The Folsom Alliance for the Unhoused (FAFTU) and a Solutions-Based Discussion about Homelessness in Our City

Presented by Jeanne Shuman (Jake’s Journey Home) for Folsom City Council on Tuesday, February 14, 2023
FOLSOM ALLIANCE FOR THE UNHOUSED

A partnership between Folsom City and its non-profits aimed at connecting and collaborating to help prevent homelessness in Folsom
Solutions-Based Services

“We are all just a heartbeat away from the tragedy of homelessness... The difference is in the available support systems when trauma surfaces”

• The goal is to make transitioning from unhoused to housed a seamless movement

• Connect with folks

• Develop respect

• Assist in the transition

• We want to shift from emergency assistance to prevention of homelessness
Community Crime Suppression Unit (FPD)

• Team of two police officers and a police sergeant

• Dedicated to preserving and improving the quality of life in Folsom

• Focused on the investigation and prevention of street crimes that directly impact the daily life of Folsom citizens
  • Sale/use/transportation of narcotics
  • Theft-related crimes
  • Chronic nuisance offenses
    • Habitual trespassing & disturbances

Folsom Police Department (FPD)
Statistics from 2021

Source: https://www.folsom.ca.us/home/showpublisheddocument/11007/637914222308970000
Women & Children's Center
Hope is real and change is possible.

Community Care Center
Our Community Care Center is located at 311 Market Street and is open Monday-Wednesday from 9:00AM-4:00PM and Thursday from 9:00AM-12:00PM

“One of the greatest opportunities of the Alliance is to allow each of the groups working in the homeless community to share resources, and to learn more about the distinct activities of each member group.

It also offers a place to learn about changes in the dynamics of our community, and what new resources in the city and the county are available.

It provides a space where we can get encouragement and embrace the goodness, we each represent.”

Judi Alexander, HART President (Folsom)
Regular collaboration with the Alliance of the Unhoused has been very beneficial due to everyone having their own unique talents to contribute to the population we serve. Working closely with the neighboring SSHH Navigators in Fair Oaks-Orangevale, Citrus Heights and Rancho Cordova has been helpful as well.

SSHH works closely with Sacramento County Office of Homeless Initiatives and refers into the DHA Family Shelter, the Weather Respite hotel programs for the most vulnerable, as well as the 115 bed RSN Scattered Site shelter located throughout the County. We also participate in the Coordinated Access System by referring into other shelters as needed.

SSHH is an authorized agency in the Continuum of Care that participates in the Coordinated Entry System. This allows us to make many types of referrals and get community members ready for housing options depending on their individual needs: Transitional Age Youth, LGBTQ, Seniors, Mental Health, addictions, etc.

All SSHH activities are documented in the Sacramento County HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) for transparency and effectiveness of services.

Jaime Pena, Folsom Navigator

Kerri Jones, SSHH Assistant Direct of Outreach

The Folsom Outreach Navigator works with the unhoused population in Folsom as well as all partners in the community to meet the growing needs.

- 3 drop-in days each week, 2 at Powerhouse Ministries and 1 at the Folsom Library.
- Weekly Ride-a-Long with PD
- Attends the Hart of Folsom Winter Sanctuary 1x/week
- Resource research to maintain housing and treatment options near Folsom

2022- we worked with 90 different individuals in the City of Folsom. We work on appropriate long-term housing, assuring all necessary supports are in place prior to placement. (IHSS, MH, Senior Living, etc.) This process may take longer, but we believe the episodes of returning to homelessness are reduced by doing more intensive Case Management on the front end. (Quality vs Quantity)
Mobile Response for Wrap-Around Services

- Assessments with HMIS listing & Trello
- Food and Clothing
- Referral Services: Addiction / Mental Health / Bike Program
- School Resources (GED, College, Vocational, FAFSA, Grants)
- Veteran Assistance: DD214, Benefits Navigation, Stand Downs
- Legal/Criminal Record Help: Expungement & Pardons
- Sobriety/Recovery Meetings and Paths to Stay sober
- Light Rail Passes, DMV, MediCal, EBT, Social Security Filings
- Housing Assitances
- 211 Resource Referral
- Fragile Community & Underserved Referral Services
- Referral to Twin Lakes Food Bank, PowerHouse Ministries & HART
- And more....
Growing Transient Population

Medical and other Support Services

Mental Health and Addiction Services

Trauma and Lack of Support

Job and Vocational Skills

Housing
A recent Gaps Analysis by SSF and Tom Albanese Consulting LLC estimates that during a year, between 16,500 to 20,000 different individuals will experience homelessness in Sacramento County. The authors of this report believe that the results of the 2022 Count are largely consistent with this annualized estimate.
Community Service and Clean Up

Before

After
I think the most beautiful thing in the world is watching the light come on in someone’s eyes after they’ve been lost in the dark for so long.
The Fights Continues…
Recommendations

1. Expand the CAPS program. I personally went through this program and learned a lot about Folsom and there are many more in this community willing to assist in a volunteer capacity.

2. Offer an Internship to College Students- example- Sac State- that are pursuing education in LE or criminal justice to assist in the daily catch-up/non-enforcement with FPD. When you are a student, a Letter of Recommendation goes a long way.

3. Jake’s Journey Home has been successfully providing mobile assist services for better than two years and now is working on creating a permanent LIFE SKILLS center for folks. We don’t need to reinvent the wheel, just give the wheel a little more stability.
Thank You & Questions

Folsom Alliance for the Unhoused