

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

HSOC Meeting

September 15, 2021 1:00 p.m.

Members and the public were able to participate by Zoom call.

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Amelia Grover Anna Miller Anne Robin Bettina Swigger Bill Crewe Brenda Mack Carlyn Christianson Dawn Ortiz-Legg Devin Drake Janna Nichols Jessica Thomas Kathy McClenathen Kristen Barneich Mark Lamore Mary Ann Reiss Nicole Bennett Rick Gulino Shay Stewart Steve Martin Susan Funk Susan Lamont	Caroline Hall Dawn Addis Jeff Smith Scott Smith	Abby Lassen Brandy Graham Carrie Collins Devon McQuade Elaine Archer Elizabeth Pauschek George Solis Helen Jacobson Jack Lahey Jan Maitzen Jessica Lorange John DiNunzio Kelsey Nocket Laurel Barton Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Lisa Howe Mimi Rodriguez Molly Kern Russ Francis Sue Warren Suzie Freeman Tom Sherman Tony Navarro Yael Korin

		Wendy Lewis
AGENDA ITEM		CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Susan Funk called the meeting to order at 1pm.	
2. Public Comment	<p>Helen suggested the idea of using a vacant military base as a shelter for homeless people to use, where they could also receive services. This idea is based on a pilot program in Denmark. Supervisor Ortiz-Legg offered to follow up with a contact she has at the County military base to see if this is a possibility.</p> <p>Yael reported an ongoing situation in Los Osos of people living in vehicles and tents after being cleared from the Palisades encampment.</p> <p>Devon spoke in favor of the 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition)'s ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) program application up for review at this meeting. This is a collaborative grant with CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) which renews the current year program that has seen great success. Wendy from ECHO and Jack from CAPSLO also spoke in favor of the collaborative application.</p> <p>Jan spoke about TFS (Transitional Food and Shelter)'s application to the same grant program, which was a request to continue funding they had received through COVID emergency funds. This funding had enabled TFS to expand from 3 units to 7, and the funding requested was to replace funding for one of</p>	

	<p>these units upon the expiry of the COVID emergency funding.</p> <p>Anne Robin reported that the Behavioral Health Department and TMHA (Transitions Mental Health Association) are having difficulty recruiting new staff.</p>	
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes		<p>Kristen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Carlyn. The motion was passed with all in favor, except for Jessica Thomas who abstained.</p>
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
<p>4.1. Action Item: Vote to Recommend Awards for \$150,864 in California's Fiscal Year 2021 Emergency Solutions Grant Continuum of Care Allocation Funding</p>	<p>Laurel reported that the County receives two ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) allocations – one directly from HUD (US Department of Housing & Urban Development), and one from the State. The Federal award from HUD is administered as part of the annual Action Plan grant process that the Department of Planning and Building coordinates. The other grant also comes from HUD, but is awarded to the State which then allocates a share to areas that do not already receive other ESG grants, and to CoCs (Continuums of Care) which include areas not covered by the Federal ESG grant. As the City of Grover Beach opted not to be part of the County entitlement area, the CoC is eligible for the State ESG allocation in addition to the Federal ESG allocation.</p>	

	<p>The State grant is administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS).</p> <p>The State ESG funding will not be available until July 2022, around the time that some of the COVID related grants will be expiring. The State and HUD require a minimum of 40% of the ESG funds to be used for Rapid Rehousing. A maximum of 10% may be used for HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) activities. Approximately \$4,000 is set aside for grant administration.</p> <p>Three applications were received for the ESG funding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A joint application between 5CHC, CAPSLO and ECHO for emergency shelter activities, rapid rehousing and homelessness prevention. They requested the full amount available (\$146,740) for direct services. • The Salvation Army applied for homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing activities worth \$116,000. • TFS applied to sustain their capacity of their Medically Fragile Homeless apartments. Their application was for \$34,000. <p>A non-conflicted Grant Review Committee was convened in early September to review the applications and make recommendations for funding. The Committee recommended making the full award to the joint application between 5CHC, CAPSLO and ECHO.</p>	<p>Carlyn made a motion to approve the Grant Review Committee's Recommendation for Awards for \$150,864 in California's Fiscal Year 2021 Emergency Solutions Grant Continuum of Care Allocation Funding, seconded by Mary Ann. The motion passed, with Nicole and Brenda abstaining. (Janna was not present during the vote.)</p>
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<p>4.2. Discussion Item: Eviction Prevention</p>	<p>Devon reported that 5CHC had seen a big lull in applications to the Rental Relief Program. Now that unemployment benefits have ended and the end of the eviction moratorium is approaching, applications are picking back up. Anyone applying to the program before September 30th will be protected through March 2022, even if they only owe a small amount.</p> <p>Abby reported that the State is now trying to process applications within a month of receiving them, and have added staff to cope with the demand.</p>	
<p>4.3. Discussion Item: State and Federal Grant Updates</p>		
<p>4.3.1. Discussion Item: Department of Housing & Urban Development Continuum of Care 2021 Notice of Funding Opportunity and the Need for a Special Meeting of the HSOC</p>	<p>Laurel reported that HUD has released the NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) for the 2021 CoC grant program. This is a competitive grant for activities including Permanent Supportive Housing and Coordinated Entry, with a little over \$1 million available. The County has released its RFP (Request for Proposals). Applications are due to the County on October 12th. Additional points are available this year for projects that demonstrate collaboration between housing and healthcare providers in new projects. Bonus funding is available this year for programs that serve victims of Domestic Violence (DV), such as a Permanent Supportive Housing program for victims of DV, or a combination of transitional housing and rapid rehousing for victims of DV. If successful, the funding could become annual. An informational</p>	

	<p>session will be held on Friday, September 17th.</p> <p>A Special meeting of the HSOC will be required in October, for the CoC recommendations to be approved in time for submission to HUD. County staff will send out a Doodle poll for people's availability on October 19th and 20th.</p>	
4.3.2. Discussion Item: Project Homekey	<p>Laurel reported that the State has issued the NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) for the second round of Homekey funding. Changes from the first round include the increase of funding availability per unit, from \$100k to \$150-200k, which is more realistic for the cost of units in SLO County. The funding can be used to purchase motels and other buildings, including acquisition of scattered site projects. Construction is also an eligible activity. All capital funds must be expended within 8 months of the award. Construction and refurbishment of buildings must be completed within 12 months of the award, and then agencies will have a limit of 90 days to reach 50% occupancy. Eligible applicants are cities, counties and housing authorities; in SLO County, HASLO (Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo) will be an eligible applicant. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, over a longer time period than Round 1. Including match funding for operating costs is considered a strength.</p> <p>Wendy shared that Round 1 of Homekey was an incredible opportunity, and that HASLO, People's Self</p>	

	<p>Help Housing and ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) worked together to make it happen. There were challenges with the project, such as the obligation to ensure 50% occupancy within 90 days. The first round was focused on prioritization for those at risk of complications from COVID.</p> <p>Laurel took questions and clarified that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NOFA indicates an eight months deadline for capital fund expenditures, but agencies would have several years to spend their operating costs. • The NOFA indicates that structures that do not have permanent foundations, such as pallet shelters, are eligible. • The County would likely be eligible for multiple projects. 	
4.3.3. Discussion Item: Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program	<p>Laurel shared that the County will be issuing its RFP for the second round of HHAP (Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program) funding, but first wanted to consult the HSOC about the idea of leveraging HHAP Round 2 and possibly Round 3 funding for Homekey Round 2 sites. In the previous round of Homekey funding, HASLO was able to secure funding because HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program) funds were already assigned to the North County Motel 6 project. Without this HEAP funding already being in place, securing the Homekey funding would likely not have been possible. The HSOC generally supported the idea and were in</p>	

	favor of a public forum to solicit input, including from housing developers.	
4.4. Discussion Item: Ten-Year Plan Update	Laurel reported that the first meeting of the Ten-Year Plan Leadership Committee will be taking place in September. The committee will meet to talk about steps to roll out the planning process and look at goals, who will be involved, and how to solicit input from and report back to key stakeholder groups.	
4.5. Discussion Item: Upcoming Expiration of Executive Order N-08-21 and Impact on HSOC Meetings	Laurel reported that the Governor issued an Executive Order at the beginning of the pandemic, waiving certain provisions of the Brown Act to allow for public meetings to be conducted remotely. The Executive Order was extended and expanded, but is now due to expire at the end of September. However, legislation has been passed that would replace this Executive Order, allowing for public meetings to continue to be held remotely. At the time of the meeting, this legislation had been passed by the State Assembly and Senate, and was just waiting for the Governor's signature to become law.	
4.6. Discussion Item: HSOC Membership	Laurel reported that the HSOC membership is set up so that members are appointed to three year terms which are staggered, so that around one third of membership terms expire each year. County staff will be sending out information on which seats are expiring, and will also be introducing new seats. County staff will also contact members whose terms are expiring, some of whom will not yet have served a	

	<p>full three year term, as they began their membership mid-term. The process for applying is to complete a two page membership application form, which can be found on the website and will also be mailed out to the HSOC email list.</p> <p>At present, alternates can only be appointed if nominated by a member within the first thirty days of membership. Alternates who are then approved by the Executive Committee are able to vote on behalf of the member.</p>	
5. Committee Updates	<p>Janna reported that the Finance & Data Committee met and discussed the 2022 PIT (Point in Time) Count and reviewed data metrics for the CoC application.</p> <p>Devin reported that the Services Coordinating Committee met and discussed Emergency Housing Vouchers and safe parking.</p> <p>Susan Funk and Laurel reported that the Encampment Committee has not met because the Executive Committee opted not to constitute it as a standing committee at this time. As HSOC is in the early stages of the planning process for the new Ten-Year Plan, the Executive Committee decided to consider the Encampment Committee's future as part of a broader discussion on the HSOC structure and role of all committees.</p>	
6. Future Discussion/Report Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Processes for identifying and reviewing 	

	<p>number of homeless deaths within the county – Brenda, Susan Funk and John DiNunzio</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe spaces for unhoused people – Yael • County’s Action Plan update – Susan Funk • SLO City inventory of properties, GIS mapping of city owned properties and the potential for a regional version – Kelsey 	
7. Updates and Requests for Information	<p>Kelsey reported that SLO City are seeking resources they could use to assist a large family seeking asylum. Brenda suggested churches can be very useful for connecting people and are involved in asylum work.</p> <p>Yael reported there is a 40 acre plot of land owned by the County, which was purchased to mitigate land taken for a sewer plan in Los Osos. This is deed restricted to agriculture, but possibly there is a way to use a couple of acres for a sanctioned encampment or a tiny house village. Supervisor Ortiz-Legg responded that she will follow up on this.</p>	
8. Next Regular Meeting: November 17 at 1pm		
9. Adjournment	Susan Funk adjourned the meeting at 3:10pm.	