



**San Luis Obispo
Countywide 10 Year
Plan to End
Homelessness**

*We envision a future
in which the housing
and comprehensive
services necessary to
remain housed are
available for all,
affording everyone
maximum self-
sufficiency, and the
opportunity to be
productive and
participating
members of our
community*

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC)
Executive Committee Meeting Agenda**

December 16, 2020, 1pm

Participate by Zoom call

<https://zoom.us/j/95441579923?pwd=Tm1zRllqeS8ybmlJMVZzTTJENIZIZz09>

Or call in:

+1 669 900 9128

Meeting ID: 954 4157 9923

Passcode: 287841

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes
4. Action/Information/Discussion
 - 4.1 Discussion Item: 2021 Point in Time (PIT) Count
 - 4.1.1 Action Item: Vote to Request an Exception from HUD (Department of Housing & Urban Development)
 - 4.2 Discussion Item: Grant Updates
 - 4.2.1 Discussion Item: Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) Update
 - 4.2.2 Discussion Item: Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Update and Discussion of Round 2 Application Process
 - 4.2.3 Discussion Item: California Emergency Solutions and Homelessness Grant (CESH) Update
 - 4.2.4 Discussion Item: California Emergency Solutions Grant (CA ESG) Update
 - 4.2.5 Discussion Item: Continuum of Care (CoC) Grant Update

4.3 Discussion Item: COVID-19 Update

4.3.1 Discussion Item: COVID-19 Grant updates

4.3.1.1 Discussion Item: Racial Equity

4.3.2 Discussion Item: Situational update

4.4 Discussion Item: Planning for Vaccinations

4.5 Discussion Item: Warming Centers

4.6 Discussion Item: Committee Reports

5. Future Discussion/Report Items

6. Next Meeting Date: February 17, 2021

7. Adjournment

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
HSOC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
October 21, 2020, 1:00-3:00pm
Zoom Call

MEMBERS PRESENT		MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Devin Drake Janna Nichols Mariam Shah Susan Funk		Scott Smith	George Solis Jessica Lorange Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Lisa Howe Russ Francis
AGENDA ITEM			CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Mariam called the meeting to order at 1pm.		
2. Public Comment	None.		
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes			Susan made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Devin. All were in favor, with none opposed and no abstentions.
4. Action/Information/Discussion			
4.1. Discussion Item: Grant Updates			
4.1.1. Homeless Emergency Aid	Laurel reported that HASLO (Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo), in partnership with ECHO (El Camino Homeless		

<p>Program (HEAP) Update</p>	<p>Organization) and People's Self Help Housing has been awarded Homekey funding to acquire the Motel 6 in Paso Robles. At the end of October, Paso Robles City Council will vote on transferring HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program) funds over to support this project. The majority of funds used by HASLO will be used to install kitchenettes. The current timeline is for the sale of the property to close on November 10, and to have 50% occupancy of housing and shelter units by the middle of February. A portion of units will be set aside for homeless people. There are 120 units total in the hotel, though not all will be converted to bedrooms as some will be converted to kitchenettes. ECHO are anticipating they will provide 40 units of non-congregate emergency shelter.</p> <p>CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo)'s HEAP-funded project (a medically assisted withdrawal facility and detox center) is expected to be live by the end of 2021. The County is working to finalize the contract, now that the Mental Health Advisory Board has voted to provide funding to support this project. The facility will provide around 8-12 beds, mostly for short stays.</p>	
<p>4.1.2. Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Update</p>	<p>Janna shared that 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition) is looking to use around \$400-450k in HHAP (Homeless, Housing, Assistance and Prevention) funds to carry out renovations to their facility. The State has confirmed that their project could be considered eligible, as long as there is a shelter component involved, which outlasts the warming center opening period. 5CHC are proposing to create a non-congregate emergency shelter facility consisting of a number of small huts, similar to projects that exist in other counties. Janna has approached the City of Grover Beach about using PLHA (Permanent Local Housing Allocation)</p>	

	<p>funds for this, and is also looking at CDBG-CV (Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus) funding to support Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention activities so that money intended for these activities can be reallocated.</p> <p>The current timeline involves moving into the facility on January 31. The HEAP award provides enough money for repairs to the roof and windows. The huts will not be on the property. Three locations are currently being explored. The number of huts set up will depend on the location. Huts will cost \$8-10k per unit, depending on size; some are single occupancy while some are large enough that two people will be able to occupy them while social distancing. Huts do not include bathrooms, so separate portable bathroom units will also need to be set up, at around \$30k per unit.</p>	
4.1.3. Discussion Item: California Emergency Solutions and Homelessness Grant (CESH) Update	<p>Laurel shared that the County has put out the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2019 round of CESH (California Emergency Solutions and Housing) funding. The application deadline is October 27. These will be reviewed and recommendations brought to the next full HSOC meeting.</p> <p>The County will also bring a recommendation to HSOC about the 2018 CESH funds that were going to be used for upgrades to the HMIS (Homeless Management Information System). As HUD is not supporting efforts to upgrade HMIS during the pandemic, the County will propose uses for the remaining funds (leaving aside from the portion already allocated to updating the 10 Year Plan). This represents around \$50k in funding.</p>	
4.1.4. Discussion Item: California Emergency Solutions Grant (CA	<p>Laurel reported that the County has heard from the State about the 2nd tranche of ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus) funding. Around \$5m will be available to be administered by DSS (Department of Social Services), in addition</p>	

ESG) Update	<p>to the \$6m that Planning (Department of Planning & Building) already has in ESG-CV funding. Planning's RFP for their ESG-CV allocation has already been released. The deadline was October 23, but this has been pushed back to December 17 after HUD (Department of Housing & Urban Development) released new guidance. The new guidance states that if an organization uses ESG-CV funding to acquire or renovate a property for temporary shelter, they would need to pay HUD back in January 2022. DSS is working on their application to the State for their ESG-CV allocation, and the RFP will follow. This allocation cannot be used for homelessness prevention. A challenge with the funding is that 20% must be expended by July 31, 2021. Another new element to the funding is a focus on equity by ethnicity and race, including the involvement of groups representing underserved populations in decision making, and cultural sensitivity in service provision. County Public Health has also been focusing on racial equity in regard to the pandemic, and have been doing active outreach to different populations. DSS and Public Health are looking at opportunities to work together.</p> <p>The Committee discussed local organizations that DSS could reach out to, including SLOLAF (San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation) and SLO Undocusupport Coalition.</p>	
4.1.5. Discussion Item: Continuum of Care (CoC) Grant Update	<p>George reported that HUD has still not made a determination for the 2020 allocation of the CoC (Continuum of Care) grant. There are suggestions that the 2019 allocation will be renewed without a competition, but this has not yet been confirmed.</p> <p>Related to the CoC grant, HUD generally requires a full PIT count every two years. There are suggestions that the 2021 count will involve only a head count, which may be carried out over more</p>	

	than one night, and will not involve not the usual survey. More guidance is expected in the next month.	
4.2. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Update		
4.2.1. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Grant updates	Discussed above, in item 4.1.4.	
4.2.1.1. Discussion Item: Racial Equity	Discussed above, in item 4.1.4.	
4.2.2. Discussion Item: Situational update	Laurel reported that the County is now observing low levels of COVID activity among the homeless population. There was a small outbreak among clients at CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo). All cases were asymptomatic.	
4.3. Discussion Item: Update on County Budget	<p>Laurel reported that the County is facing a large deficit as a result of the pandemic and its economic impact. The Board of Supervisors asked departments to make cuts to their General Fund supported programs. The 70 Now program will be impacted, reducing the number of beds by 5 (so it is now known as the 65 Now program).</p> <p>Devin clarified that DSS is a low user of General Fund money, and Homeless Services (within DSS) is a heavy user of General Fund support; this was a difficult decision to make, but TMHA's (Transitions Mental Health Association) funding has actually remained level, not been cut. TMHA had requested more funding to retain 70 beds, as costs had risen. Instead, DSS is providing the same level of funding, which now supports 65 beds.</p>	

<p>4.4. Discussion Item: Warming Centers</p>	<p>Laurel reported that DSS has met with Public Health and the Warming Centers to discuss recommended practices and what will help with distancing within the centers.</p> <p>Janna reported that 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition) no longer has space for a warming center, due to incompatible activities happening at the church, i.e. too many people using the space during the day.</p> <p>Susan reported that the Atascadero warming center has moved from the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer to the Community Church of Atascadero, and management has switched from TFS (Transitional Food & Shelter) to ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization).</p> <p>Janna reported that the safe parking program for women and children, at the church in South County, has had volunteers providing on site monitoring for the first 30 days. 5CHC has provided referrals for case managed clients to participate. Several have been accepted and are now staying there.</p>	
<p>4.5. Discussion Item: Committee Reports</p>	<p>Janna reported that the Finance & Data Committee met and are working on issues around privacy, notification, approval, and HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) data entry.</p> <p>Devin reported that the Services Coordinating Committee met, and there was nothing to bring forward to this meeting.</p> <p>Susan reported that a working group of the Encampment Committee (the Alternatives to Encampment working group) is finalizing recommendations which will be ready at the next full Encampment Committee meeting.</p>	

5. Future Discussion/Report Items	None.	
6. Next Meeting Date: December 16, 2020		
7. Adjournment	Mariam adjourned the meeting at 2:40pm.	

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
ACTION ITEM
December 17, 2020**

AGENDA ITEM 4.1.1: Vote to request an exception from HUD to not conduct a full 2021 unsheltered Point in Time Count

ACTIONS REQUIRED: Vote to request an exception from HUD from the requirement that the Continuum complete a full count of unsheltered persons in the 2021 Homeless Point in Time Count.

SUMMARY NARRATIVE:

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires all HUD-funded Continuums of Care (CoCs) to conduct a Point in Time (PIT) count of all sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons within the CoC at least once every two years. The count must be conducted within a single, 24-hour period during the last ten days in January.

On January 15, 2020, the Full HSOC voted 1) to use a census methodology for the 2021 Homeless Point in Time Count unsheltered count, combined with a sampling methodology for obtaining demographic and survey information, and 2) to use a contractor to plan and carry out the count in accordance with this methodology.

On July 8, 2020, the County Department of Social Services released a Request for Proposals for an outside vendor to design and assist with the count implementation, and to report on and analyze the results. Applied Survey Research (ASR) was selected as the vendor for the 2021 Point in Time Count.

On November 16, 2020, HUD released updated guidance on conducting the unsheltered 2021 Point in Time Count. Due to the challenges created by COVID-19, HUD knows that the unsheltered count will not resemble unsheltered PIT counts of the past. The purpose of the 2021 unsheltered PIT count is to collect information about how the number of unsheltered homeless people has been impacted by COVID-19. HUD believes this will be valuable for CoCs and for national partners to understand how homelessness has generally changed and what additional efforts or resources may be needed. HUD recognizes that this data will not be comparable to past counts – however, it will provide information about whether unsheltered homelessness has increased or decreased in different types of communities.

Exception Allowance: HUD will allow CoCs to request an exception to some or all of the unsheltered PIT count requirements. CoCs can request an exception to only conduct a head count of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness (i.e., not data collection on demographics, subpopulation, or household characteristics) or to collect some but not all of the data elements HUD has required in the past count. CoCs that cannot conduct the full 2021 unsheltered PIT count must submit a request for an exception.

CoCs that cannot conduct the full 2021 unsheltered PIT count must submit a request to HUD for an exception that describes:

1. Why the CoC cannot conduct a full unsheltered PIT count,
2. Whether the CoC is requesting an exception to some or all of the requirements of the unsheltered PIT Count,
3. If the CoC is conducting a count, what actually will be included in the count (e.g., a head count only), and
4. Other efforts they are taking to understand the needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in their community.

On November 30, 2020, ASR and County staff presented HUD's guidance on conducting the 2021 Unsheltered PIT Count to the Finance and Data committee. At that meeting, the committee had concerns about safely conducting the PIT Count and requested staff to inquire about asking for an exception from HUD to not conduct the unsheltered count.

Safety concerns included:

- The lack of volunteers to conduct the unsheltered count
- The lack of staff capacity and outreach staff to conduct the count
- The health and safety of volunteers and staff member during COVID-19

On December 3, 2020, the Encampment Committee concurred with the Finance and Data Committee that the CoC should ask for an exception from HUD to not conduct the unsheltered PIT count due to safety concerns.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The contract with ASR is for \$76,700. The County budgeted \$72,000 in General Fund Support for the 2021 Point in Time Count. The remaining \$4,700 would be expended from the FY2019 HUD CoC Planning Grant. Should HUD grant an exemption, the County will be obligated to pay ASR for any planning activities that occurred prior to the County notifying ASR that it would not be proceeding with the unsheltered count. The County would still utilize ASR to assist with compilation and analysis of the sheltered count and assistance with preparing the mandatory Point in Time Count report for HUD regarding the sheltered

Action Item 4.1.1

population. This would result in at least some decrease in total costs, although the final amount of that decrease is not yet known.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Staff recommends that this item be adopted.