

**Lassen County Advisory Board Meeting**

**November 7, 2024**

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

1445 Paul Bunyan Road, Aspen Room  
Susanville, CA 96130

**Teleconference Locations:**

Partnership HealthPlan of California  
4665 Business Center Drive  
Fairfield, CA 94534

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Establish Quorum**
- 3. Regular Meeting Agenda Approval**
- 4. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
  - a. Approve October 3, 2024 Special Minutes (Attachment 1)
- 5. Public Comments (limited to three minutes per comment)**

Members of the public will have the opportunity to address the Board on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Board. Speakers will be limited to three minutes.
- 6. Correspondence Received**
  - a. Account of Lived Experience: Housing Instability (Attachment 2)
- 7. New Business/Action Items**
  - a. Alternate Voting Members
  - b. Youth Action Board Update
  - c. New Member Application (Attachment 3)
- 8. HMIS/CES Committee Updates**

**Advisory Board Members**

**Krystal Dalton, Chair** Lassen  
County Housing and Grants

**Rebecca Peconom, Vice-Chair**  
City of Susanville

**Brett Lindsey**  
Lassen Family Services

**Carla McDonald** Salvation  
Army

**Cheri Farrell**  
Crossroads Ministries

**Cody Evans**  
Lassen Community College

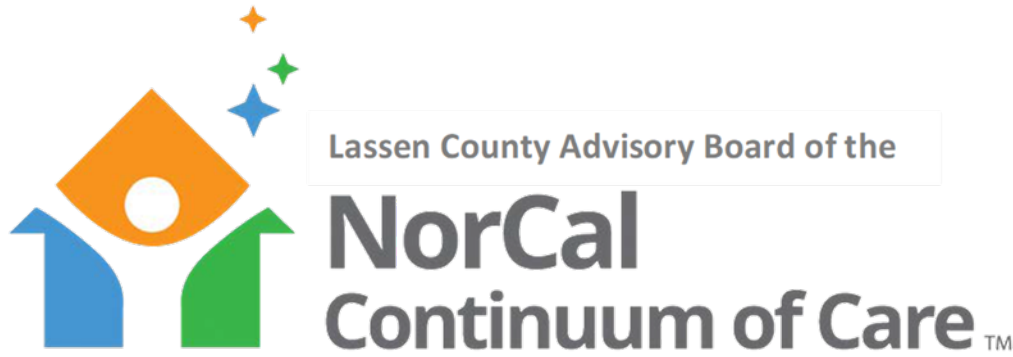
**Tina Kennemore**  
Lassen County Adult Services

**Tiffany Armstrong** Lassen  
County Behavioral Health

**Vacant Voting Member**  
(Youth Action Board)

**Vacant Voting Member**  
(Lived Experience)

**Grace Poor, Secretary**  
(Non-Voting Member)



**9. PIT Committee Updates**

**10. Executive Board Updates**

**11. General Updates**

- a. Permanent Supportive Housing Update
- b. Agency Updates

**12. Discussion Items for Next Meeting**

- a. Care Court

**13. Adjournment**

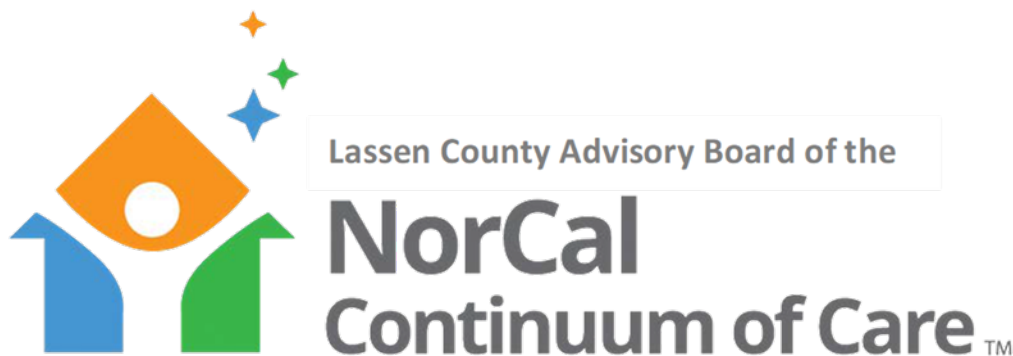
**Next Meeting**

Thursday, December 5, 2024

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof.

**The agenda shall include information regarding how, to whom, and when a request for disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, may be made by a person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in the public meeting.**



**Lassen County Advisory Board Meeting**

**October 3, 2024 Minutes**

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

1445 Paul Bunyan Road, Aspen Room

Susanville, CA 96130

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 12:11 PM by Krystal Dalton.

**2. Quorum Established.**

Quorum was established

Voting Members Present: Krystal Dalton, Rebecca Peconom, Brett Lindsey, Carla McDonald, Cheri Farrell, Cody Evans, Tina Kennemore, and Tiffany Armstrong.

Non-Voting Members Present: Brie Buckler, Madeline Koller, and Grace Poor

**3. Regular Meeting Agenda Approval**

Rebecca Peconom made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Carla McDonald. Roll call vote was taken: all approved, none opposed.

**4. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Krystal Dalton presented the minutes from the September 12, 2024 meeting. Carla McDonald requested that a change be made to the minutes documenting that she was present at the meeting and made a motion to approve the minutes with that change. The motion was seconded by Tina Kennemore. Roll call vote was taken: all approved, none opposed.

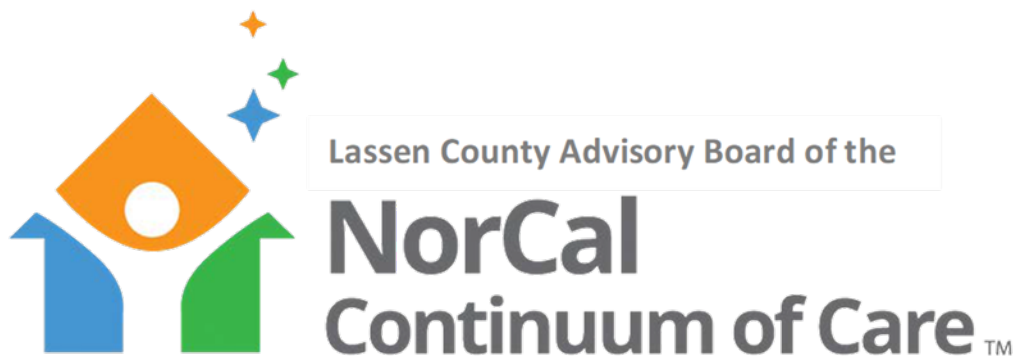
**5. Public Comments (limited to three minutes per comment)**

Madeline Koller presented a written statement regarding homelessness. Krystal Dalton asked if Madeline would be willing to share more at a future meeting, and Madeline agreed to do so.

**6. Correspondence Received**

**a. Housing Policy Development (HPD) Homelessness Grants Office Hours**

Grace Poor shared that the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD)'s Housing Policy Development Division (HPD) is having bimonthly office hours that will include Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) updates.



## 7. New Business/Action Items

### a. NorCal CoC Structure Discussion (Attachment 3)

Grace Poor led a discussion on the structure of the NorCal CoC. The members agreed on the following points:

- An advantage of having a seven county CoC is that the counties can share the cost of expenses like HMIS.
- A challenge of having a seven county CoC is that different counties have different needs based on size. Smaller counties can have different needs than larger counties.
- The PIT count may not be the best way to allocate CoC funding. Data from HMIS may be more accurate.
- Being a single county CoC would be very challenging for Lassen County. Partnering with other small counties may be more feasible.

Tiffany Armstrong suggested reaching out to Partnership Healthplan of California to ask if they could assist with the administration of the CoC in any way.

### b. Advisory Board Membership

Krystal Dalton stated that this was the first meeting in some time that all members were present. Krystal asked that members reach out prior to the meeting if they are going to be unable to attend. Members then discussed the possibility of having alternates for voting members. Further discussion needs to be had regarding Brown Act requirements and what changes would need to be made to the Governance Charter regarding this.

### c. Youth Action Board Discussion

Krystal Dalton shared that she would be sending out an invitation for a meeting to begin setting up the Youth Action Board. Krystal explained that the meeting would be to set up the structure of the Youth Action Board with the goal of having youth take over.

## 8. HMIS/CES Committee Updates

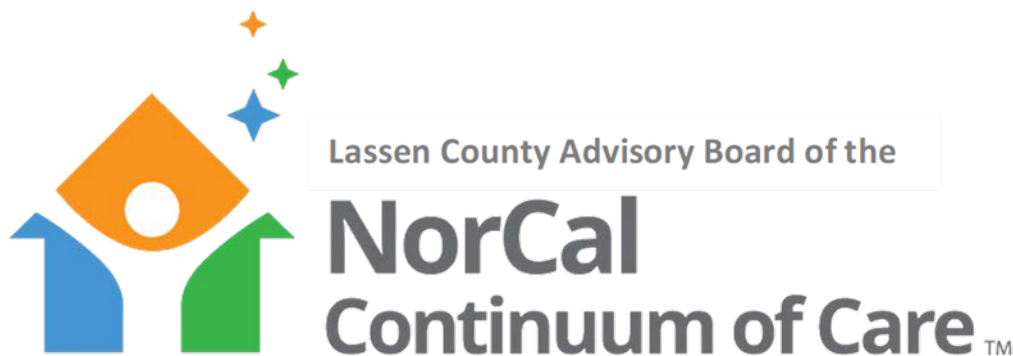
### a. Lassen County's Coordinated Entry Meeting: End User Agreement

Grace Poor shared that members could participate in Lassen County's coordinated entry process by turning in a completed HMIS End User Agreement.

## 9. PIT Committee Updates

Krystal Dalton presented that the Point in Time County planning process is underway for a full count this year (unsheltered and sheltered). Krystal shared that this year the street county portion of the process would be a little different this year in that team that has been conducting regular street outreach would be conducting the street county.

## 10. Executive Board Updates



a. Executive Board All Member Meeting – October 17, 2024 at 1:00 PM

Krystal Dalton shared that the NorCal CoC all member meeting would be on October 17, 2024 at 1:00 PM and that the location was still to be determined. Krystal encouraged voting members to attend in order to ensure that the meeting had a quorum.

b. Collaborative Applicant Focus Group

Grace Poor presented that the Executive Board was recruiting people for a focus group for people with lived experience and asked members reach out if they knew anyone interested.

c. Governance Charter Committee

Grace Poor presented that the Executive Board is updating the Executive Board Governance Charter and needs members to participate in the committee that is working on the updates. Grace asked interested members to reach out to her.

## 11. General Updates

a. Permanent Supportive Housing Update

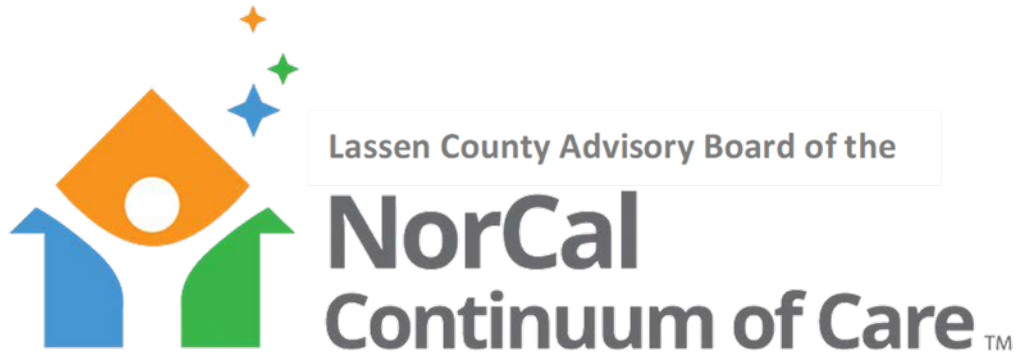
Grace Poor presented units through the Behavioral Health Bridge Housing are under development at the Hospital Lane site. Multiple Advisory Board members expressed interest in touring the site. Grace Poor agreed to talk to the developer about setting up a tour.

b. Agency Updates

- i. Carla McDonald announced the Salvation Army had been awarded \$50,000.00 in Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) funds.
- ii. Brett Lindsey shared that Lassen Family Services is receiving full funding for all of their programs and that October domestic violence awareness month.
- iii. Rebecca Peconom shared that the City of Susanville had completed their grant budget for the next year.
- iv. Tiffany Armstrong reported that Care Court starts on December 1, 2024.
- v. Brie Buckler reported the Lassen County Office of Education is waiting for the grant they were recently awarded.

## 12. Discussion Items for Next Meeting

- a. Statement on lived experience of homelessness (Madeline Koller)
- b. Alternates for voting members of the Advisory Board
- c. Care Court



**13. Adjournment**

Rebecca Peconom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Tina Kennemore. The meeting adjourned at 1:03 PM.

**Next Meeting**

November 7, 2024

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

DRAFT

October 02, 2024

## Account of Lived Experience: Housing Instability

It was the summer of 2020 when I first experienced the threat of homelessness.

For much of my life, I had grown up with a family that, though not lavish, had always been upper-middle class. My father was working for the state at the time (though has since retired), and my mother was adept at managing the home finances to a degree that even during the most stressful of financial periods, she could stretch a dollar more than it was ever meant to be.

I was in my mid-20s at the time, had gone through a few years of college, was between jobs, but was ultimately allowed to remain in the home where I had grown up. Before this, I had only ever moved away once for college, and that was to a university dormitory – which is a rather sanitized version of “independent living.”

During the height of the pandemic, the lockdowns had resulted in me losing a part-time job, but I was personally keeping afloat financially through pandemic assistance funds. I felt like, even if the world were to come crashing down, I still had my family, and we still had our home.

All of this became threatened on the afternoon of July 19th.

I had been at the nearby lake with my father and one of his coworkers. Everything seemed fine at first, but we then noticed a massive plume of smoke over the horizon from the nearby Hog Fire – a fire which had begun to burn in the days previous. Minutes later, an alert broke out prompting evacuations of several nearby areas, including the neighborhood where I live.

By the time my father and I left the lake and returned to the neighborhood (his coworker leaving in a separate vehicle), there were already emergency vehicles patrolling as well as air tankers dropping flame retardant a few miles away. We had two hours to load up three vehicles (mine, my father's, and my mother's) before leaving the area alongside over one hundred other families.

We would not be allowed to return for five days.

Thankfully, we were able to stay with my grandparents in a nearby city. Every day, I would listen to dispatch scanners as I waited for news of the fire suppression efforts and whether we would be able to return home. There was even a point where firefighters feared the worst –



that the fire would breach their defenses and consume the neighborhood. Yet miraculously, a storm brewed on the third day which significantly aided in fire suppression.

When we returned home after the fifth day, the house smelled of smoke, but there was thankfully no damage. We were very lucky. That being said, it left a lasting trauma which motivated me personally to take action.

As someone who had a history of learning CAD programs on a basic level, I became motivated to learn how to design housing. My preference, however, was the creation of tinyhomes and other accessory dwellings which could be deployed rapidly but were meant to be semi-permanent housing solutions. This proved to be a bit more challenging than I anticipated, unfortunately.

I remember bringing these initial designs to a mechanic I was acquainted with, and he spared no expense in pointing out the many, many flaws in these designs. It was sobering, though it was not discouraging. I decided that with my remaining pandemic funds and applying for government grants that I would go back to college (for the third time, being honest) in order to learn professional CAD drafting.

The first year (2021) I did completely online, but the second year, I decided I would attempt to live in Chico so that I could attend in-person at the Butte Campus. And this is really where the bulk of my lived experiences come from.

For starters, it was a four-bedroom apartment meaning four residents including myself. This meant a shared living room, kitchen and two bathrooms; it was a bit cramped, but each of us would perform our respective tasks at different times of the day as to be respectful to each other.

The second important factor was that the cost of the apartment was split between four people. Each of us was paying approximately \$600 per month for rent and shared utilities. I had the luxury of paying the full six-month lease up-front: \$3600 that, again, I had saved from pandemic funds and college grants. I am aware that most people would not have that same luxury.

The third important factor was that when I took these CAD courses at Butte, it was quickly realized among us students that many of us who were older and considered “nontraditional students” had enrolled with the same basic rationale: each of us had been affected in some way by past wildfires, and each of us had wanted to do something about this.



This, I feel, plays into a fundamental principle of humans facing housing insecurity: People do not wish to be pitied, and they would much rather pull themselves up by their bootstraps – to borrow a phrase from an elderly couple I used to hang around with.

The final factor, of course, is that I would go on to learn a lot about the process of designing an accessory dwelling – as well as the regulatory frameworks which were being steadily advanced in California as of recent. I became aware of many of the advances being spearheaded by Humboldt County to the west, and those are worth an entire conversation in itself. I was also made aware of an existing nonprofit in Butte County known as the Tiny Pine Foundation. They build tinyhomes on trailer frames because, legally, it is easier to register a tinyhome as a motorhome instead of an accessory dwelling.

There is a lot of red tape that is well above my pay grade, but I can tell just from the people I've met in this space that people want to come up with home-grown solutions that the average layperson can implement. Therefore, when I finished designing my tinyhome model, I would go on to develop a framework for a housing co-op based around the idea of licensing occupancy of property as opposed to buying or leasing property outright.

Whether those plans ever come to fruition is an altogether different matter, but I remain hopeful regardless.

In any case, my next experience with housing insecurity would come when the time approached for the apartment lease to expire. Although I had been hoping to renew the lease and to continue my education further, I was unfortunate the unwilling victim of a slew of medical issues which would result in me having to move back in with my parents. Life is unpredictable in that way.

I have been living with my parents again since the summer of 2022, and while I have wanted to at least get my own place in town to take some of the financial stresses off my parents, the process has been difficult – medical complications notwithstanding.

I feel that the biggest barriers to my own housing security are threefold:

1. Income is difficult to come by in a small town. The job market can be relatively scarce, it can be hard to qualify for certain positions, and even when you are hired, you may face challenges which threaten your ability to sustain that position. For me personally, I have since left the workforce (again, due to my disability), and as

I wait to see if I can qualify for SSI, I have taken instead to content creation and AI training as a means to try to make passive income.

2. Housing itself is in limited supply, and the application process is confusing. It doesn't make sense to me to have to create separate applications for *each* apartment building in town when those subsidies are being managed by county governments and the state/federal HHS departments. An electronic system which forwards this information to those apartment managers would streamline the process considerably.
3. In my personal opinion, Cash Aid is a fraudulent program. I applied to Cash Aid in hopes it would tide me over until I can determine my SSI eligibility. I was informed that the county would pull from disability to repay what is essentially a loan by the county of Lassen. I was then informed that I would have to put a lien on my personal vehicle as collateral for this loan. Worst of all, I was informed *after signing the paperwork* that they could retroactively suspend my application and force me to apply for Unemployment Insurance instead – at which point I withdrew the application altogether.

For me, these factors really contributed to the sense of helplessness I have in ever living on my own, and I am aware that there are no easy answers to any of these things. All I can really do is give an account of my experiences and help that someone much smarter or more trained than I am is able to use these experiences to drive better policy and more efficient procedures.

In closing, I submit this information to the Nor-Cal Continuum of Care housing advisory board for Lassen County.

# Lassen County Advisory Board to the NorCal Continuum of Care

## Membership Application

Name: Tammy Swayze Title: Correctional Release Coordinator

Phone: 530-251-5272 Email: tswayze@co.lassen.ca.us

Agency Name (If Applicable): Lassen County Sheriff's Department

Membership Request: ☐ Voting Member ☒ Participant

Please select the category(s) that best defines you or your agency type:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Behavioral Health Services   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member             | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government Staff/Officials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Violence Advocate   | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical Organization             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Organization     | <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran Service Provider         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Shelter            | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Service Organization       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Formerly Homeless Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                     |

Please provide the mission statement of your agency, or if not applicable, explain your interest in joining the Advisory Board:

My position at the jail is to promote justice involved individuals success upon release. Housing is critical in that success

Describe your agency and/or your personal experience working to end homelessness: \_\_\_\_\_

Same as Above

What do you and/or your agency hope to contribute and gain by being a member of the Advisory Board:

Collaboration between housing + law enforcement is always important. Knowing the current status + situations can help individuals getting off the street

**Statement of Commitment:** By my signature below, if nominated to the Lassen County Advisory Board to the NorCal Continuum of Care, I understand that I will attend, with frequency the Advisory Board Meetings, when scheduled. I will collectively participate at each meeting and will share knowledge and information freely. I may revoke my membership at any time, and acknowledge my membership may be revoked for cause, if I am not adhering to the Advisory Board Governance Charter.

Signature: 

Date: 10/24/24