

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC)
FINANCE AND DATA COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Date

September 20, 2022

Time

10am-11:30am

Location

Room 356, Department of Social Services, 3433 S Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA

Members Present

Carrie Collins
Janna Nichols
Lauryn Searles
Mark Lamore
Mimi Rodriguez
Sstoz Tes

Members Absent

Bill Crewe
Brandy Graham
Jessica Thomas
Kate Swarthout
Kelly Underwood
Riley Smith
Shay Stewart

Staff and Guests

Christy Nichols
George Solis
Laurel Weir
Leon Shordon

Merlie Livermore
Russ Francis

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Mark called the meeting to order at 10am.

2. Public Comment

Carrie reported that Transitional Food & Shelter are hoping for an October-November start for their Department of Social Services (DSS)-funded units for medically fragile homeless people.

Mark reported that TMHA (Transitions Mental Health Association) were approved for a No Place Like Home (NPLH) grant and will be using the funding to develop a Permanent Supportive Housing project on Palm Street. This is expected to go live in 8 months-1 year. TMHA's Housing Disability Advocacy Program (HDAP) project was awarded an expansion grant, so they will be hiring new staff to serve more clients. Mark reported that it is now much easier and more efficient for outreach workers and case managers to input information into HMIS (Homeless Management Information System), thanks to an effort led by Jessica Lorange to improve the interface.

3. Consent: Approval of Minutes

Minutes could not be approved due to lack of quorum.

4. Action/Information/Discussion

4.1 Discussion Item: HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) Continuum of Care Fiscal Year 2022 Collaborative Application – System Performance Measures

George reported that the County is currently working on two HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) CoC (Continuum of Care) grant funding applications – the annual CoC grant program competition and a special unsheltered program. Both applications include questions on the CoC's approach to System Performance Measures, so the County is soliciting input from the Finance and Data Committee on this item. The Committee provided the following input:

- How the CoC identifies risk factors to identify people experiencing homelessness for the first time: agencies consider cost of living and housing, substance abuse issues, mental health, physical health, people who become

unable to live independently but have no means for assisted living, and specific incidents such as fires that suddenly render a large number of people homeless. The 2022 PIT (Point in Time) Count found that a large proportion of people experiencing homelessness became homeless following an argument with family members or friends.

- Strategies to address individuals and families becoming homeless: agencies focus on homelessness prevention, including working with utility companies for referral, participating in the state's COVID Rental Relief Program, providing family support counselling and resources to family members of people who are suffering mental illness, and providing financial literacy training including through the Consumer Affairs Bureau.
- Strategies to reduce the length of time people are homeless: agencies are building more non-congregate shelter, having a high success rate for family reunifications due to working with law enforcement, are experiencing success via landlord incentives.
- Strategies for identifying people who have been homeless for the longest time: agencies reported this is tracked through HMIS, based on self-reporting from clients. People who have been homeless for longer are prioritized for services.
- Strategies to increase the rate of people in shelters exiting to Permanent Housing: agencies are coordinating to prioritize clients and expand case management and focus more on housing. Improvements to the Coordinated Entry system have made it easier to track where clients are going.
- Strategies for housing retention: case management which continues after housing is attained.
- Strategies for identifying people who return to homelessness: HMIS data, follow up and case management after housing is attained, and expansion of knowledge of homelessness diversion programs.
- Strategies to help people access income: TMHA reported using case management, and a Supported Employment program. TMHA has secured a number of private grants for assisting returns to employment, and also works with the Department of Rehabilitation to develop return to work plans. Employer incentives and benefit advocates are also used to increase access to income.

4.2 Discussion Item: Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

4.2.1 Discussion Item: System Administrators Monthly Call

Tabled due to no update.

4.3 Discussion Item: Collaborative Outreach and HHAP 3 (Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program Round 3) Grant Program Reports

Laurel reported that the County is working with BellData on producing reports, which will be brought to future Committee meetings.

4.4 Discussion Item: Reschedule October Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for October 25, when George and Jessica Lorange will be unavailable. Russ recommended moving the meeting to October 18, which would allow the meeting to be held remotely. The Committee agreed with this change of date.

5. Future Discussion/Report Items

None.

6. Next Regular Meeting: October 25 at 10am

Changed to October 18: see item 4.4 above.

7. Adjournment

Mark adjourned the meeting at 11:34am.