

## **Background on the Creation of the Homelessness Task Force**

On September 10, 2013 the Board of Supervisors received a presentation about Hangtown Haven, Inc. from Art Edwards and City of Placerville Mayor Wendy Thomas (Agenda Item #29, Legistar Item 13-1132). Following the discussion, the Board of Supervisors directed the Chief Administrative Office to convene an inter-agency task force for the purpose of examining the homeless sheltering locations and return to the Board with a preliminary report later in the fall.

Staff received input from a number of outside entities, including the Community Resource Center, the Office of Education, the El Dorado Community Foundation, and El Dorado Transit regarding sheltering options and services. It was then determined that forming a broader Homelessness Task Force could utilize the combined knowledge of these and additional participants to work on developing a coordinated response to the issue of homelessness in El Dorado County, beyond solely shelter needs. CAO staff determined that a report on shelter locations should be put on hold pending the work of the Task Force.

The Center for Violence Free Relationships (Center) was brought in to facilitate a series of meetings designed to develop a unified vision for addressing homelessness in El Dorado County. The Center utilized a method called the Theory of Change to walk Task Force participants through the development process. The first Theory of Change meeting was held on April 17, 2014, with four more following through the summer. The Center's work was funded partially by County Economic Development funds and partially by volunteer hours provided by a Center contracting facilitator.