

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
Homeless Services Coordinating Committee
November 16, 2020 10-11:30pm
Meeting held by Zoom call

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS	
Brandy Graham Devin Drake Grace McIntosh Nicole Bennett	John Klevins	Angela Smith Cara Vereschagin Elaine Archer Elaine Mansoor Esther Salzman George Solis Jan Maitzen Janna Nichols Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Russ Francis Steve Martin	
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	Devin reported that COVID cases have been rapidly increasing in San Luis Obispo county, and the county will be moving back into the more restrictive purple tier.		
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes			Nicole made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Brandy. The motion passed with none opposed and no

		abstentions.
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Updates	<p>Laurel reported that the increase in COVID cases in the County is believed to be caused partly by returning Cal Poly students and partly by people gathering indoors without masks. One issue with the coming winter is the rise in demand for Public Health to do COVID testing. In the spring and summer, Public Health has been able to send nurses out to shelters during the day, but warming centers are generally only open during evenings and overnight, so people who develop symptoms in shelters will have to isolate overnight. There are also concerns that Public Health will not have the capacity to deal with the rise in cases.</p> <p>Janna reported that 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition) has shut down their offices after an employee has tested positive for COVID. All employees are being retested and are now working remotely. Calls for support have continued to increase, and are now around double what they were in the middle of the year. 5CHC expects this to increase further with the end of the eviction moratorium in February. 5CHC’s warming center is likely to be at the South County Regional Center.</p> <p>Grace reported that 40 Prado is open, and the restrictions introduced in March are still in place – a lower capacity of 70-80 beds which are physically distanced. Four clients tested positive for COVID in September, but there have been no positive cases since then. They are not taking clients from out of county, as this would put them over capacity. Grace, Janna and Brandy from CAPSLO’s (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) Veterans Support Program all reported an increase in people</p>	

	<p>from out of the area wanting to access services, but noted this is typical in the holiday season. Grace also reported that 40 Prado are seeing more psychiatric/mental health referrals.</p> <p>Elaine Mansoor reported that the Salvation Army are talking clients through processes by phone, rather than taking the risk of in person meetings.</p> <p>Jan reported that one of TFS's (Transitional Food & Shelter) four units is set aside for people who are vulnerable to complications from COVID. This unit has been leased from October 1, and currently houses three households of four people. No clients or case managers have tested positive, though somebody close to the program manger has tested positive, so the program manager is now working remotely while awaiting test results.</p> <p>Brandy reported that the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program has seen a significant increase in households seeking assistance.</p>	
<p>4.2. Discussion Item: Coordinated Entry</p>	<p>Laurel reported that HUD (Department of Housing & Urban Development) has asked CoCs (Continuums of Care) to consider their Coordinated Entry processes, and to consider adopting a parallel track that would prioritize those at high risk of COVID for Permanent Housing options. The County is working with Technical Assistance providers HomeBase to look at how this should be done.</p> <p>George reported that the first Coordinated Entry working group met the previous week. This group consists of Coordinated Entry partners, service providers, healthcare providers and HomeBase. HomeBase's suggestion is to create a temporary</p>	

	<p>Coordinated Entry prioritization process, with a separate COVID priority list. The COVID priority list would be based on CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) guidelines for those who are most vulnerable. HomeBase recommends that 20% of all placements should come from the main priority list, and 80% from the COVID priority list.</p>	
<p>4.3. Discussion Item: Federal and State Grant Updates</p>	<p>Laurel reported that the County will soon be releasing new RFPs (Request for Proposals) for ESG-CV-2 (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus Round 2) funding. Approximately \$11 million will be available under two programs, one administered by DSS (Department of Social Services), and one administered by Planning (Department of Planning & Building). The DSS program funds cannot be used for homelessness prevention, while the Planning program funds can be.</p> <p>DSS has already submitted an application to the State, and will be seeking approval from the Board of Supervisors in early February to award the funding to successful applicants. The timing of when funds will be released depends on how long it takes the State to get the standard agreements to the County. The State has released the NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) for the second round of HHAP (Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention program) funding. The application for the County to submit will be available by November 30, and the deadline will be 60 days after the application is published. This application will require more work than is typical. The County will be seeking the full HSOC’s input on priorities.</p> <p>Separately to this, DSS will be releasing the RFP for HHAP Round 1 before the end of the year.</p> <p>Grace asked about the already awarded ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) and CDBG (Community Development Block</p>	

	<p>Grant) funding will be made available, as a number of agencies are unable to begin work on some projects before this funding is released. Laurel and George clarified that the County is still waiting on the State to send through the standard agreements. Laurel will reach out to HCD (California Department of Housing and Community Development) to follow up.</p> <p>Laurel reported that HUD is going to require the 2021 PIT (Point in Time) Count to go ahead. The survey will not be required; CoCs will be allowed to use a count sampling methodology instead. The County will follow up with the contractor and the Finance & Data Committee about how to move forward.</p>	<p>Laurel to follow up with HCD</p>
<p>4.4. Discussion Item: Racial Equity</p>	<p>Laurel shared that the ESG-CV-2 funding will have a racial equity component. In particular, HCD are asking applicants to encourage applications from groups that serve unrepresented groups and communities that have a disproportionate share of people affected by COVID. In SLO County, the Latinx community has been disproportionately affected. Applicants will be asked to do quarterly reports to the State on racial equity. HUD has also been encouraging communities to carry out a racial equity analysis. A recommendation will be brought to the November HSOC meeting to move CESH (California Emergency Solutions and Housing) funding from upgrading the HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) to hiring an outside contractor to carry out a racial equity analysis. This analysis will include concrete steps for how agencies can serve underrepresented populations.</p>	
<p>4.5. Discussion Item: Safe Parking and Alternatives to</p>	<p>Grace reported that CAPSLO continues to provide ten spaces through their safe parking program. They are looking at winding this down as there is no indication that funding from the County</p>	

<p>Encampments</p>	<p>or the State will be extended. They are talking to SLO City about the possibility of establishing other locations.</p> <p>Janna reported that 5CHC are referring people to a faith based group providing four spaces through a safe parking program at a church in South County. This program is only open to women and children. The program is monitored by camera. The faith group is looking at expanding to other locations in the 5 Cities area.</p> <p>Nicole reported that the Alternatives to Encampment Working Group have come up with a list of recommendations that will be submitted to the next full Encampment Committee meeting. Nicole to send the document to Russ to distribute to the Services Coordinating Committee.</p>	<p>Russ to distribute document to committee</p>
<p>5. Future Discussion/Report Items</p>	<p>Presentation from Doctors Without Walls – Nicole to arrange this with Russ</p>	
<p>6. Next Meeting Date: January 11, 2021</p>		
<p>7. Adjournment</p>	<p>Devin adjourned the meeting at 11:30am.</p>	