

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

HSOC Meeting

April 3, 2020 1:00 p.m.

Physical Location: Conference Room 1, Department of Social Services, 3563 Empleo St, San Luis Obispo, CA

Members and the public were also able to participate by phone.

Call In Number: (717) 275-8940

PIN #: 798 2958

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS	
Amanda Piper (alt for Theresa Scott) Anne Robin Bettina Swigger Caroline Hall Devin Drake Grace McIntosh Janna Nichols Jeff Smith (alt for Deanna Cantrell) Joe Thompson Kristen Barneich Liz Snyder (alt for Amelia Grover) Mariam Shah Mark Lamore Shay Stewart Steve Gregory (alt for Steve Martin) Susan Funk Tim Waag	Adam Hill Carlyn Christianson Jessica Thomas Marcia Guthrie Marianne Kennedy Marlys McPherson Paul Worsham Scott Smith	Anne Wyatt Dawn Anderson George Solis Jan Maitzen Jeff Al-Mashat Jessica Lorange Laurel Weir Lisa Howe Russ Francis Susan Warren	
AGENDA ITEM		CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS	FOLLOW UP
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Mariam called the meeting to order at 1pm. Introductions were made.		

2. Public Comment	<p>A message had been passed to County staff from Carlyn Christianson. This meeting and the previous week's took place at 1pm on Friday, which is the same time the SLO City Council's Disaster Council meets (12:30pm-1:30pm). This makes it difficult for SLO City Council employees to attend, so Carlyn requested that HSOC consider another time to meet.</p> <p>Laurel shared that the County has now received information that additional funds will be available for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), from the recently passed CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act. This funding should be available in the next 30 days. Laurel recommended that another full HSOC meeting be held in two weeks' time to discuss planning and make recommendations about the additional funds.</p> <p>Given Carlyn's comment above, it was decided that more options will be provided for meeting times for the next and future HSOC meetings.</p>		
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes	Grace made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting,		

	seconded by Devin. All were in favor.		
4. Action/Information/Discussion			
4.1. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Funding	<p>Laurel outlined the County's recommendations for the Emergency Homelessness Funding. The County has received two award letters from the State – one to the County directly, and one to HSOC. Combined, these funds come to nearly \$555k. Eligible activities for this funding include emergency shelter operations, shelter capacity, isolation capacity, street outreach, transportation and staffing. Additional guidance from the State (since the agenda packet for this meeting was sent out) has been to not use this funding for case management, as the upcoming ESG funding (see item 2) can be used for this instead. Homeless prevention is not an eligible activity under this funding but will be under the ESG funding. Although the funding cannot go towards prevention of homelessness, it can be used for preventing the spread of infection among unsheltered homeless people, such as by installing handwashing stations and showers. County Staff recommend the following activities:</p>		

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing isolation capacity for people who are homeless and have either tested positive for COVID-19 or are at high risk of medical complications if they become infected (e.g. those age 65+ and those with preexisting conditions). 2. Wrap around services to ensure homeless people have food, transportation, and access to other services. These wrap around services can include security assistance and monitoring of people placed in motels. 3. Street outreach, to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among the large number of unsheltered homeless people in the County. <p>To ensure regional parity of funding, County Staff recommend that HSOC follow an average of the last four PIT (Point In Time) counts. The recommendations in the agenda packet are based on these figures.</p> <p>The Council discussed safe parking programs, which this funding could be used for. Two such programs have been launched by the County, in SLO</p>		
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	<p>City and Los Osos, with a further program proposed in North County. Laurel confirmed that all safe parking programs in the County are being operated in the same way. The ReadySLO website has information on locations of safe parking programs: https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/safe-parking-program.aspx</p> <p>Nonprofit service providers could partner with a transportation company to get funding for safe parking programs.</p> <p>The County is still waiting for information from the State on the timeline for this funding but should have this within the week commencing April 6. This information includes which expenses that will be reimbursable.</p> <p>Jan Maitzen stated that the North County may be underrepresented in the PIT count as this region became involved later than other regions. Jan also reported that the Atascadero warming center closed on March 31, and Transitional Food & Shelter are no longer carrying out street outreach, as all their outreach workers are among vulnerable populations. Jan therefore requested that homeless people in</p>		
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	<p>Atascadero are duly considered among funding applicants.</p> <p>Laurel confirmed that nonprofit service providers can apply for this funding for motel placements which would be in addition to the County's own placements. Providers can establish their own contracts with hotels and motels. The County would want to see plans for security, transportation and food provision in an application for funding to be used for this purpose.</p> <p>The State's time frame for how long these funds should last is up to six months.</p> <p>People who have gone to hospital for a coronavirus infection, have since been released and are in recovery, are eligible for this funding.</p> <p>Janna and Jeff raised the issue that there is no clarity about whether tents are allowed in safe parking areas. This is particularly an issue with warming centers closing and the County expecting rainfall. Laurel to follow up with the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) and report back.</p>		
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4.1.1. Action Item: Vote on recommendations for prioritization and allocation of San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care's (CoC-614) COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Funding Allocation	<p>Susan Funk made a motion to approve the staff recommendations for priorities for the funding, with "case management" removed from item 2, given the recent guidance from the State. The priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation Capacity • Staffing and wrap around services in support of isolation capacity • Street Outreach <p>Shay Stewart seconded. The motion passed. All were in favor.</p>		
5. Adjournment	<p>Laurel asked that staff from the cities please let County staff know if they are currently having emergency meetings outside of normal meeting hours, so that the County is able to plan HSOC meetings that do not clash with these. Please email rfrancis@co.slo.ca.us with this information.</p> <p>Mariam adjourned the meeting at 1:50pm.</p>		