

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL  
HSOC ENCAMPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
MARCH 5 2020, 2PM  
Department of Social Services  
Room 356**

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS	
Caro Hall Janna Nichols Jeff Smith Kevin Pearce Sue Warren Tim Koznek Toby Depew	Anne Robin Deanna Cantrell Gail McNichols Grace McIntosh Heidi Borders Joe Madsen John Klevins Mary Hamilton Mariam Shah Steve Martin Susan Funk Theresa Scott Tim Waag Wendy Lewis	Ann Gillespie Anne Wyatt Darren Parker Desiree Dier Elizabeth Kavanaugh George Solis Jeff Al-Mashat John DiNunzio John Peters Josh Lewis Kristen Barneich Kristin Ventresca Laurel Weir Russ Francis Scott Collins Simm Miller	
AGENDA ITEM		CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS	FOLLOW UP
1. Call to Order and Introductions of Guests	Jeff welcomed the group and introductions were made.		
2. Public Comment	None		
ACTION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION			
3.1 Discussion Item: Background and Committee Goals	Jeff provided some background on how and why the Committee was formed. Supervisor Bruce Gibson made a formal request in May 2019 that		

<p>3.1.1 Attachment: Letter from Supervisor Bruce Gibson to the Homeless Services Oversight Council (HSOC)</p>	<p>HSOC form a new subcommittee to address encampments (his letter is attached in the agenda packet for this meeting). There is a growing concern with the increase of improvised camps and the problems associated with this including health and environmental hazards, fire risks, and in some cases criminal activity. This subcommittee has been formed to map the scope of the problem, identify this to the Board of Supervisors, and to develop a County wide standard to address the issue.</p>		
<p>3.1.2 Attachment: HSOC Action Item to Create Encampment Committee</p>	<p>At the full HSOC meeting on July 24<sup>th</sup> 2019, the HSOC membership authorized the creation of an Encampment Committee. Jeff invited comments and emphasized that the scope of the problem of homelessness is very large and this Committee should remain focused on what Supervisor Gibson has asked for.</p> <p>Desiree Dier demonstrated the TEMP (Transient Encampment Mapping Project) Survey, a multi-departmental Geographical Information System (GIS) project that was built to enable frontline workers in the field to collect information on encampments. This is an app that can be used on desktop and mobile devices. The app has been in use since September 2019 and currently only covers unincorporated areas within the County. The app allows users to record if an encampment is occupied, abandoned or cleaned up, if there are hazards, information about distribution of sharps containers and blue bags, and if minors and/or veterans are present. This information</p>		

	<p>can then be shared between agencies.</p> <p>Desiree took questions and confirmed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Referrals cannot be made via the system. Only two agencies are tracking individuals through the system at present, the others are only tracking encampments.</li> <li>• Community organizations are not currently able to input or access information on encampments. The scope of the project was initially limited to County staff within six departments. There has been no funding or a request for an expansion to this. The app is available for certain county employees only, with specific logins. It is not available to the public.</li> <li>• The County has a contract with the GIS vendor Esri, which allows the County to build its own apps and grant licenses to its users.</li> <li>• A fieldworker license costs \$350 per user per year. There is also a \$100 viewer license for those not going out into the field. Licenses can only be granted to specific users, not to agencies.</li> <li>• There is not currently a filter showing encampments on private property vs public land, but this could be added if a request comes through.</li> <li>• One user could potentially share screenshotted data with others, for example if one employee at DSS (Department of Social Services) was licensed, they could share information</li> </ul>		
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<p>3.1.3 Attachment: Proposed Goals for HSOC Encampment Committee</p>	<p>shown on a screen with community and nonprofit organizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This will be very helpful for PIT (Point in Time) counts as it will help to ensure that encampments are not missed.</li> </ul> <p>Laurel clarified the proposed goals for the Encampment Committee (see attachment 3.1.3 in agenda pack), and the Committee discussed these goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide data on the scope of encampments – see above 3.1.2</li> <li>2. Quantify the cost impact of encampments. Supervisor Gibson has requested that cities report on costs of cleaning up camps from previous years, e.g. from contracts with cleanup crews in budgets. Dealing with sharps and hazards should be included in this cost.</li> <li>3. Identify and recommend alternatives to encampment.</li> <li>4. Make recommendations to improve public health and safety. Supervisor Gibson has also requested recommendations on what could be done to address the issue of encampments.</li> <li>5. Make process recommendations to increase and improve coordination between agencies.</li> <li>6. Make recommendations to increase and improve outreach, engagement and placement into permanent housing of unsheltered people.</li> <li>7. For each of the above, to identify costs</li> </ol>		
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	<p>and resources, including impact on law enforcement.</p> <p>John DiNunzio suggested safe parking could be added to the list, as it was discussed at the previous meeting. Jeff confirmed that ideas about a county wide safe parking program, including the issue of people sleeping in their vehicles, would be good to include in recommendations. A fear some areas have had is that people sleeping in their vehicles will drive from different areas to congregate in one place. But if there was a county wide safe parking initiative with uniform restrictions, this issue would be avoided.</p> <p>Ann Gillespie from Public Works shared that they had embarked on a four week pilot project, working with SLO City, the police, CAT teams, and SLO Bangers to encourage homeless people to pick up their own trash and safely return their own sharps. They collected 7 tons of trash and 1600 needles over the four weeks. Homeless people are continuing to remove sharps safely and bring them to the exchange since this pilot project finished. The Committee agreed to include this work in recommendations to the Board.</p> <p>Janna suggested that the outreach/educational goal can include the creation of a toolkit by which frontline workers can go into camps and educate homeless people about hazardous materials, how to safely deal with them, and the resources available. The Committee also discussed the need for outreach and education in the sense of</p>		
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3.2 Discussion Item: Committee Structure, Assignments, and Timelines	<p>communicating outcomes to the general public, as many questions are asked about what local government, nonprofits and other agencies are doing about the issue of encampments.</p> <p>Based on the discussion above and the recommendations from Supervisor Gibson, the Committee agreed to set up five Working Groups to address the major issues/areas of interest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Data (GIS)</li> <li>2. Costs</li> <li>3. Alternatives to encampment (this includes safe parking and sanctioned camps)</li> <li>4. Public health and safety (including outreach to people in encampments)</li> <li>5. Outreach and communications (to housed residents)</li> </ol> <p>The Committee agreed that a poll will be put out asking people which Working Groups they would like to be on, and to nominate others. Jeff confirmed that each Working Group should be looking at the costs involved at present and the cost of proposed activities (not just the Costs Working Group).</p>		
4. Future Discussion/Report Items:	As above.		
5. Next Meeting Date:	April 2, 2020		
6. Adjournment	Jeff adjourned the meeting at 3:34pm.		