

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
HSOC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
February 17 2021, 1:00-3:00pm
Zoom Call

MEMBERS PRESENT		MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Devin Drake Janna Nichols Scott Smith Susan Funk		Kristen Barneich	Carolyn Berg Dawn Ortiz-Legg George Solis Grace McIntosh Leon Shordon Lisa Howe Russ Francis
AGENDA ITEM			CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Susan called the meeting to order at 1pm.		
2. Public Comment	None		
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes			Devin made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Scott. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
4. Action/Information/Discussion			
4.1. Discussion Item: Ten-Year Plan Update	Laurel and Carolyn gave a presentation on the Ten-Year plan update. Laurel described the proposed overall process: engaging a contractor; forming a Strategic Planning Leadership Group of		

	<p>6-10 key stakeholders; reviewing and refining the proposed process; providing input on challenges and opportunities for addressing homelessness; presenting the completed plan online; carrying out a community resources and needs analysis; meeting with stakeholders, including a data review, focus group of people with lived experience of homelessness, and reviewing funding sources and opportunities. The initial draft will go to the Strategic Planning Leadership Group for feedback, then to the HSOC committees, city councils and other community stakeholders, to be finalized and presented for approval to the full HSOC and San Luis Obispo County Board of Supervisors. The proposed timeline is nine months until the plan is finalized and approved.</p> <p>Carolyn has been working with the Countywide Homeless Action Team, consisting of the County Administrative Office and city managers, which is working on a regional strategic path forward for agencies to take meaningful action on homelessness. This is concurrent with HSOC initiating the Ten-Year Plan update and the HSOC Encampment Committee formulating recommendations. The Countywide Homeless Action Team plans to seek local agencies' support to commit and allocate funding and staff resources for initial pilot programs and regional efforts by June 2021, and then initiate regional pilot programs at priority locations from July 2021 – June 2022. The Team will present its Regional Framework at the next full HSOC meeting on March 17th. The Team is currently working on costings for multiple sites for Blue Bag and Safe Parking programs. They are planning for programs to be scalable, depending on resources.</p>	
4.1.1. Discussion Item: Ten-	The Committee decided that the Strategic Planning Leadership	

<p>Year Plan Strategy Committee</p>	<p>Group will be composed of the Executive Committee members, with four additional slots available, two for representatives from the cities. Executive Committee meetings will now adjourn earlier than usual and reconvene as Ten-Year Plan Strategy Committee meetings for 30-45 minutes. As the Executive Committee meets only every second month, there will be additional Ten-Year Plan Strategy Committee meetings during the other months. The Committee decided that a process for recruiting additional members to the Strategic Planning Leadership Group will be brought to the HSOC for review, and that final decision making should be deferred to Susan as HSOC Chair and Supervisor Ortiz-Legg.</p> <p>Janna recommended reviewing the previous Ten-Year Plan as part of the process, and although the goals in the previous plan were not always actionable, they could be useful as a starting point for the updated plan.</p>	
<p>4.2. Discussion Item: Eviction Prevention Funding</p>	<p>Laurel reported that in the last stimulus Bill in December, the US Congress authorized an eviction prevention program (ERAP – Emergency Rental Assistance Program), providing funding to counties and states. There will be two funding allocations for SLO County, one directly from the Federal government and one via the State of California. \$16 million will be available for eviction prevention and related activities, including 10% set aside for case management and administration.</p> <p>The County met with local nonprofit agencies to decide whether to administer this funding locally or ask the State to administer the funding. Feedback from local agencies was that it would be difficult for them to administer the funding under the structure proposed, due to the small amount available for administration and case management. As such, the County asked the State to</p>	

	<p>administer the program.</p> <p>The State will next be soliciting proposals from community partners to help with outreach and to ensure people have access to the funding once it is launched. Janna shared that the application asks for three tiers of activity, including promotion, outreach and technical assistance.</p> <p>Supervisor Ortiz-Legg shared that she and Supervisor John Peschong are working on a subcommittee to address the economic response of COVID, which will include improvements to the ReadySLO website.</p>	
4.2.1. Discussion Item: Asking SLO-LAF (San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation) to Give a Presentation for HSOC	Laurel suggested asking SLO-LAF (San Luis Obispo Legal Assistance Foundation) to give a presentation on eviction prevention to the full HSOC, possibly as a special meeting. The Committee agreed it would be best for HSOC to sponsor a separate meeting which would focus on the ERAP program once it has been rolled out.	
4.3. Discussion Item: Grant Updates		
4.3.1. Discussion Item: Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) Update	<p>Laurel and Scott shared that the Project Homekey site is moving forward, and has now opened up applications for permanent housing units. The shelter side has been in operation for more than a month, and the permanent housing side has the goal to open up and have its first cohort of occupants by March 2nd. Further renovations are planned, some of which require permits from SLO City. The HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program) money must be spent by the end of June, and the program is on track to meet this.</p>	

	<p>Grace reported that CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) are moving forward with the medically assisted withdrawal treatment program. They are looking to open at the end of July or early August, providing 8-10 beds for SLO County medically eligible individuals. An RFP (Request for Proposals) for operators is being prepared. CAPSLO will spend all its HEAP funding on this project, and are also sourcing funding from private donors. 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition) are also supporting the program by contributing \$10,000.</p> <p>Janna reported that 5CHC are close to expending all of their HEAP funding. They have moved into the building, though not all renovations have been completed yet. The final phase of the work includes moving the front door and making the building more accessible for people with disabilities.</p>	
4.3.2. Discussion Item: Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Update and Discussion of Round 2 Application Process	Laurel reported that the application for the second round of HHAP (Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention) funding has been submitted. The State required very specific outcomes, which the County will be monitored on, though there will be a chance to amend these after the RFP process.	
4.3.3. Discussion Item: California Emergency Solutions and Homelessness Grant (CESH) Update	Laurel, Grace and Janna reported that the agencies funded by CESH (California Emergency Solutions and Homelessness Grant) have begun implementing their activities, including outreach and coordinated entry.	

<p>4.3.4. Discussion Item: California Emergency Solutions Grant (CA ESG) Update</p>	<p>George reported that the County received the award letter for \$119,000 for the 2020 annual ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) at the end of January. The County is now waiting for the standard agreement from HCD (California Department of Housing & Community Development).</p> <p>Laurel and George reported that the State has told the County to stop rental assistance funded via the ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus) grants by February 19th. Clients can still be supported through relocation and stabilization services, including case management and security deposits. This is due to the ERAP program now providing funding specifically for rental assistance. The County is expecting further guidance from HUD (Department of Housing & Urban Development). For the second round of ESG-CV, the County is in the process of submitting an amended budget to the State.</p> <p>Susan proposed a change in the grant approval process, as some members felt they did not have enough information at the last full HSOC meeting. The proposed change would involve creating space in the agenda for the agencies to give a short elevator pitch on what they are asking to be funded. Laurel clarified that people would be able to submit questions ahead of the meeting, which could then be answered as part of the presentation in the meeting, but HUD has been very clear that applicants cannot answer questions during the meeting or participate in discussion about the funding.</p>	
<p>4.3.5. Discussion Item: Continuum of Care (CoC) Grant Update</p>	<p>George shared that there was no competition in 2020 due to the pandemic, so the 2019 awards will be renewed. These are CAPSLO's Coordinated Entry project and TMHA (Transitions Mental Health Association)'s two Permanent Housing projects.</p>	

	<p>The County is now waiting to hear more from HUD. There has been no update yet on the 2021 NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability).</p> <p>George reported that the County has begun compiling data from the sheltered 2021 PIT (Point in Time) Count. This is due to HUD on April 30th. Laurel shared that HUD will require a full unsheltered PIT Count in 2022.</p>	
4.4. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Update		
4.4.1. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Grant updates	ESG-CV funding was covered above, in 4.3.4.	
4.4.2. Discussion Item: Situational update		
4.5. Discussion Item: Planning for Vaccinations	<p>Janna shared that she is serving on the County's Vaccine Task Force, representing homeless services. Currently, the County is not getting the supply it needs, but will do in time. There have been discussions at State and national levels on how to distribute vaccines to homeless people.</p> <p>Laurel reported that the County has hired Abby Lassen to coordinate health equity efforts around vaccinations.</p>	
4.6. Discussion Item: Warming Centers	<p>Grace reported that CAPSLO's warming center has not opened yet due to lack of rain.</p> <p>Janna reported that 5CHC may be moving their warming center</p>	

	<p>location again.</p> <p>Susan reported that the warming center at Atascadero Community Center is open every day and community tensions have calmed down.</p>	
4.7. Discussion Item: Committee Reports	<p>No committee reports were made, as committees have not met since the last Executive Committee meeting.</p> <p>Devin suggested it would be helpful for the Chair to provide short updates to the Board of Supervisors. HSOC made the decision to do this two years ago, but it dropped off with the pandemic. With a new year and new Chair, it would be a good time to start providing updates again.</p>	
5. Future Discussion/Report Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Idea sharing at the end of full HSOC meetings 	
6. Next Meeting Date: April 21, 2021		
7. Adjournment		