

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

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Anne Robin Grace McIntosh Janna Nichols Jeff Al-Mashat Jeff Smith Kristen Barneich Lois Petty Nicole Bennett Tim Waag	Steve Martin Susan Funk Toby Depew	Carlos Mendoza Caroline Hall Darren Parker George Solis Mary Ciesinski Mary Hamilton Russ Francis Simm Miller Tim Koznek Wendy Lewis
AGENDA ITEM		CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions of Guests	Jeff Smith called the meeting to order.	
2. Public Comment	None	
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes		Janna made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Kristen. All were in favor.
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1 Discussion Item: Encampments and COVID-19	Jeff Al-Mashat and Wendy provided an update from ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization). ECHO have been able to increase their outreach work with ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) and CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding. This work is happening primarily Atascadero, Paso Robles, though they are also	

covering the North Coast and Cambria. Since implementing emergency outreach six weeks ago, they have distributed 500 emergency and food bags to people living in encampments. Two people that ECHO supported through outreach have now found housing, and another couple has entered ECHO's program leading to permanent housing.

Janna provided an update from 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition). 5CHC has continued outreach work, including offering testing for COVID. No one has tested positive so far. Clients have said that the Safe Shower program in Oceano was not conveniently located. Now that Shower the People has reopened and is providing mobile showers at more locations, 5CHC is providing them with additional PPE (Personal Protective Equipment). In addition to the Safe Parking program, 5CHC were given ten campsites within their Case Management program, to create 'shelter at home' opportunities for those without homes. Through this work, 5CHC provided daily meals and intensive case management services. Four clients have been housed through this work, and 5CHC has also supported one couple to reunite with their family in Montana. Challenges have included only being able to carry out this work with people in their vehicles, and not being allowed to provide any tents.

Grace provided an update from CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo). CAPSLO have been doing outreach work in Los Osos and Morro Bay, with a focus on moving people towards permanent housing. The Safe Parking program has enabled CAPSLO to work with more people and move them onto permanent housing.

Laurel reported that there will be a second round of ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant - Coronavirus) funding through the CARES Act, and suggested that the Committee may want to bring any encampment-related funding recommendations to HSOC for consideration.

<p>4.1.1 Discussion Item: Centers for Disease Control recommendations on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in encampments</p>	<p>The Committee had intended to have Dr Rosen from County Public Health talk at the meeting, but he was unable to make it. The item was tabled.</p>	
<p>4.1.2 Discussion Item: COVID-19 prevention, preparation and response</p>	<p>Tim Waag reported that in the early days of the pandemic, County Public Health was sending nurses to encampments to test people for COVID. This stopped happening, and homeless people were told instead to make an appointment and travel to a facility to be tested. Many subsequently declined, in some cases due to difficulties around travel.</p> <p>Grace shared that CAPSLO worked with a nurse from Public Health and around 60 people were tested outside 40 Prado. All tests came back negative.</p> <p>Janna suggested asking Dr Rosen about safe ways to do outreach work, including employee safety.</p>	
<p>4.2 Discussion Item: Encampment Committee Working Group Reports</p>	<p>As agreed at the last meeting, a poll was sent out asking Committee members to sign up to the four working groups. Two groups subsequently met.</p> <p>Jeff Al-Mashat reported that the Public Health & Safety working group met. This meeting covered issues such as the clean up of needles, water contamination, and the spread of disease. In the course of the meeting it became clear that there is a need for an additional working group to focus on Behavioral Health and the engagement of individuals within encampments. There is also a need to look at coordinated outreach.</p>	

	<p>Kristen reported that the Public Outreach working group met. They developed a plan to disseminate positive stories about what service providers and the County are doing to address homelessness, via social and local media.</p> <p>The Costs and Data working groups did not meet.</p> <p>Laurel provided an update on the Encampments tracking software that was demonstrated at the February Encampment Committee meeting. This software has not been updated since March, as the Sheriff's Deputies were no longer going to encampments once the shelter in place order went into effect. Data from March showed there were 116 occupied encampments. The Committee agreed that this data is useful as a starting point, though there has been an increase in camps throughout the County since March.</p> <p>The Committee discussed next steps for the working groups. It was agreed that the groups will continue to meet, with the goal of identifying recommendations, per Supervisor Gibson's request. A Behavioral Health working group will be set up. Anne volunteered to chair this group.</p>	
<p>4.3 Discussion Item: Alternatives to Encampment Working Group</p>	<p>The Committee discussed the status of the Alternatives to Encampment working group, deciding that it should remain its own group and not be incorporated into one of the others. The group does not yet have a chair. Laurel noted that the chair should also be checking in with other group leads.</p> <p>Tim Waag stated that he is interested in being part of the Alternatives to Encampment working group.</p>	
<p>4.3.1 Discussion Item: Safe Parking</p>	<p>The committee discussed the County's Safe Parking programs, which ended on June 30th. The County decided not to extend the programs beyond this date. This is because one of the EOC's</p>	

	<p>primary goals was to temporarily replace what had become inaccessible due to the pandemic, rather than to create new work. The Safe Parking program was started to create hygiene opportunities as public restrooms were closed due to COVID. When public restrooms were reopened, the Safe Parking programs were closed as they would no longer be operating as replacement services at this point.</p> <p>Jeff Smith shared that SLO City is working on how the Safe Parking program can be expanded, and will provide an update at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>5. Future Discussion/Report Items:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centers for Disease Control recommendations on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in encampments • Clarification on how to move forward with testing • Safe Parking program update 	
<p>6. Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>August 6, 2020 The Committee agreed to move the time of the meeting from 2pm to 1pm, to accommodate Dr Rosen from County Public Health.</p>	
<p>7. Adjournment</p>	<p>Jeff Smith adjourned the meeting at 3:20pm.</p>	