



Photo: Studios

# FINDS A WAY

**For more than  
40 years, Hope  
Cooperative  
has served  
Sacramento  
County**  
*Now in Yolo  
County, too!*



**Client/Peer Mentor at Hope's Treasures**



**Latesha Pierce, Possibilities**

# HOPE COOPERATIVE



## Mission Statement

*To transform the lives of those living with mental health challenges, substance use disorders and homelessness by supporting their independence, promoting their housing stability, and empowering them to make positive changes in their lives.*

## RESILIENCE. CONNECTION. TRANSFORMATION.



Hope Cooperative (formerly TLCS) has been providing mental health and supportive housing services for people with mental health challenges for over 40 years in Sacramento County. As a client-driven organization, we are dedicated to the independence and empowerment of individuals with psychiatric and other disabilities. We serve over 10,000 people in our community each year offering a full array of services and supports. Many of our clients are homeless when they begin their Hope Cooperative journey and are now successfully living in a “forever” home. As an organization, we hold ourselves accountable to lead with honesty, integrity and equity in all that we do. It is important to the organization that our incredible staff are treated with respect and dignity in our daily interactions. Our goal is to create an inclusive, collaborative, accountable and nurturing work environment for the more than 350 dedicated employees who represent Hope Cooperative. These compassionate staff members are committed to culturally sensitive services that support clients on their path to self-sufficiency.

- We currently support over 300 people in Permanent Supportive Housing in built units we either own, operate or provide services. (Folsom Oaks Apartments in Folsom since 2011!) and 200 individuals in scattered site apartments.
- We have over 400 units in our pipeline in various stages of development.

## BIDWELL STUDIOS, FOLSOM CALIFORNIA



- September 2021-Hope Entered into an MOU with Sacramento Commercial Realtors and the Hirani Family Foundation in order to provide onsite supportive services in support of the HomeKey application submitted by the City of Folsom, Sacramento Commercial Realtors to provide Permanent Supportive Housing at Bidwell Studios.
  - Hope Cooperative committed to providing 1 FTE Personal Services Coordinator to support 20 Clients of Hope Cooperative New Direction Full Service Partnership.
  - In addition, we committed to ensuring that each of the 20 residents came with a tenant based HUD supported housing voucher in order to subsidize the rent. There are 4 units dedicated to Folsom HART.
  - First tenants moved in August 20, 2021. Of the first group, 6 were Folsom Residents experiencing homelessness. Hope Cooperative worked with Sacramento County and Folsom PD to identify, assess and refer these individuals to New Direction and to ensure eligibility for the HUD housing vouchers.

## BIDWELL STUDIOS, FOLSOM CALIFORNIA

- Services Provided:
  - Housing Retention Services
  - Service Coordination and Psychosocial Rehabilitation
  - Case Management
  - Substance Abuse Treatment
  - Mental Health Therapy
  - Crisis Intervention
  - Life Skills Instruction
  - Employment Services
  - Medication Management

All Services are voluntary and may be offered onsite or in our office as appropriate.

## BIDWELL STUDIOS, FOLSOM CALIFORNIA

- As of today, 12 residents have retained housing for 1 full year
  - of these, 6 are Folsom Residents
  - Currently there are 3 vacancies

Sacramento County is working with Folsom PD to identify, assess and refer local individuals to fill these vacancies. We are also looking at our current client roster to identify eligible individuals.

## BIDWELL STUDIOS, FOLSOM CALIFORNIA

### Challenges and Opportunities



Permanent Supportive Housing using HUD rental subsidies is required to be  
**“Housing First”**

**Services are Voluntary** and housing is not contingent upon participation  
**Sobriety is not a requirement for housing and cannot be a reason for eviction**

**Chronic Homelessness is a requirement of eligibility**

**Serious Mental Illness is a requirement of New Direction Full Service Partnership**

Folks who are coming directly from the streets with serious mental illness, chronic homelessness and often co-occurring substance use disorder often take a long time to adjust to living in housing, in community with others and following the rules.

Hope Cooperative communicated an early expectation that it would take roughly 2 years to stabilize the property.



## BIDWELL STUDIOS, FOLSOM CALIFORNIA

### Challenges and Opportunities



Successful projects like this require intense collaboration between the Property Management and the Service provider. This also requires a period of adjustment.

**Challenges for Hope**—Finding the right onsite person to serve in this role has been difficult. In the roughly 1 year since we have moved in we are on our 3<sup>rd</sup> service provider. In addition, staff duties include transportation to appointments for clients which meant they were not ONSITE 40 hours per week which the property needed.

**In response we have since added an additional .5 FTE to the service team at our expense.**

Participation and commitment to Substance Use Disorder Treatment has also been challenging. Staff offered individual sessions early on and we started bringing in onsite groups in September of 2022. Initial participation was sporadic but is growing and the number and type of groups has increased. No private group space on the property was also a challenge.

**GOOD NEWS**—The SUD staff person that has been working on the property has accepted the position of Personal Services Coordinator at Bidwell—She started on June 1, 2023.



## BIDWELL STUDIOS, FOLSOM CALIFORNIA

### Challenges and Opportunities



City Staff has supported the team in encouraging the level of collaboration necessary to be successful.

We are happy to report that things are going very well in the last 45 days.

- All of us attended a State training on collaboration in HomeKey projects-City Staff, Property Management and Service staff.
- Weekly meetings are going well.
- Unit inspections are happening in collaboration between services and PM thereby providing opportunities for the essential Life Skills Training and housing retention work that is required.
- Rent increases have been applied in year 2 to improve the cash flow of the property.
- A weekly group schedule has been implemented: SUD group, Life Skills Group, Arts/Crafts (provided and paid for by a local volunteer!!), Tenant Council, Rehab group.
- Activities and volunteer opportunities have been planned and implemented in collaboration with Services and Property Management.

BIDWELL STUDIOS, FOLSOM CALIFORNIA

**HOPE**  
COOPERATIVE

## SUCCESS STORY!!!

- A young man well know to Folsom PD, living in an encampment was one of the first residents
  - His serious untreated mental health symptoms and co-occurring substance use disorder left his family feeling hopeless. Repeated interactions with law enforcement and frequent hospitalizations were painting a picture of potential dire consequences.
  - Of course it has not been a straight line to recovery but today that young man is stably housed, connected with his family, engaged in services and supports, working on his sobriety and looking happy and healthy.