

## JOINT NAVIGATION CENTER MEETING

May 1, 2024

### ATTENDEES:

Olivia Byron-Cooper, HHSA Director	Tiffany Schmid, CAO
Laura Schwartz, Assistant CAO	Emma Owens, Principal Management Analyst
Sheriff Leikauf	Undersheriff Golmitz
Cleve Morris, Placerville City Manager	Jackie Neau, Placerville Mayor
John Clerici, Placerville Vice Mayor	Lori Parlin, District IV Supervisor
Wendy Thomas, District III Supervisor	
Timalynn Jaynes, Assistant Director of Human Services	
Jennifer Rogers, Deputy Director of Community Services	

### DISCUSSION POINTS:

#### LOCATION:

The new location by the jail enables the county to meet many state mandates as well as accommodate families and provide a “next step” to those transitioning out of homelessness. In addition, it accommodates HHSA on site staffing as well as easy access to ancillary supportive programs located at the Health and Human Services Agency on Briw Road. There is general support for this location, although it was acknowledged that the businesses and neighborhood around this location will likely be in opposition. (There will be opposition to any location posed.)

The county has tight timeframes on some of the funding sources. If we lose our current funding, we will likely not utilize the next round of HHAP funding for a temporary shelter as they are getting more restrictive. The Governor has announced that the next round of HHAP funding will be the last round.

If we were to start over with another location, building the political will to accomplish that would be nearly impossible. We would also not be able to find another location within the timeframe or the constraints of our funding.

It was acknowledged that we have made tremendous progress. Large encampments have been cleared. Fire danger is reduced. Both jurisdictions can enforce their illegal camping ordinances and some folks are transitioning to permanent housing from an unhousted state.

#### CONCEPT:

- 1) Move the new Navigation Center from its currently approved location (330 Fair Lane) to the site by the Placerville Jail;
- 2) Add a new component of 5-15 tiny homes to be able to serve families and/or those who are successfully transitioning out of the Navigation Center and waiting for permanent housing;
- 3) Purchase the tiny homes now as we currently have ARPA funding that needs to be obligated by December 2024, and HHAP funding that needs to be expended by June 2025. Place them

temporarily at 330 Fair Lane, and when the Jail Expansion Project is done, move them to the site by the Jail near the Alternate Public Defender building. (At that point, the Alternate Public Defender will be moved and the building utilized for wrap-around support services).

This new concept was explored because of lessons learned from our temporary Navigation Center. There needs to be a “next step” for folks to go when they have stabilized at the Navigation Center and are waiting for housing. We also need to be able to serve families as there are currently at least 9 families who are unhoused but receiving services in El Dorado County.

#### **CITY CONCERNS:**

**Issue 1...**Roughly 118 people have exited the Navigation Center for bad behavior or their own free will. This is problematic as people in encampments outside the city limits are brought here. When people exit the Nav Center without transitioning to housing, they are in the City of Placerville and likely to camp here. If this keeps happening, it will be unsustainable for the City of Placerville and their residents and businesses. The City also expressed their concern about the transitional village because it means more unhoused folks will be inside the city limits.

The **solution of an exit strategy** was discussed where we help folks relocate to where they came from if this occurs. (It was acknowledged that we need to do a better job about tracking where folks come from in order to do this). **The county is open to exploring this path.**

**Issue 2...**Law Enforcement response to new Navigation Center. With its proximity next to the Placerville Jail, the question was raised if the EDSO will respond to calls at the Nav Center rather than the Placerville Police Department. The City noted the number of calls to the Nav Center are a drain on their resources, that they have had to respond to the site over 120 times, and that there is now more activity on the east end of Placerville. The county asked what does their data show on their net response as they are not having to respond to their previous large encampments? (City is going to compile that). It was acknowledged the calls are now less serious but more frequent, and that there are more troubled people in Placerville.

**A smaller group will be convened to collaborate on this issue. Tiffany will coordinate.**

**Issue 3...**There was concern about people from Nav Center hanging out on city streets and walking around and impacting businesses. We discussed in the current temporary Nav Center, there is no outdoor space for folks to get away from congregate living and be outdoors.

**In the design of new Nav Center, create several segregated outdoor spaces where people can hang out.** Also, perhaps create a walking path around the property made with decomposed granite to give options for outdoor activity.

**Issue 4...**Concern about impact to neighborhoods and business community on Placerville Drive. Thompsons Auto Group is Placerville’s largest sales tax generator and must be considered. Concern was also expressed about proximity to the El Dorado Trail. Don’t want people

impacting the public trust in the safety of the trail and there should not be easy access to a trail behind Thompson's or into the Gold Nugget neighborhood.

**EDSO stated that if any unwarranted trespassing occurs, perpetrators will be arrested. Cutting off access to trail network and the Gold Nugget neighborhood from the Jail site was also discussed. As the Nav Center is designed, alternatives can be explored that funnel any pedestrian activity down onto Forni Road only.**

**Issue 5...Upper Room.** As long as the Upper Room remains on Upper Broadway, it enables folks to camp. While the Upper Room began as a way to feed seniors and those who run out of money at the end of the month, it has transformed into a kitchen that feeds the unhoused.

**Idea: When the PHF moves to the old juvenile hall and if the County's Senior Center is built at 330 Fair Lane, we could explore partnering with the Upper Room to relocate. This is several years out and we would have to begin discussions with the board of the Upper Room to explore transitioning their service model. This would be a good opportunity for the city and county to collaborate together with the Upper Room.**

#### **NEXT STEPS:**

- There will be an item on the City Council agenda on May 14, 2024 to inform the Placerville City Council on this new location/model. HHSA Director Olivia Byron-Cooper will attend. The BOS is having their board meeting in South Lake Tahoe that day. Supervisor Thomas will also attend if their board meeting is done in time (although that is probably not likely).
- The Board of Supervisors will make a decision on this new location on their May 21, 2024 agenda, recognizing that this new site will not be built until the jail expansion is done (probably 2026).
- An MOU between the city and county will be developed.
- There will be outreach to the neighbors and the Placerville Drive businesses to help inform the design of the new site.
- Regular meetings between city and county will be established to continue communication/collaboration on the Navigation Center.