

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

**Date**

September 19, 2022

**Time**

10am-11:30am

**Location**

Room 356, Department of Social Services, 3433 S Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA

**Members Present**

Devin Drake

Jack Lahey

Janna Nichols

**Members Absent**

Brandy Graham

John Klevins

Nicole Bennett

**Staff and Guests**

Aurora William

Becca Carsel

Bettina Swigger

Elizabeth Pauschek

George Solis

Kelsey Nocket

Laurel Weir

Leon Shordon

Merlie Livermore

Russ Francis

Steve Martin

Susan Lamont  
Wendy Lewis

## **1. Call to Order and Introductions**

Devin called the meeting to order at 10:10am.

## **2. Public Comment**

Devin reported that Joe Dzvonic has been hired as the Division Manager for the new Homeless Services Division within DSS (County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services). The Homeless Services Division will pool people from the DSS Homeless Services Unit, the Housing Unit from the Planning and Building Department, and then will be hiring to fill positions in a new third unit focused on Data and Communications. DSS is currently looking for a new place for the Division to reside.

Janna reported that 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition) are hoping to open their Cabins for Change program in the first week of October, and are currently hiring staff for the program.

Bettina reported that Downtown SLO are hiring two additional sidewalk ambassadors, bringing the total to three.

Kelsey reported that the City of SLO is in the process of hiring an Admin Specialist for Homelessness Response and will be presenting on its progress towards approval of the City's strategic plan which will support the County's 5 Year Plan.

Jack reported that CAPSLO's (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) warming center is now open. The center is now weather dependent (the center opens if there is 50% or greater chance of rain, or if the temperature drops to 38 degrees or below) rather than seasonal. Referrals must arrive by 6pm.

## **3. Action/Information/Discussion**

### **3.1. Discussion Item: HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) Continuum of Care Fiscal Year 2022 Collaborative Application**

#### **3.1.1. Discussion Item: Street Outreach**

George reported that the County is currently working on two HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) CoC (Continuum of Care) grant funding applications – the annual CoC grant program competition and a special unsheltered program. Both applications include questions on the CoC's approach to street outreach and racial equity, so the County is soliciting input from the Services

Coordinating Committee on these items. The Committee provided the following input:

- Outreach coordination: outreach providers are meeting monthly. A jail to community meeting is taking place monthly. 5CHC are in contact with Santa Barbara County regarding the riverbed encampment. Agencies are making progress with a 'by name' list that will make outreach more integrated. Street outreach takes place daily.
- Helping people to exit from homelessness: agencies continue to support people as clients once they have obtained housing. The biggest challenge on this was the impact on beds caused by COVID. More generally, interim housing is not stable, and there is not enough housing for everyone who needs it. Agencies pursue a strategy to engage individuals and families of the highest vulnerability.
- Immediate access to low barrier shelter and temporary housing: agencies have added bilingual staff, including Mixteco speakers and people with lived experience to their staff. Agencies have adopted culturally appropriate programming and encourage a sense of community via congregate setting. The City of SLO hired a female case manager after recognizing the need for more female outreach workers.
- Immediate access to low barrier Permanent Housing: agencies use a Housing First approach and have seen success through Landlord Incentives.
- Using data for Street Outreach: agencies maintain logs independent of HMIS (Homeless Management Information System). The City of SLO is piloting its own data collection system, including by the use of an app that tracks interactions. The Committee noted that significant work may be missed as volunteer individuals and organizations are not accounted for.

### **3.1.2. Discussion Item: Racial Equity**

George reported that the consulting firm Homebase has worked on a Racial and Ethnic Equity Analysis for SLO County, which was included in the agenda packet. The analysis was based on data from HMIS, the county's Coordinated Entry system, stakeholder interviews, and program participants. The Committee provided the following input on this item:

- It would be helpful if the County included agencies in contracts for language and translation services, so the agencies do not have to fund this themselves. At present, there is a heavy burden on bilingual workers, and the long wait

times to meet with bilingual workers has been a barrier to clients accessing services.

- The CoC would benefit from guidance on how to approach situations involving people seeking asylum, including legal expertise.
- Interpretation services for people with disabilities, including translation into ASL (American Sign Language) and braille would also be useful.

### **3.2. Discussion Item: Allocation of HHAP 3 (Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program Round 3) Funds for Trauma-Informed Care Training for Homeless Services Agency Staff**

Becca reported on the First 5 Health Access project, which provides best practice training to agency staff on a wide range of topics, including trauma-informed care. Homeless services agencies have said they would find this training helpful. The cost of training would be around \$1k per session which would train around 20 people. Laurel shared that the Strategic Plan includes a component to carry out coordinated training of staff, and trauma-informed care is one type of training specifically referenced. HHAP 3 (Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program Round 3) funding includes money set aside for systems improvement which could be used for this. The Committee discussed and supported a recommendation of up to \$5k to be set aside from the HHAP 3 budget for this purpose.

### **4. Next Regular Meeting: October 3 at 1pm**

### **5. Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 12 noon.