HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC)
SERVICES COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date

August 1, 2022

Time

1pm-2:30pm

Location

Zoom

Members Present

Brandy Graham

Devin Drake

Nicole Bennett

Members Absent

Jack Lahey

Janna Nichols

John Klevins

Staff and Guests

Abby Lassen

Amanda Sillars

Carmen Sampson

Carrie Collins

Elaine Archer

George Solis

Jeff Al-Mashat

Jessica Lorance

Joe Dzvonik

Laurel Weir

Lawren Ramos

Leon Shordon

Michael Azevedo
Rick Gulino
Russ Francis

1. Call to Order and Introductions
Devin called the meeting to order at 1:05pm. Amanda introduced herself as the Administrator for the Santa Maria Wisdom Center.

2. Public Comment
None.

3. Consent: Approval of Minutes
Minutes could not be approved due to lack of quorum.

4. Action/Information/Discussion
4.1 Discussion Item: Wisdom Center (Community Based Adult Services)
Amanda presented on the Wisdom Center (Community Based Adult Services) in Santa Maria, which is an additional resource in the community for people experiencing homelessness. The Wisdom Center are currently working with CenCal Health and CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo). In particular, the Wisdom Center can support senior people experiencing homelessness who are also medically fragile. The program includes transportation, nutrition and education. The program does not involve discharging unless cases become too acute; instead, the aim is to help people reach their highest level of ability and function, then maintain this as long as possible.
Amanda took questions and confirmed that the program is currently working on how to transport people from SLO County; that the program has Spanish speaking staff; and that the total capacity for the program is 180, and they are currently serving around 40-50 people per day.

4.2 Discussion Item: Community Supports and Enhanced Care Management
Nicole reported that CenCal Health are moving forward with their housing services, with the overall goal of getting clients housed and keeping them housed. To this end, they are focusing on three community supports:
1. Housing Transition Navigation Service – this service will help get individuals into housing, via tenant screening, housing assessments, and individualized

housing support plans which will address barriers, include goals and an approach to meeting those goals, and identifying where other services may be needed. This service is specific to people experiencing homelessness who also have a chronic condition, are at risk of institutionalization, or are Transitional Age Youth

2. Housing Deposits – between $3-5k available for coordination, securing one time services and modifications such as security deposits for leases, setup fees for utilities or services, the first month's utility bills, and first and last month's rent

3. Housing Tenancy and Sustaining Services – maintaining a safe and stable tenancy once a client has secured housing, including early identification and intervention for behaviors that may jeopardize housing, and education and training on the responsibilities of tenants and landlords

From January 2023, CenCal Health's focus will also include sobering centers. CenCal Health are working with the SLO County Behavioral Health Department to support a grant application to bring in funding for infrastructure for this. CenCal Health will also be coordinating a roundtable for all providers in SLO and Santa Barbara Counties who are interested in being providers for housing services and sobering centers.

Nicole also gave an update on HHIP (Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program), a new initiative from DHCS (California Department of Health Care Services). CenCal Health is partnering with SLO County CoC (Continuum of Care) and Santa Barbara County's CoC and will be reaching out about priorities regarding the investment plan for HHIP.

4.3 Discussion Item: COVID-19 Contingency Planning
Lawren reported that CAPSLO are working with SLO County Public Health Department and the City of SLO to figure out short term and long term contingency plans for future outbreaks. This may involve new construction (adding doors and walls).

4.4 Discussion Item: Increase in Fentanyl Availability and Overdoses
Jeff reported that the topic of fentanyl availability comes up at the Oklahoma Avenue Parking Village almost daily. Availability is very high. Michael confirmed that fentanyl is also highly available in the camps in South County, including a new and more dangerous strain. Lawren also reported that CAPSLO has seen a drastic

increase. Testing strips are available on site, and CAPSLO are looking into whether the 40 Prado site can become a Narcan distribution site.

4.5 Discussion Item: Point in Time Count Update

Laurel reported on the 2022 Point in Time (PIT) Count report, highlighting some figures of interest to the Committee, including the following:

- Slightly fewer people were counted compared to the 2019 count, though this is likely due to special COVID protocols that were put in place
- 80% of people experiencing homelessness were unsheltered, which represents a slight increase from 2019
- More people were counted in the unincorporated areas of the county than in the incorporated cities
- The veterans count was very low, but this is likely due in part to a sampling error
- There has been an increase in homeless families
- There has been a significant increase in the length of time that people remain homeless
- 92% of people who are homeless in SLO County already lived in SLO County when they became homeless

4.6 Discussion Item: End of Life Protocol Task Force – Update

Devin reported that the End of Life Protocol Task Force met and members have taken assignments to see if any agencies currently have a policy in place that could help to speed up the creation of a general policy.

5. Future Discussion/Report Items

- COVID-19 Contingency Planning update

6. Next Regular Meeting: October 3 at 1pm

7. Adjournment

Devin adjourned the meeting at 2:35pm.