

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
Homeless Services Coordinating Committee
January 11, 2021 10-11:30pm
Meeting held by Zoom call

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Brandy Graham Devin Drake Grace McIntosh Nicole Bennett	John Klevins	Elaine Archer Elaine Mansoor George Solis Jan Maitzen Janna Nichols Jeff Al-Mashat Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Mark Lamore Riley Smith Russ Francis Steve Martin Sue Warren Susan Lamont Wendy Lewis
AGENDA ITEM	CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS	
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Devin called the meeting to order at 10am.	
2. Public Comment	None	
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes	Janna made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Brandy. The minutes were approved with all in favor, none	

		opposed and no abstentions.
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Updates	<p>Janna reported that the County Public Health Department has convened a Vaccine Task Force, which she is sitting on representing homeless services. The Task Force met for the first time last week. In the meeting, Dr Borenstein from Public Health gave an overview of current challenges including how to distribute vaccines and who should be prioritized. Homeless people have been identified as a priority. Janna will continue to provide updates as this moves forward.</p> <p>Devin shared that the Emergency Operations Center is predicting numbers of infections will begin increasing again, due to people not socially distancing over Christmas and New Year.</p> <p>Devin and Janna clarified that there is a page on the ReadySLO website about vaccinations and how to make appointments for essential workers. This page can be found here: https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/vaccine-registration-information.aspx</p> <p>Brandy shared that the SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families) program at CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) is anticipating an increase in homelessness prevention requests.</p> <p>Grace reported that there was an outbreak at 40 Prado in November. Staff, volunteers and clients were subsequently tested weekly. The week commencing 4th January was the first</p>	

	<p>week that nobody in the shelter tested positive, so they no longer have to participate in the weekly testing.</p> <p>Jeff reported that ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) has quarantined people who have tested positive, but the organization has not had a real problem with infections so far.</p> <p>Susan shared that RISE has only had one person test positive for COVID so far. Other people have been symptomatic but tested negative.</p> <p>Jan reported that TFS (Transitional Food & Shelter) have seen no positive cases.</p>	
<p>4.2. Discussion Item: Coordinated Entry</p>	<p>George reported that the County has been working with homeless services agencies on a COVID-19 prioritization list for Coordinated Entry. They will be incorporating the Project Homekey units into this process, as well as including the units in the housing master list.</p>	
<p>4.3. Discussion Item: Federal and State Grant Updates</p>	<p>Laurel reported that the COVID Relief Act passed in December includes funding for homeless prevention, which can be used for case management and utility payments. The County will likely be receiving at least \$8 million. This funding will not be made available through a HUD (Department of Housing & Urban Development) program, but will come from the Treasury Department. The County are looking into how this can fit with other programs, and if it can be used for rental assistance.</p> <p>Janna shared that CDBG funding, unlike ESG funding, can be used to provide rental assistance. However, this can only be for consecutive months of rental assistance – so an agency can</p>	

	<p>support a family with rental assistance until their situation is stabilized, but if they then need the same type of support some months later (e.g. if another family member becomes infected with COVID and is unable to work), CDBG funding cannot be used again for this.</p> <p>George reported that the omnibus bill in December included the provision that the Continuum of Care (CoC) grant for Fiscal Year 2020 will not involve the typical competition, but will be a renewal process. There will not therefore be an opportunity for bonus grants.</p> <p>The County is expecting award notifications for the 2020 California ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) program soon. The award letter for Round 1 of the California ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus) program was received in December, and the County is now in the process of finalizing and sending out subrecipient agreements.</p> <p>An ad hoc Grant Review Committee for applications to the Round 2 of the California ESG-CV program is set to meet on the same day as this meeting. Recommendations will then be reviewed by the full HSOC meeting on January 20th.</p> <p>Brandy shared that the eligibility criteria for HUD VASH (Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) vouchers and long term support has been expanded. It previously only included veterans who had been honorably discharged. More veterans are now eligible for this support.</p>	
<p>4.3.1. Discussion Item: Homeless Housing, Assistance &</p>	<p>Laurel provided some background on Round 2 of the HHAP (Homeless Housing, Assistance & Prevention) grant program. The second round will be worth approximately \$1.5 million. The County’s application to the State is due on January 23rd. The</p>	

<p>Prevention Program (HHAP) Round 2 Priorities</p>	<p>State is asking for more information in the second round, including identifying priority areas for the grant which should be based on an assessment of needs. The State has confirmed that prior assessments can be used, so the County is proposing to submit the results of the assessment carried out for the HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program) and CESH (California Emergency Solutions and Housing) programs. This will be relevant especially as the HHAP grant has a set aside for youth funding, and the HEAP and CESH assessment included input from young homeless people. The priorities identified previously include permanent housing, street outreach, and case management. This will also be discussed by the Executive Committee meeting on January 12th, and then by the full HSOC on January 20th.</p> <p>The Committee discussed these priorities and agreed that permanent supportive housing is the top priority. Grace, Jan and Brandy highlighted the need for a medical component to be included, as agencies are increasingly finding older homeless people with medical needs have nowhere to go except for hospital.</p> <p>Janna shared that 5CHC recently completed a homeless services assessment for PLHA (Permanent Local Housing Allocation) funding, and will send recommendations to Laurel to incorporate.</p>	
<p>4.4. Discussion Item: Safe Parking and Alternatives to Encampments</p>		

<p>4.4.1. Discussion Item: Alternatives to Encampments Working Group Recommendations</p>	<p>Nicole reported that the Alternatives to Encampment Working Group will be meeting on January 14th to review the recommendations, incorporating suggestions from the Encampment Committee meeting on January 7th, before the recommendations will be sent to the full HSOC on January 20th.</p> <p>Separately, the Alternatives to Encampment Working Group decided to present three of its recommendations to the Services Coordinating Committee rather than the Encampment Committee. Nicole presented these recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Incorporating community engagement and support services, i.e. setting up a social business (trash and sanitation) to employ homeless people; and a medical/substance abuse pilot program 2. Cataloguing homeless resources in coordination with United Way's 211 program 3. A step up program to provide different sleeping options at the same location, allowing for people to move from encampments to congregate or non-congregate shelter <p>The Committee gave the following feedback on the recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Janna stated that enterprise projects have been attempted before, and there have been challenges related to California workers compensation policies. Janna suggested that County Counsel should look into these issues first. The main challenge with medical programs has been the lack of a consistent provider over time. 2. Janna stated that 5CHC had previously paid for a list of homeless resources which was printed and distributed. There is a document which could be a starting point for this, but needs to be updated. Riley suggested 211 would 	
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	<p>be willing to help with this, and could create an interactive PDF or possibly an app. Grace stated that CAPSLO had an app previously which allowed access to a basic service directory. Grace and Janna will follow up with Riley.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to review these recommendations in the next meeting.</p>	
<p>4.5. Discussion Item: 2021 Sheltered Point in Time Count – January 25th</p>	<p>George reported that the sheltered PIT (Point in Time) Count will take place on the night of January 25th. The County is therefore asking all shelter providers, especially those that have warming centers, to be open at this time. All warming centers are contributing to HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) currently, so a manual tally will not be needed. George will be reaching out to RISE and Stand Strong for their numbers, as well as TMHA (whose transitional housing project is not recorded in HMIS), and CAPSLO (whose emergency housing and hoteling work via SSVF is also not recorded in HMIS).</p>	
<p>4.6. Discussion Item: 2019 and 2020 Longitudinal Systems Analysis (LSA) – Responses to Comparisons with 2018 LSA data</p>	<p>George reported that he is currently working on completing the LSA (Longitudinal Systems Analysis) report. George shared some of the data with questions about historical differences in client numbers. The Committee discussed the questions and provided information to address these, i.e. warming center beds have only been counted for the last couple of years and some services did not report into HMIS in previous years.</p>	
<p>5. Future Discussion/Report Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations from the Alternatives to Encampment Working Group • Homeless resources app 	

6. Next Meeting Date: March 8, 2021		
7. Adjournment	Devin adjourned the meeting at 11:35am.	