

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
HSOC ENCAMPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
NOVEMBER 5 2020, 2PM
Zoom call**

MEMBERS PRESENT		MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Anne Robin Caro Hall Grace McIntosh Janna Nichols Jeff Smith Kristen Barneich Susan Funk		Jeff Al-Mashat Lois Petty Nicole Bennett Steve Martin Tim Waag Toby Depew	Abby Lassen Anne Wyatt Blake Fixler Cecil Hale Elaine Mansoor George Solis Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Mariam Shah Mary Ciesinski Mary Hamilton Russ Francis Wendy Lewis Yael Korin
AGENDA ITEM			CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions of Guests	Jeff called the meeting to order at 2pm.		
2. Public Comment	Jeff thanked Janna and Mariam for chairing the previous two meetings, which he had been unable to attend. Jeff reiterated his commitment to HSOC and the Encampment Committee.		
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes			Kristen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Wendy. All were in favor, with none opposed and no

		abstentions. The motion carried.
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1 Discussion Item: Working Group Reports	<p>Grace shared that the Alternatives to Encampments Working Group has been working on some recommendations which will be reported at the next Encampment Committee meeting. Abby provided an overview of the priorities that the group has been reviewing, including services to existing encampments, sanctioned encampments, safe parking programs, community programs to employ homeless people, and the use of vacant buildings to house homeless people. Abby noted that the Working Group would benefit from the practical experience of service providers. The next Working Group meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 13.</p> <p>Abby shared comments from John DiNunzio that SLOCOG (San Luis Obispo Council of Governments) is moving forward with a staff recommendation to its Board to create a regional Safe Parking program in early December.</p> <p>Jeff reiterated that the idea of the Encampment Committee originally came from Supervisor Gibson, and the aim is for the Committee to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors. Laurel clarified that the Committee will vote on the language of recommendations, which will then be approved by the full of HSOC before going to the Board. Blake clarified that Supervisor Gibson is looking for vetted plans for alternatives to encampments, rather than suggestions.</p> <p>Susan emphasized the need to offer different opportunities, as different parts of the homeless community will not all respond the same. Solutions must line up with what homeless people need, or – as experience demonstrates – they will not use what is available.</p> <p>Jeff referred the Committee to a document recently put out by the US Interagency Council on Homelessness, called Expanding the Toolbox, which discusses a number of solutions to the problem of homelessness</p>	

	that may be useful for the Committee and Working Groups to consider.	
4.2 Discussion Item: Update on Paso Robles encampment	Wendy shared that the Paso Robles encampment has now closed. ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) has been providing shelter from November 1 through CARES Act funding. Ten rooms are available at the Motel 6, but more people have arrived than could be accommodated due to the need to keep people separate because of COVID. ECHO are prioritizing the most vulnerable people, seniors, and families with children. Other intake is decided by lottery. Intake is low barrier, but clients have to show good behavior.	
4.3 Discussion Item: Update on Los Osos encampments	Caro shared that the Los Osos encampment has been cleared. Some of the people staying there have gone to 40 Prado, the Morro Bay creek bed, and El Chorro Park; others are now scattered around Los Osos. The County ran a services fair the week before the encampment was cleared, though many homeless people present said that they were already in touch with the services available. Caro also shared that she is not sure if Los Osos Cares will be running a warming center in Los Osos this winter, as COVID necessitates more staff than usual. Although Los Osos Cares has the funds for this, they have struggled to recruit people.	
4.4 Discussion Item: Update on Safe Parking and sanctioned encampments programs	<p>Jeff reported that the SLO City Safe Parking program which ran earlier in the year was very successful, and the City of SLO is now working on identifying areas to relaunch the program. They are looking for a provider to work with to run the program.</p> <p>Janna and Kristen shared that there is a small Safe Parking program at St John's Lutheran Church in Arroyo Grande. 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition) are providing case management for clients. The Church has four spaces and is currently only admitting women and children. The program has a porta potty and handwashing station installed, and a fence around the parking spaces. Yael shared that there continues to be unsanctioned parking in Los Osos, which is not safe but nothing else is being provided.</p> <p>Grace shared that CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis</p>	

	<p>Obispo) are providing support to people camping at Palisades Park, but this creates challenges as it is not a sanctioned camp.</p> <p>Abby suggested that the topic of possible areas for safe parking be taken to the City Managers meeting. Laurel clarified that the City Managers are mainly looking at encampments at present, but agreed to convey this at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>4.5 Discussion Item: Update on COVID-related funding available to address unsheltered homelessness</p>	<p>Laurel shared that the Planning & Building Department (Planning) will be receiving approximately \$6 million from HUD (Department of Housing & Urban Development) through the ESG-CV-2 (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus Round 2) program. Activities are limited to the activities permitted under the normal ESG program, including Rapid Rehousing, security deposits, and short term rental assistance; the funding cannot be used for Permanent Housing or Permanent Supportive Housing. The Department of Social Services (DSS) will be receiving a grant of just under \$5 million from the State, through the same program. While Planning’s grant can be used for homelessness prevention, DSS’s grant cannot be used for this. However, under the ESG-CV program, Emergency Shelter can include non-permanent and non-congregate structures, and street outreach and sheltering can include additional services such as health assessments and mental health services.</p> <p>The County will also be receiving a further round of CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding. An RFP (Request for Proposals) will be released later in the month.</p>	
<p>5. Future Discussion Items</p>	<p>Laurel clarified that the Alternatives to Encampment Working Group’s recommendations will be posted to the HSOC website, to allow the public access to the draft, and to invite comments. An action item for the next meeting will be to review and approve the recommendations, before bringing them forward to the full HSOC.</p>	

6. Next Meeting Date: December 3, 2020		
7. Adjournment	Jeff adjourned the meeting at 3:10pm.	