



**San Luis Obispo
Countywide 10 Year
Plan to End
Homelessness**

*We envision a future
in which the housing
and comprehensive
services necessary to
remain housed are
available for all,
affording everyone
maximum self-
sufficiency, and the
opportunity to be
productive and
participating
members of our
community*

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC) Executive Committee Meeting Agenda

August 18, 2021, 1pm

Participate by Zoom call

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86403660834?
pwd=TWc4eTRkeWtQZnVCdklwSkFteHZJQT09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86403660834?pwd=TWc4eTRkeWtQZnVCdklwSkFteHZJQT09)

Or call in (audio only):

+1 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 864 0366 0834

Passcode: 927473

1. Call to Order and Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes
4. Action/Information/Discussion
 - 4.1 Discussion Item: Homeless Housing, Assistance & Prevention Program (HHAP) Round 3
 - 4.1.1 Discussion Item: Consolidating County and CoC (Continuum of Care) Allocations for Future Homeless Housing, Assistance & Prevention Program (HHAP) Funding Rounds
 - 4.2 Action Item: Recommend the HSOC authorize the Encampment Committee as a standing committee of the HSOC
 - 4.3 Discussion Item: Report from August 10th Board of Supervisors Meeting
 - 4.4 Discussion Item: Shelter from Heat Options
 - 4.5 Discussion Item: Ten-Year Plan Update
 - 4.6 Discussion Item: State and Federal Homeless Assistance Grants

4.7 Discussion Item: COVID-19 Update

4.7.1 Discussion Item: COVID-19 Grant Updates

4.7.2 Discussion Item: Rental Relief Program

4.7.3 Discussion Item: Situational Update from Members

4.8 Discussion Item: Committee Updates

4.8.1 Discussion Item: Emergency Housing Vouchers Update

5. Future Discussion/Report Items

6. Next Meeting Date: October 20, 2021

7. Adjournment

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
HSOC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
June 16 2021, 1:00-3:00pm
Zoom Call

MEMBERS PRESENT		MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Devin Drake Janna Nichols Kristen Barneich Scott Smith Susan Funk			Caitlin Cox Carolyn Berg Dawn Ortiz-Legg George Solis Grace McIntosh Jan Albin Jeff Carr Jimmy Summer Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Lisa Howe Molly Kern Russ Francis Suzie Freeman
AGENDA ITEM			CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Susan called the meeting to order at 1pm.		
2. Public Comment	Supervisor Ortiz-Legg reported that the Board of Supervisors had a productive budget hearing earlier in the week. The County has a balanced budget, partly thanks to a surplus from COVID funding that had been put aside. There is also new funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), with fewer restrictions than other funding sources. There is currently some hesitation on where this money should be spent, although it has been		

	<p>agreed that some of the money will go towards infrastructure, economic relief of COVID impacts, and childcare. A subcommittee has been created, including Supervisors Ortiz-Legg and Debbie Arnold, to consider how to divide up incoming funding from the Biden and Newsom administrations.</p> <p>Devin added that some comments were made about duplicative funding, and that there is some movement away from funding homelessness as there is more money coming in for this now. It would therefore help for people to attend meetings and emphasize the needs that still exist. From Tuesday 22nd June, all Board meetings will now be held in person, so comments will need to be made in person. Letters and emails will still be accepted but not call-ins.</p>	
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes		<p>Kristen made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Janna. The minutes were approved with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.</p>
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1. Discussion Item: Safe Parking Programs – What Is Working	<p>Janna shared that 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition) administered a safe parking program in South County for around two months at the beginning of the pandemic. This program consisted of ten spaces at the County campground for clients already in case management. The program also provided a daily mail service. In this time, there were fifteen participants, eight of whom were housed. Having a place to stay made it possible to focus on finding permanent housing. The County</p>	

	<p>concurrently ran a safe parking program at the same campground, but this program required people to leave during the day. Behavioral requirements between the two programs did not line up. 5CHC also have another program in South County, operated by an interfaith group at St John's Lutheran Church. This provides four spots, initially limited to women and children. This is problematic however, as the clients are isolated at night; scattered safe parking can make people vulnerable.</p> <p>Grace shared that CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) has been providing a safe parking program linked to case management since 2009. This program initially had 5 spaces, but expanded to 7 when it moved to 40 Prado. This program provides a restroom and kitchenette, and access to the 40 Prado day program. This program has been very successful at getting people into permanent housing. During the pandemic, when the Veterans Hall ceased operations, the County reached out to CAPSLO with the opportunity to use the parking lot to expand the number of slots for this program. This lasted from June-December. Several people who parked at the Veterans Hall worked towards housing. CAPSLO and SLO City have since established a new drop-in model with 20 spaces, including a porta potty, handwashing station and cameras for safety; however, this has not been successful, with very few of the spaces being used. Outreach workers have reported that clients do not feel the need to use these spaces when there are already places they can park, and that they don't want to be monitored by cameras. Laurel added that people often don't have money for gas, so don't want to park somewhere that they have to keep moving out of and returning to.</p>	
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	<p>Laurel shared that the City of Paso Robles established a sanctioned encampment with safe parking and tent sites while clearing out the riverbed in the summer of 2020. This program provided bathrooms and showers, although there were reports that water was not always available. People felt that the encampment was too far away from meal programs and other services, it was unsafe to bike there, and tents were out in the open without any shade.</p> <p>Carolyn reported that SLOCOG (San Luis Obispo Council of Governments) has some funding set aside, which could be put towards site preparation. The County and SLOCOG are working on identifying publicly owned sites.</p>	
4.2. Discussion Item: Ten-Year Plan Update		
4.2.1. Discussion Item: Ideas for the Ten-Year Plan Leadership Group	<p>Carolyn reported on the progress of the Leadership Group, including representation from HSOC, service providers, County government, the Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo (HASLO), people with lived experience, City government, and law enforcement. This group will be reaching out to a number of constituencies including the full HSOC, the City Mayors group, a non-quorum of the County Board of Supervisors, City and County managers, SLOCOG, CalTrans, and law enforcement agencies. After discussion, the Committee agreed to add representation from the local activist community to the focus groups that the Leadership Group will reach out to.</p>	
4.3. Action Item: Approve Letter of Support for	<p>Laurel reported that the State has a new program – the Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Program, which provides funding for the development of housing for veterans who are</p>	

People's Self Help Housing's Application for Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Funding	<p>homeless or at risk of homelessness. Applicants must provide a letter from their Continuum of Care (CoC) stating that there is a demand for this program. People's Self-Help Housing are therefore asking HSOC to endorse the drafted letter included in the agenda packet.</p> <p>Jimmy from People's Self-Help Housing provided some background on the project. They are looking at creating 42 affordable housing units at 60% of Area Median Income (AMI) or lower, including 10 units for homeless veterans, one of which will be set aside for a veteran with a disability, and one for a chronically homeless veteran. These 10 units will be reserved at 30% AMI or lower. The project will also provide access to education, career assistance and mental health counseling. The total amount of funding sought is \$1.8 million.</p>	Janna made a motion to approve the Letter of Support for People's Self Help Housing's Application for Veterans Housing and Homelessness Prevention Funding, seconded by Scott. The motion passed with all in favor and none opposed.
4.4. Discussion Item: HUD Report on Encampments	<p>Laurel shared that the HUD Report on Encampments was placed on the agenda for awareness, at the request of a member of the public who has been involved in the Encampment Committee. The key recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting encampments with services • Creating more shelter opportunities • Evolving and adapting outreach • Models that take substance abuse into consideration • A more systematic understanding between encampments and law enforcement • More robust data collection to understand demographics 	
4.5. Discussion Item: HSOC Administration		
4.5.1. Discussion Item:	Laurel reported that staff have recommended developing a	

Procedure for Dealing with Requests to Add Items to HSOC Agendas	<p>screening tool for materials sent through for HSOC's consideration. The Executive Committee discussed the idea but felt that the various committees can already serve this purpose. If an item is particularly time-sensitive, a special meeting of a committee could be convened and a recommendation made about whether the item should go to the full HSOC. Presentations at the full HSOC should first secure approval of the relevant committee.</p>	
4.5.2. Discussion Item: Role and Future of Ad Hoc Encampment Committee	<p>Laurel provided some background on the Ad Hoc Encampment Committee. As the Encampment Committee has now completed a report and presented it to the Board of Supervisors, HSOC should consider whether it wants to make the Encampment Committee a standing committee, or to close the committee and continue its work through other channels, including the Ten-Year Plan Committee and Regional Action Plan.</p> <p>The Executive Committee suggested that the Encampment Committee could continue as a standing committee, with a new focus on greater coordination between agencies and dealing with present issues connected to encampments. The Executive Committee decided that the Encampment Committee should hold its next meeting on July 1st and discuss whether it wishes to continue meeting and what its focus should be.</p>	
4.6. Discussion Item: State and Federal Homeless Assistance Grants	<p>Laurel reported that the state has asked CoCs (Continuums of Care) for feedback on the possibility of delating the release of the NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) for the 2021 State ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) program. The state is also proposing a rolling application period, rather than the short 60 day period which currently exists. Funding under this program would not be available for subrecipients until July 2022.</p>	

	Laurel reported that the NOFA for the 2021 HUD (US Department of Housing & Urban Development) CoC program is expected in late June or July.	
4.7. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Update		
4.7.1. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Grant Updates	Laurel shared that the County is moving towards winding down many of its COVID-related activities, or transferring these to the private sector. Cases of COVID have dramatically decreased within the county. There are ongoing efforts to vaccinate people who are homeless.	
4.7.2. Discussion Item: Rental Relief Program	Janna reported serious concerns about the approaching eviction moratorium deadline, as the state is moving slowly on the Rental Relief program. The County has only seen ten payouts, which do not include any of the clients that 5Cities Homeless Coalition has enrolled, which they have been doing since March. People's applications are not moving forward, and the suggested 100% reimbursement for landlords has not yet been assured.	
4.7.3. Discussion Item: Situational Update from Members	Susan reported that Atascadero is facing challenges from a more violent group of homeless people. Janna responded that this has happened because people were released early from jail due to COVID, with no plan for where they would go. This is a problem across the county, and most likely across the state. Janna suggested that a discussion with Probation and Parole would be useful.	
5. Future Discussion/Report Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with Probation and Parole (see item 4.7.3). 	

6. Next Meeting Date: August 18, 2021		
7. Adjournment	Susan adjourned the meeting at 3pm.	

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION ITEM
August 18, 2021**

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4.2

**ITEM: RECOMMEND THE HSOC AUTHORIZE THE ENCAMPMENT COMMITTEE AS A
STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HSOC**

ACTION REQUIRED:

Vote to recommend the HSOC authorize the Encampment Committee as a standing committee of the HSOC

SUMMARY NARRATIVE:

A substantial number of persons experiencing homelessness in the county are unsheltered. The 2019 Homeless Point in Time (PIT) Count found that 79% of the population of homeless people in the County were unsheltered on a single night in January 2019.

The impact of being unsheltered may have substantial impact on the physical and mental health of homeless adults, children and youth. For example, lack of access to hygiene and sanitation facilities may put homeless persons' health at risk. Being unsheltered also may make homeless persons more vulnerable to being the victims of violent crime.

Unsheltered homelessness also impacts the communities in which it occurs, including increasing expenses for those communities. Lack of sanitation and hygiene facilities and trash pick-up for people living in encampments may lead to contamination of nearby waterways, and campfires started for the purpose of cooking or providing warmth may create fire dangers. Cleaning up encampments may cost communities as much as tens of thousands of dollars or more.

On May 2, 2019, County of San Luis Obispo District 2 Supervisor Bruce Gibson sent a letter to the HSOC, outlining some of the impacts of unsheltered homelessness on local communities and requesting that the HSOC create a Committee on Encampments. At the June 19, 2019 meeting of the HSOC Executive Committee, Supervisor Gibson attended and requested that the proposal be brought to the full HSOC for consideration. On July 24, 2019, the HSOC voted to create an Ad Hoc Encampment Committee.

The first full meeting of the Encampment Committee took place on March 5, 2020. While the activities of the committee were slowed due to the pandemic, the group continued working on recommendations to address unsheltered homelessness and its impacts. The Committee finalized its Alternatives to Encampments recommendations on March 4, 2021 and on March 17, the HSOC voted to approve the recommendations. The recommendations were then included in update on homelessness to the County Board of Supervisors on May 4, 2021.

On June 16, 2021, the HSOC Executive Committee discussed a possible future role for the Encampment Committee and directed staff to seek input from the committee on whether the committee should be re-established as a standing committee and if so, what should be the responsibilities of the committee.

On July 1, 2021 the Ad Hoc Encampment Committee met to discuss these issues. The committee suggested the committee be constituted as a standing committee and focus on coordination, identifying system-wide initiatives to engage people in encampments, as well as to review what is happening with encampments and what is working with different programs.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There would be no immediate financial impact from this recommendation.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Staff recommend that this item be approved. Staff also recommend that the committee include representatives of public agencies that interact with encampments, including law enforcement, public works agencies, community services districts, CalTrans, and state and local parks.