

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
HSOC FINANCE AND DATA COMMITTEE MEETING
March 24 2021, 10am-11:30am**

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Andrea Montes Alvarado Bill Crewe Elaine Mansoor Janna Nichols Jessica Thomas Riley Smith Sstoz Tes	Jeff Al-Mashat Shay Stewart	Carolyn Berg George Solis Jan Maitzen Jessica Lorange Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Russ Francis
AGENDA ITEM		CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Janna called the meeting to order at 10am.	
2. Public Comment	None.	
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes		Jessica Thomas made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Bill. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1 Discussion Item: 2021 PIT (Point in Time) Count and HIC (Housing Inventory Count)	George reported on the PIT (Point in Time) Count and HIC (Housing Inventory Count) data, which is submitted to HUD (US Department of Housing & Urban Development) annually. For the PIT Count this year, SLO County CoC (Continuum of Care) was granted an exemption from the unsheltered count, so is only submitting the sheltered count data. County staff has now requested data from participating agencies, which is due by April 5 th , so it can be compiled and sent to HUD by	

	<p>April 30th. The local HUD-VASH (Housing and Urban Development – Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) program is now recorded in HMIS (Homeless Management Information System), so there will be a higher participation rate of Permanent Supportive Housing beds within the county. George will report on the PIT and HIC data at April’s Finance & Data Committee meeting.</p>	
<p>4.2 Discussion Item: ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus) Quarterly Report (1/1/21 - 3/31/21)</p>	<p>George reported that the next ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus) CAPER (Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report) is due to the State in April. This will include data from January 1st – March 31st 2021. County staff will email a reminder to ESG-CV subrecipients at the start of April to report this data. George will bring this data to April’s Finance & Data Committee meeting.</p>	
<p>4.3 Discussion Item: Utilizing Data to Evaluate Performance, Inform Community Planning and Decision-Making, and Inform the Public</p>	<p>Laurel opened a discussion on how the Finance & Data Committee, and HSOC generally, can use data to inform the public and policymakers. Laurel shared HIC and PIT data showing total bed inventory from 2012-2020, which showed a rise in the number of emergency shelter beds and permanent supportive housing beds (this only included programs entering their data into HMIS). The Committee gave feedback that narrative around the figures is important, as the data could be misleading otherwise – suggesting that capacity is increasing to meet need, without reference to increasing need. It would also be useful to include data on the length of time it takes to get people housed, the vacancy rate, resources needed to get people housed, etc., to show an accurate picture of what is happening in the county. Federal system performance measures could also be considered as a point of comparison. Jessica Thomas shared that she has data on homeless students within the county, and will send this to Carolyn and Laurel for inclusion in future data reporting. Janna left the meeting and Jessica Thomas took over as chair at this point.</p>	

<p>4.4 Discussion Item: HMIS Systems Administrators Monthly Call updates</p>	<p>George reported that County staff attend monthly calls with HUD TA (Technical Assistance) regarding HUD and HMIS data collection updates. George updated the Committee on updates from the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CoCs will submit their HIC and PIT data through an online portal called HDX (Homelessness Data Exchange), which HUD intended to be open on March 1st. The deadline for this reporting is April 30th, but HDX has not yet opened, so this deadline may be extended. • There will be a data standards update in October for agencies submitting data to HMIS. Tentatively, HUD are looking at changes including: updating wording for responses on race, ethnicity and gender; changing the wording of 'mental health problems' to 'mental health issues'; changing the wording of 'substance abuse' to 'substance abuse disorder'; and other changes in data collection methods to avoid incomplete data. 	
<p>4.5 Discussion Item: National Human Services Data Consortium (NHSDC) Spring Virtual Conference</p>	<p>George shared that the NHSDC (National Human Services Data Consortium) are holding their Spring conference virtually, from April 12th-29th, on the theme of "A Year of Crisis: Using Human Services Data to Recover from the Pandemic." Topics will include equity and outcomes, equitable recovery, CARES Act funding, vaccine distribution, Coordinated Entry prioritization, and housing strategies during and after the pandemic. As the conference is HUD -approved, HMIS and admin funds through the ESG and ESG-CV programs can be used to attend.</p> <p>Andrea, Laurel and Jessica Lorange gave positive feedback on previous conferences – they are a good opportunity for CoCs to share experiences and challenges, and to learn from each other. There are good networking opportunities, and the presenters make many helpful resources available.</p>	
<p>4.6 Discussion Item: The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report</p>	<p>George reported on the Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR), which CoCs contribute data to, and is ultimately submitted to Congress, showing homeless data across the country. Part of the 2020</p>	

<p>(AHAR) to Congress</p>	<p>report was released in March, showing the PIT and HIC data from January 2020. This report showed that 580,000 people experienced homelessness nationwide on a single night in 2020, which is an increase on previous years. Unsheltered and chronic homelessness increased compared to 2019, and homelessness among veterans and families did not decrease as it had been in previous years. The report also showed that people of color are significantly overrepresented among the homeless population.</p> <p>SLO County CoC was mentioned in several places in the report. Among largely suburban CoCs, SLO County had a high proportion of unsheltered homeless individuals, unsheltered homeless veterans, and unsheltered unaccompanied homeless youth.</p> <p>Laurel shared that this should be viewed in context – the CoCs with the highest proportion of unsheltered homeless people generally are found in warmer places, e.g. the West coast of California and the South. SLO County does not have many shelter beds compared to the number of homeless people in the county. The PIT Count taking place in January is also significant, as many CoCs would show different proportions of unsheltered homelessness if the count was undertaken in summer, when shelters generally are closed.</p> <p>Laurel clarified that the cost of housing in a community does have an impact on homelessness, but more significant is the high correlation between the percentage of people who are renting and on low income (especially those paying more than 50% of their income on rent) and homelessness.</p>	
<p>5. Future Discussion/Report Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laurel suggested discussing the State’s Homeless Data Integration System (HDIS). The State is looking to do a public rollout of this in April, so County staff will share this with the Committee. • Jan suggested that County staff report on any additional data available around homeless youth. 	
<p>6. Next Meeting Date: April 28, 2021</p>		

7. Adjournment	Jessica Thomas adjourned the meeting at 11:10am.	
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