

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
Homeless Services Coordinating Committee
September 21, 2020 10-11:30pm
Meeting held by Zoom call

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Brandy Graham Devin Drake Grace McIntosh Nicole Bennett	Deanna Cantrell John Klevins	Anne Robin Carrie Collins Devon McQuade Elaine Archer Elaine Mansoor George Solis Jan Maitzen Janna Nichols Jessica Lorange Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Russ Francis Susan Lamont Susan Warren
AGENDA ITEM		CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Devin called the meeting to order at 10am and introductions were made.	
2. Public Comment	Susan Warren requested that a document from HUD regarding Recovery Housing guidelines be distributed to the Committee.	County staff to distribute this document.
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes		Grace made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Brandy. All were in favor, with none

		opposed and no abstentions.
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Updates	<p>Service providers shared updates.</p> <p>Grace shared that three people have tested positive for COVID at 40 Prado over the last two weeks. All three were asymptomatic. Per Public Health guidance, no new clients are allowed in, except for people who have been in hospital and have tested negative. There are not many alternative options for people who are no longer able to shelter at 40 Prado.</p> <p>Janna shared that there is an additional challenge of people who have been released from prison and jail, and are now living on the street or in cars, as there are no shelter or housing options for them.</p> <p>Jan shared that TFS (Transitional Food & Shelter) continues to accept clients on a limited basis. They have four apartments which are filled, and for people who are medically fragile and do not have COVID. TFS are opening up a fifth apartment in October, which will be for medically vulnerable people (i.e. those most at risk of complications from COVID).</p> <p>Brandy shared that both CAPSLO's (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) and the Good Samaritans' Veterans programs have exceeded the number of households they expected to serve this year.</p> <p>Laurel provided an update from HASLO (Housing Authority of</p>	

	<p>San Luis Obispo). The economic effects of COVID have seriously impacted HASLO's Voucher Program. Many clients have experienced a reduction in income due to the pandemic, and so the cost per voucher has increased significantly. This could mean a million dollar impact on HASLO's annual budget. HASLO are currently not issuing new vouchers, which makes it harder to get people off the street and into housing.</p> <p>Elaine Archer shared that HASLO has received word of incremental set-aside funding, and so are now hoping to do outreach for people on the waiting list who have been impacted by rent deferrals.</p> <p>Susan Lamont shared that RISE's rooms have been filled. They have had one client test positive for COVID. They also have supplemental funding of \$500 per client, which can go towards a first month's rent or deposit, as well as general items. All clients who have left the program have moved on to safe housing. RISE are holding a quarantine room, which could be used for a symptomatic client awaiting results.</p> <p>Laurel shared that the County will be holding a meeting with Warming Center groups and Public Health to plan for opening warming centers while avoiding spreading infection.</p>	
<p>4.2. Discussion Item: Coordinated Entry</p>	<p>George provided an update on Coordinated Entry. HUD (Department of Housing & Urban Development) is recommending that CoCs (Continuums of Care) temporarily change their processes to prioritize clients that are at a high risk of complications from COVID. George and other County staff have been attending intensive HUD workshops on prioritization, in which different CoCs are able to share best practices and</p>	

	<p>challenges. Jessica has created sample screening questions which could be added to the current Coordinated Entry questions, to establish if clients are part of the high risk population or if they are experiencing any COVID symptoms. George shared an example of what this might look like.</p> <p>George confirmed that HUD’s suggestion is to have two prioritization lists: the normal housing list and a separate list for those at high risk due to COVID. The County is requesting feedback from agencies before bringing this matter to the full HSOC.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to set up a Coordinated Entry Working Group which would involve local provider agencies, as well as local hospitals and CenCal Health.</p>	<p>County to set up Working Group meeting</p>
<p>4.3. Discussion Item: Federal and State Grant Updates</p>	<p>Laurel reported that there is still no news from HUD about the annual CoC competition. Discussions are ongoing about the PIT (Point in Time) Count and whether this will be required.</p> <p>The Planning and Building Department have issued an RFP (Request for Proposals) for the second round of the Federal ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus) program, as well as other programs including PLHA (Permanent Local Housing Allocation), CDBG (Community Development Block Grant), and the Federal ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant). \$6 million is available under the second round of the Federal ESG-CV program.</p> <p>In addition, there will be a second round of State ESG-CV funding. A NOFA has not yet been issued, but it is likely to be for much less than the Federal ESG-CV program. Social Services will be issuing an RFP after the NOFA has been published. The State</p>	

	<p>has indicated that they will be prioritizing rapid rehousing, emergency shelter and street outreach for this funding. Prevention of homelessness will not be considered a priority.</p> <p>George provided an update on round 1 of State ESG-CV funding. HCD (California Department of Housing and Community Development) announced the awards on Friday. The County has received the full award that was applied for. The County is now waiting to receive the Standard Agreement and then can begin issuing subrecipient agreements.</p>	
<p>4.4. Discussion Item: Safe Parking and Alternatives to Encampments</p>	<p>Grace shared that 40 Prado expanded their Safe Parking program in July, adding 10 more spaces. This was largely in response to the County ending their own program. Clients must be looking for permanent housing. CAPSLO are hoping to continue this program through the upcoming ESG-CV grant. CAPSLO are engaging with the community in Los Osos to try to help with the problems related to the encampment.</p> <p>Janna shared that 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition) has received tentative approval from the City of Arroyo Grande to run a pilot program at St John’s Lutheran Church for four safe parking spaces, including case management. Janna is also in discussions with the County about options for running a larger non congregate shelter program.</p> <p>One encampment at Grover Beach has been problematic, but 5CHC have worked with the City of Grover Beach and waste management authority to clean the camp up, by providing a roll off dumpster, sharps containers and bags.</p> <p>Laurel reported on the alternative site in Paso Robles, which was established to allow safe parking and camping along River Road.</p>	

	<p>This site has experienced challenges as it is not on a bus route and is close to a very busy road, so some people do not feel safe biking to the camp. The City of Paso Robles plans to have the site shut down by November 1 as the site is on a flood plain. ECHO are looking for a winter warming site.</p> <p>Devin reported on a safe parking site he had seen in San Diego, which was protected by a gate with a code that clients were given access to. The site was well maintained and had around 30-40 vehicles parked inside, so it may be worth considering as a model for the County's own programs.</p> <p>Laurel requested that providers send information on safe parking programs and sites prior to the November Committee meeting, so that County staff can consolidate this information into one document and distribute to the Committee, and post it on the HSOC website.</p>	<p>Providers send through information on safe parking programs, County staff to consolidate and distribute this information</p>
<p>5. Future Discussion/Report Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcomes of the Coordinated Entry Working Group meeting 	
<p>6. Next Meeting Date: November 9, 2020</p>		
<p>7. Adjournment</p>	<p>Devin adjourned the meeting at 11:05am.</p>	