

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL**  
**Homeless Services Coordinating Committee**  
**September 13, 2021 10-11:30pm**  
**Meeting held by Zoom call**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>		<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	<b>STAFF &amp; GUESTS</b>
Brandy Graham Devin Drake Jack Lahey		John Klevins Nicole Bennett	Abby Lassen Angela Smith Carrie Collins Elaine Archer George Solis Jan Maitzen Jeff Al-Mashat Jessica Lorange Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Lisa Fraser Lori Hoffman Michael Azevedo Mimi Rodriguez Riley Smith Russ Francis Steve Martin Sue Warren Wendy Lewis
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>			<b>CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS</b>
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Devin called the meeting to order at 10am.		
2. Public Comment	Jan reported that Transitional Food & Shelter (TFS) has rented units within the same small complex in Atascadero since 2004. The cost per unit has increased from \$700 in 2018, to \$950		

	<p>today. The complex has been placed on the market, estimated at \$1.8 million. TFS does not have the capacity to purchase the property, but believe it is an asset worth acquiring, and so would invite discussion with partner agencies regarding possibilities for a route forward.</p> <p>Laurel reported that the State has released the funding guidelines for the next round of the Homekey grant program. This funding is for the acquisition of motels and similar properties, for conversion into housing for homeless people. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis from now until May 2022. Eligible applicants are cities, counties and housing authorities. HASLO (Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo), in partnership with ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) and People’s Self Help Housing, applied successfully for the first round of Homekey funding.</p> <p>Brandy reported that CAPSLO’s (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families) program office announced in the last meeting that they will be running a shallow subsidy pilot program. This is being rolled out nationwide. Shallow subsidy involves subsidizing 35% of a client’s rent for up to 2 years, a longer term than is typical, with no recertification process during the 2 years.</p> <p>Abby announced that, as Health Equity Coordinator for the County, she is working to gather information on the vaccination status of unhoused people. If any agencies are able to provide current percentages of vaccinated and unvaccinated unsheltered homeless people, please email Abby at <a href="mailto:alassen@co.slo.ca.us">alassen@co.slo.ca.us</a></p>	
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3. Consent: Approval of Minutes		Minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1. Discussion Item: Federal and State Grant Updates		
4.1.1. Discussion Item: US Department of Housing & Urban Development Continuum of Care Grant Program – Fiscal Year 2021	<p>George reported that the County Department of Social Services (DSS) has released the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Fiscal Year 2021 Continuum of Care (CoC) grant program. Renewal projects under this grant program are worth around \$1.2 million. If the collaborative application is successful, the CoC can also apply for new Bonus projects, including DV (Domestic Violence) projects. CoCs can get bonus points, and so become more competitive, if they submit Permanent Supportive Housing or Rapid Rehousing projects that show coordination between housing and healthcare. A Public Information meeting will be held on Friday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be a supplemental application for applicants to complete, along with the main e-snaps application. Local applications are due October 12<sup>th</sup> at 9am. Following this, County staff will convene a Grant Review Committee then bring recommendations to the full HSOC in October, and then to the Board of Supervisors at their November 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. The collaborative application is due to HUD by November 16<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>Laurel added that CoC funding is a more reliable source of ongoing funds, as new projects (such as DV projects) are added to the CoC's base allocation for future years.</p>	
4.1.2. Discussion Item:	George reported that the County and agencies funded through the ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus) grant	

<p>California Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus (ESG-CV)</p>	<p>program have drawn down around 10% of the \$5.4 million total funding as of August.</p> <p>Carrie reported that ESG-CV funding has allowed TFS to obtain three new units for people who are 65+ or who have a condition that makes them susceptible to complications from COVID. All units are presently filled. Length of stay is initially 60 days, but this can be expanded to 90, and in many cases has expanded beyond this where a client has a medical condition but there is nowhere else for them to go.</p> <p>Mimi reported that ESG-CV funding supports staffing and equipment for ECHO’s shelters in Atascadero and Paso Robles. A significant challenge has been recruiting for new positions.</p> <p>Jack reported that CAPSLO has been using its ESG-CV funding for case managers and to expand its ability to navigate people out of the 40 Prado shelter and into permanent housing. CAPSLO have also found it difficult to recruit new staff.</p> <p>Angela reported that Lumina Alliance has spent most of their ESG-CV funding so far on keeping shelters cleaner, and on equipment including N95 masks, cleaning supplies, emergency kits and hand sanitizer.</p>	
<p>4.1.3. Discussion Item: Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP)</p>	<p>Laurel reported that the CoC has now reached the end of the HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program) grant. All subrecipients have spent all of their original funding award by the deadline, and all funded projects are moving forward.</p>	
<p>4.1.4. Discussion Item:</p>	<p>Elaine reported that HASLO are 75 days into the Emergency Housing Vouchers program. HASLO have received a huge</p>	

<p>Emergency Housing Vouchers</p>	<p>number of referrals from agency partners, and have added 20 new landlords to the program. The media campaign has been fully rolled out. The higher payment standard, damages waiver, and sign up bonus were all significant factors encouraging new landlords to sign up.</p>	
<p>4.2. Discussion Item: Safe Parking and Alternatives to Encampments</p>	<p>Laurel reported that safe parking and alternatives to encampments had been under the purview of the ad hoc Encampment Committee. The Executive Committee voted to consider the role of the Encampment Committee as part of the Ten-Year Plan process, which will include examining the role of all committees. For the time being, safe parking and alternatives to encampments will now be discussed by the Services Coordinating Committee.</p> <p>Jack reported that CAPSLO’s safe parking site at Railroad has increased in numbers over the past month, partly due to people moving away from safe parking at 40 Prado after a COVID outbreak. Some have since returned to 40 Prado. There are ten vehicles consistently at both sites. The biggest challenge has been keeping clients engaged without dedicated staff at sites other than 40 Prado.</p> <p>Laurel reported that the Board of Supervisors has voted to support safe parking pilot programs which will be launching this financial year. There is funding set aside for this and a position soon to be established at DSS to run the pilot programs. The Board also voted to fund a Behavioral Health position for case management.</p>	
<p>4.3. Discussion Item: COVID-19</p>		

Updates		
<p>4.3.1. Discussion Item:  COVID Vaccine  Outreach Efforts</p>	<p>Abby reported that TMHA (Transitions Mental Health Association) has been visiting shelters to encourage vaccination. There has been some successful outreach at sites in Paso Robles and Atascadero. There are greater challenges in getting unsheltered people to take vaccines, as they often have other immediate concerns such as having lost their possessions when encampments are swept. The County is partnering with other agencies to offer meals and showers in addition to vaccines.</p> <p>Michael from 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition) reported that vaccinations have been offered to every encampment, including setting up clinics at Ramona Park. 5CHC are able to make vaccination appointments and transport people. A Public Health nurse is available to visit encampments. There continues to be a lot of skepticism towards the vaccine among those in encampments, and handing out information does not seem effective.</p> <p>Brandy reported that the vaccine resistant population have a high level of distrust in government, including the County. This includes veterans who can suffer from mental health crises connected to ongoing events.</p>	
<p>5. Future Discussion/Report  Items</p>	<p>None</p>	
<p>6. Next Meeting Date: November  8, 2021</p>		

7. Adjournment	Devin adjourned the meeting at 11:30pm.	
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