with shelters to make sure appropriate documentation and information is submitted on behalf of the applicants to facilitate the process.

Sincerely,

J. Steven Worthley, Chairman
Tulare County Board of Supervisors

cc: Tulare County Grand Jury
Health and Human Services Agency

DRAFT