

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL  
 HSOC ENCAMPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING  
 SEPTEMBER 3 2020, 2PM  
 Zoom call**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	<b>STAFF &amp; GUESTS</b>
Anne Robin Caroline Hall Grace McIntosh Janna Nichols Lois Petty Nicole Bennett Steve Martin Susan Funk	Jeff Al-Mashat Jeff Smith Kristen Barneich Tim Waag Toby Depew	Abby Lassen Alicia S Ann Gillespie Barbara Lorenzen Becky McFarland Blake Fixler Bruce Gibson Bryce Prunty Candace Winstead Carlos Mendoza Cecil Hale Cecile Cindy D Colleen Craig Connie Wood Dale Norrington Derek Valine Dianna Emily Gloria Jessica Lorange John DiNunzio John Peschong Laurel Weir Lisa Wallender Mariam Shah Mary Blair Meg Syfan Michele King

		Nancy Dahl Nichol Ayala Patrick McGibney Patsy Truxaw Pattie Toews Robin Russ Francis Scott Collins Stephanie Schamber Steve Martin Susan Rittenhouse Vic B
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AGENDA ITEM	CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS	
1. Call to Order and Introductions of Guests	Janna called the meeting to order at 2pm.	
2. Public Comment	Susan Funk commented that there is not a specific agenda item about the Paso Robles encampment, but an update on this would be welcome as there has been an influx of new homeless people into Atascadero from nearby areas of the County, and this is creating violence and dissent in an area that had been relatively safe and stable.	
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes	Anne made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Grace. None were opposed. Caroline abstained as she was not present. The minutes were approved.	
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1 Discussion Item: Update on	Grace and Cecil shared that CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San	

<p>Safe Parking and sanctioned encampments programs</p>	<p>Luis Obispo) operates a Safe Parking program and can take more people at present. Requirements for entry have been reduced; they are no longer requiring license or proof of registration. Clients do still need to be looking for permanent housing.</p> <p>Laurel shared that the City of Paso Robles has a sanctioned encampment for people in tents as well as a Safe Parking site. The site has showers and portable toilets. ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) has been delivering meals there every night. The City has been giving notice to people camping in the river bed, as following recent fires, the riverbed is being cleared to mitigate the fire risk. The sanctioned encampment is established as an alternative site and safe place for homeless people to go.</p> <p>Representatives from ECHO commented on the situation in Paso Robles – the showers are gated off and have never been used, and the handwashing station often runs out of water. CAT (Community Action Team) officers are present for intake for around an hour each day; intake only accepts Paso Robles residents. A security guard is present for 24 hours a day. The SLO Syringe Exchange Program have a presence, doing safe needle exchange. There is one floodlight but it is not very powerful, so some people have opted not to stay at the site due to concerns about safety.</p> <p>Steve Martin, Mayor of Paso Robles commented that machines are now hauling up tons of debris from the riverbed. This debris was a fire hazard and had been impacting the environment. The alternative site adjacent to the riverbed has capacity for 50 tents. There is also a Safe Parking area, although the lights have been stolen, and the City is now sourcing new ones. Paso Robles police have stated that they are only allowing people from Paso Robles to use the site because they are concerned about limited resources, but Steve has expressed his view that if additional space is there, it should be made available to anyone who can make use of it.</p> <p>Mary and Caroline shared lessons learned from the Veterans Hall and Los Osos Safe Parking programs. The Veterans Hall program did not have any</p>	
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	<p>major issues, which can be partly attributed to two employees being present on site overnight to address any issues that came up. The Los Osos program was not used as much. There was no overnight presence, and client behavior was not as good, though the Sheriffs Department took care of situations that arose. The Coastal Dunes program also had an overnight presence and ran smoothly, but some people were put off by the program's restrictions, e.g. people were required to give ID.</p>	
<p>4.2 Discussion Item: Update on Los Osos encampments</p>	<p>Supervisor Bruce Gibson commented that a situation is developing in Los Osos, in which people are camped in an area that is County property that has been preserved and restored. The encampment is causing damage to the environment in this area, as well as presenting a fire risk, and public health and safety risk. Supervisor Gibson is working with County staff to come up with a plan to relocate people in this encampment to a safe shelter. Adjacent to the site, a number of vehicles are parking overnight and creating a negative impact. Similar situations to this exist elsewhere in the County, which should spur the Committee to think about how Safe Parking programs can be expanded, and what type of shelter can be used to address the problem.</p> <p>Laurel clarified that 'sanctioned encampments' refers to encampments that have been permitted by the landowner. Sanctioned encampments are a tool that many communities are looking into, especially in California, as a way to get people out of problematic areas and into areas where resources can be provided and they won't be asked to leave.</p> <p>This item was opened up to public comment. A number of Los Osos residents spoke and gave the following views:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many of the homeless people in the Los Osos encampment are using drugs and committing violence</li> <li>• The growing encampment on the palisades and street poses fire hazards from open fires, cooking fuel and discarded cigarettes</li> <li>• The encampment poses health hazards due to the lack of toilets and showers, and used syringes</li> <li>• Some public areas, including the skate park, have become</li> </ul>	

	<p>inaccessible to residents as the encampment has grown to encompass them. The library, community center, school house and playground are now off limits to many residents who can no longer feel safe in these places</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By providing care to homeless people, local nonprofits may be enabling the situation while not having the resources to deal with issues such as the potential for incineration</li> <li>• Law enforcement is limited in the area (there is a Sheriff's building but no Sheriff), although the Sheriff's team and CAT team agree that the fire risk is a serious issue</li> <li>• There are more homeless people using the encampment and parking at night than has been reported</li> <li>• Some residents have had to deal with issues themselves, e.g. disinfecting a stream of black water, after feeling that the County is not taking action</li> </ul> <p>Mariam and Connie noted that there are similar issues in Grover Beach, including violence and fire risks. Mariam noted that the purpose of the committee is not to encourage encampments, but there is not enough housing available for everyone who is homeless, and so a County wide plan is needed.</p> <p>Laurel clarified that people cannot legally be moved on from an encampment if there is nowhere else for them to go – a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals case brought against Boise, Idaho ruled this constitutes cruel and unusual punishment, and this ruling is binding on California. HSOC recently recommended setting aside funding to update the County's Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness, which will provide an opportunity for recommendations around encampments.</p>	
<p>4.3 Discussion Item: Update on COVID-related funding available to address</p>	<p>Laurel shared that the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) has recommended that encampments not be moved, and that people be kept in their cohorts, to limit the spread of COVID. The Planning and Building Department recently issued an RFP (Request for Proposals) for the ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus) grant program, which</p>	

<p>unsheltered homelessness</p>	<p>provides CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act funding specifically for supporting homeless people who have tested positive for, or are at risk of, coronavirus.</p> <p>In response to a question about using the units set up at Cal Poly to provide shelter for those in encampments, Laurel clarified that these units are a congregate setting and so this would not be in keeping with CDC guidelines.</p> <p>In response to a question about how the County is participating Project Roomkey, Laurel clarified that this funding is for people who have been diagnosed with COVID to have a place to recover. Trailers and motel rooms are available for homeless people who test positive for COVID and need to quarantine in place. FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) reimbursement can be sought later for a portion of the costs.</p>	
<p>4.4 Discussion Item: Working Group Reports</p>	<p>Nicole reported that the Alternatives to Encampment working group had their first meeting earlier in the week, and presented the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A County wide Safe Parking program modeled on the SLO City program</li> <li>2. Using vacant buildings to shelter homeless people</li> <li>3. A medical outreach pilot program to support chronically fragile homeless people, similar to the Doctors Without Walls program in Santa Barbara County</li> <li>4. County wide collaboration of disjointed programs allowing access to resources including public education, sanitation and mental health services</li> <li>5. A program supporting homeowners to construct ADUs (Accessory Dwelling Units) in their back yards to increase the housing stock</li> </ol> <p>The Alternatives to Encampments working group is researching costs for these recommendations and will report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>Anne reported that the Behavioral Health working group has a meeting</p>	

	<p>planned for the following week.</p> <p>Laurel reported that Jeff Al-Mashat is leading the Public Health working group, and was unable to be present at this meeting but will give a report at the next meeting. Kristen Barneich presented on the Outreach &amp; Communications working group at the previous committee meeting. The Data working group was intending to gather information on encampment locations, but this has become more difficult due to COVID.</p>	
5. Future Discussion Items	None	
6. Next Meeting Date	October 1, 2020	
7. Adjournment	Janna adjourned the meeting at 3:40pm.	