

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

MEMBERS PRESENT		MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Anne Robin Grace McIntosh Janna Nichols Kristen Barneich Mariam Shah Nicole Bennett Steve Martin Susan Funk		Jeff Smith Caro Hall Jeff Al-Mashat Lois Petty Tim Waag Toby Depew	Abby Lassen Adriana Link Anne Wyatt Becky Jorgeson Blake Fixler Frank Kopcinski Gary P George Solis John DiNunzio Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Lucy Passaglia Russ Francis Yael Korin
AGENDA ITEM			CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions of Guests	Mariam called the meeting to order at 2pm.		
2. Public Comment	Becky Jorgeson introduced herself from Hope's Village, and explained that they are working to house homeless people into tiny homes. Rossi Enterprises has offered a ten year lease of five acres on the San Margarita Ranch for \$1 a year. Hope's Village will have 30 tiny homes on wheels built initially, intending to expand to 50 eventually. Clients will help to build their own homes, and so will have a sense of ownership. No drug or alcohol use will be allowed on site. Yael announced that there will be a forum in Los Osos about homelessness in the City and the County, in the evening of January 26.		

	John DiNunzio shared that the SLOCOG (San Luis Obispo Council of Governments) Board has dedicated \$84k from its budget to safe parking programs.	
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes		Janna made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Anne Robin. The minutes were approved with all in favor, none against and no abstentions.
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1 Discussion Item: Working Group Reports	<p>Nicole reported that the Alternatives to Encampment Working Group is still reviewing its recommendations. They will have one more meeting in December to do a final review of recommendations before submitting these to the full Encampment Committee for feedback. Following this, the recommendations will go to the full HSOC meeting in January.</p> <p>Kristen reported that the Public Outreach Working Group is still looking into how to incorporate public outreach into what the County is doing on social media.</p>	
4.2 Discussion Item: 2021 Unsheltered Point in Time Count	George provided an update on the 2021 PIT (Point in Time) Count. HUD (Department of Housing & Urban Development) requires CoCs (Continuums of Care) to conduct a full sheltered and unsheltered count of homeless people every two years. The next full count for SLO County is due in January 2021. HUD recognizes that the 2021 count will not be the same as previous years due to COVID, and so are making exceptions for CoCs to do e.g. an observation based count or a short survey rather than the full unsheltered count. There is also an option to request an exception from doing the count at all, although this would require the CoC to do	

	<p>something else to determine what is happening with the homeless population in the county. County staff presented these options to the Finance & Data Committee on November 30. The Committee decided to ask County staff to request an exception for HUD, to not do the unsheltered count at all. (The CoC will still be required to carry out the sheltered count and Housing Inventory Count.) This decision was based on concerns with staff and volunteer safety and capacity.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the benefits and drawbacks of doing and not doing a PIT Count in 2021. One consideration is that no count would result in no data, and this would make it more difficult to build the case for solutions needed in the county. This is important for dispelling common misconceptions about who homeless people are. However, carrying out the count on HUD's timeline would mean it would take place prior to the moratorium eviction being lifted, so this data would not reflect the situation from February onwards. The Committee supported seeking an exception from HUD, and then for the CoC to carry out its own count, without following HUD's regulations, to collect data for use only within the county. It was noted by several members that there will still be difficulties regarding volunteer capacity and safety if this option is pursued.</p>	
<p>4.3 Discussion Item: Current Encampment Issues</p>		
<p>4.4 Discussion Item: Winter Warming Centers and Safe Parking</p>	<p>Janna reported that 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition) are set to open their warming center at South County regional center. They are changing their criteria to be in sync with CAPSLO's (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) – either when the temperature drops to 38 degrees or there is a 50% forecast of rain. 5CHC will be providing transportation through the Ride-On service, though only three people can be on the bus at a time due to COVID limitations. The service will pick people up and take them to where they need to go in the morning and evening. The center has a capacity of 15 people, and is split into areas for families, men, and women. The center also provides meals in the evening.</p>	

	<p>Grace shared that CAPSLO’s warming center also has a capacity of 15, although additional slots can be opened up. CAPSLO’s shelter has kennels on the property, so pets can stay.</p> <p>Wendy shared that ECHO are continuing to offer their emergency winter shelter at Atascadero Community Church. They are seeing around 12-14 people per night. ECHO can help with transportation where people have mobility issues. ECHO are currently moving into the Motel 6, and will have two case managers plus residential volunteers on site. All rooms can be occupied, regardless of the weather.</p>	
4.5 Discussion Item: Update on COVID-related funding available to address unsheltered homelessness	<p>Laurel shared that there are several RFPs (Requests for Proposals) currently out for COVID-related grants. This includes two ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus) Round 2 grants – one administered by the Department of Planning & Building (Planning), and one administered by the Department of Social Services. Planning have also released an RFP for the CDBG-CV (Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus) Round 3 program. The deadline for applications for all grant programs is December 18.</p>	
5. Future Discussion Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recommendations from the Alternatives to Encampment Working Group - Warming Centers and Permanent Housing in North County - Lucy Passaglia 	
6. Next Meeting Date: January 7, 2021		
7. Adjournment	<p>Mariam adjourned the meeting at 3:30pm.</p>	