

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
HSOC FINANCE AND DATA COMMITTEE MEETING
November 30 2020, 1pm-2:30pm**

| MEMBERS PRESENT | | MEMBERS ABSENT | STAFF & GUESTS |
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| Andrea Montes Alvarado Elaine Mansoor Janna Nichols Jeff Al-Mashat Jessica Thomas Riley Smith Shay Stewart Sstoz Tes | | | George Solis James Connery Jan Maitzen Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Peter Connery Russ Francis |
| AGENDA ITEM | | CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS | |
| 1. Call to Order and Introductions | | Janna called the meeting to order at 1pm. Peter Connery and James Connery from ASR (Applied Survey Research) introduced themselves. | |
| 2. Public Comment | | None. | |
| 3. Consent: Approval of Minutes | | Shay made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Riley. The minutes were approved, with none opposed and no abstentions. | |
| 4. Action/Information/Discussion | | | |
| 4.1 Discussion Item: Homeless Point in Time Count (PIT) | | | |
| 4.1.1 Discussion Item: Update on 2021 Point in Time Count and | | George gave some background on the PIT (Point in Time) Count. HUD (Department of Housing & Urban Development) requires a biannual count of the sheltered and unsheltered homeless population. The SLO | |

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| Survey | <p>County CoC (Continuum of Care) does a sheltered count every year and the unsheltered count every other year. The last unsheltered count took place in 2019. HUD has taken time to consider whether they will require a PIT Count for 2021, given the pandemic, but have now decided they do require an unsheltered PIT Count. HUD recognizes that the 2021 PIT Count will be different and not directly comparable to previous years, but they want to get a sense of what has changed due to COVID. HUD is allowing some flexibility in how CoCs carry out the count, e.g. conducting an observation only count, or counts with very short surveys. They have extended the time in which the count may be carried out from 7 to 14 days. HUD are also encouraging the work to be done remotely, insofar as this is possible. County staff met with James and Peter from ASR to talk through possibilities for the 2021 PIT Count.</p> <p>HUD is strongly recommending CoCs carry out the count in some form so there is some data available, even if this is partial and inconsistent with previous years. PIT Count data will factor into the HUD CoC funding program, which is competitive. State funded programs such as HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program), HHAP (Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention), and CESH (California Emergency Solutions & Housing) also take PIT Count data into consideration, so SLO County CoC could be at a disadvantage if it does not conduct its count. There has been no guidance from the State on this.</p> <p>Peter clarified that HUD is very much focused on homelessness on the West Coast, and is looking to stay on the same reporting timeline for HDX (Homelessness Data Exchange) data as in previous years. ASR's plan for SLO County's PIT Count would involve asking volunteers to volunteer in teams consisting of their own household or social pod, and avoiding the use of traditional deployment centers, relying instead on virtual deployment as much as possible. As volunteer recruitment has historically been a challenge in SLO County, ASR plans to take advantage of the multiple day exception HUD has offered, and to divide the County into regions with a core volunteer group to cover these regions over multiple days.</p> | |
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| | <p>The Committee discussed possibilities around the 2021 PIT Count and the following concerns were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The difficulty of recruiting volunteers. This has been a challenge traditionally in SLO County anyway, and with the pandemic, volunteers have been more difficult to recruit and retain for existing programs. Staff are already spread thin and having to do the work that volunteers would normally do • Risks to volunteers, who are often from populations vulnerable to medical complications due to COVID • Whether a sampling approach will provide any relevant information on the effects of COVID • The possibility of a count not being carried out in a comparable way to previous years, and then inaccurately showing a decrease in numbers, which could result in a decrease in funding • Holding the count the week before the State lifts its eviction moratorium will give an incomplete picture of the problem <p>As HUD’s notice provides an exception for not doing the count at all, and given the concerns above, the Committee decided to ask County staff to seek this exception from HUD. This involves submitting a request to HUD explaining the CoC’s reasoning and contingency plans. If HUD does not grant an exception, the Committee asked for a change of date to the Count so that it occurs after the eviction moratorium is lifted. ASR confirmed that the Count could be delayed until the end of February.</p> | |
| <p>4.1.2 Action Item: Vote to approve PIT count methodology and PIT count date</p> | <p>The vote was not taken following the above discussion.</p> | |
| <p>4.1.3 Discussion Item: 2021 Point in Time Count Volunteer</p> | <p>This item was not discussed following the above discussion.</p> | |

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| Registration Form | | |
| 4.2 Discussion Item: California Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus (Round 2) NOFA | George reminded the Committee that there are two RFPs (Requests for Proposals) currently out for Round 2 of the ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus) grant. The State grant is administered by the Department of Social Services, and the Federal grant is administered by the Department of Planning & Building (Planning). The RFP for CDBG-CV (Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus) Round 3 has also been released through Planning. | |
| 4.3 Discussion Item: HMIS Participating Agency Agreement and HMIS User Agreements – Annual agreements | George reported that HUD now requires CoCs to get their new HMIS agreements signed annually, so he will be sending these out to agencies for any new users or users who have not signed so far this year. Janna reported that 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition) are drafting Spanish language copies of their Privacy Notice and Privacy Policy, and will send these onto DSS once they are complete. | |
| 5. Future Discussion/Report Items | | |
| 6. Next Meeting Date: December 23, 2020 | The Committee discussed the date of the next meeting and decided to meet earlier in December. Russ to send out a poll asking for people’s availability between the 7 th and 18 th of December. | Russ to send out poll. |
| 7. Adjournment | Janna adjourned the meeting at 2:30pm. | |