

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
HSOC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
December 16, 2020, 1:00-3:00pm
Zoom Call

MEMBERS PRESENT		MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Devin Drake Janna Nichols Mariam Shah Scott Smith Susan Funk			George Solis Grace McIntosh Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Lisa Howe Russ Francis
AGENDA ITEM			CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Mariam called the meeting to order at 1pm.		
2. Public Comment	None.		
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes			Janna made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Susan. The motion passed with none opposed and no abstentions.
4. Action/Information/Discussion			
4.1. Discussion Item: 2021 Point in Time (PIT) Count	George reported that HUD (Department of Housing & Urban Development) has released guidance on their requirements for the 2021 PIT (Point in Time) Count. CoCs (Continuums of Care) are required to carry out the sheltered count and HIC (Housing Inventory Count) as normal, but HUD is offering flexibility on the		

	<p>unsheltered count. CoCs can seek exceptions to do only a head count, a short survey, or to not do the count at all. This guidance was brought to the Finance & Data Committee in early December. The Finance & Data Committee recommended that County staff seek an exception to conducting the unsheltered count, due to concerns with volunteer and staff safety and capacity. The Encampment Committee concurred with this recommendation. All other CoCs in Southern California are requesting this exception. HUD has received around one hundred exception requests from CoCs nationwide, which represents around a quarter of all CoCs. HUD has not provided a formal answer on whether or not there will be a financial impact on CoCs that do not carry out the unsheltered count, but representatives have said they do not want to penalize CoCs.</p> <p>In the exception request, County staff will need to state what other action the CoC will be taking to understand the needs of homeless people in their community. County staff will take this discussion to the Finance & Data Committee.</p>	
4.1.1. Action Item: Vote to Request an Exception from HUD (Department of Housing & Urban Development)		Janna made a motion to request an exception from HUD to carrying out the 2021 PIT Count, seconded by Devin. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
4.2. Discussion Item: Grant Updates		

<p>4.2.1. Discussion Item: Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) Update</p>	<p>Laurel shared that the County is in the process of finalizing the North County HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program) contract. HASLO (Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo) has now acquired the Motel 6 in Paso Robles. ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) has begun operating their shelter there on a limited basis, and will be expanding into February. HASLO are moving forward with preparing the permanent housing side. There are 63 units in total. Some rooms will be for people who are currently homeless, and some for those at risk of homelessness.</p>	
<p>4.2.2. Discussion Item: Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP) Program Update and Discussion of Round 2 Application Process</p>	<p>Laurel reported that the County is working on an application for the second round of HHAP (Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program) funding, due on January 23. The State requires a detailed analysis of the community's needs, including input from people with lived experience of homelessness, and expects funding to be prioritized to meet these needs. The full HSOC will vote on priorities for HHAP Round 2 funding at its January 20 meeting.</p> <p>Laurel clarified that the RFP (Request for Proposals) for Round 1 of HHAP funding will be released early next year. HSOC and the Board of Supervisors have already agreed on priorities for this. Like HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program), HHAP Round 1 will have funding set aside for youth projects, so there will be a special youth focus in the RFP.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the barriers to moving people into housing, such as lack of Section 8 vouchers, lack of places for the vouchers to be used, and lack of housing for people with Social Security as their sole source of income.</p>	

	The Executive Committee agreed to hold a Special meeting in the second week of January to consider priorities to take to the full HSOC. The Committee agreed to invite representatives of the Supportive Housing Consortium and John DiNunzio from SLOCOG (San Luis Obispo Council of Governments) to feed into this meeting.	Russ to send out Doodle poll with options for the date of the Special meeting
4.2.3. Discussion Item: California Emergency Solutions and Homelessness Grant (CESH) Update	No update.	
4.2.4. Discussion Item: California Emergency Solutions Grant (CA ESG) Update	George reported that the County has received the executed agreement for Round 1 of the ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus) program, and is now in the process of drawing up subrecipient agreements. No update on the annual ESG program or Round 2 of the ESG-CV program.	
4.2.5. Discussion Item: Continuum of Care (CoC) Grant Update	No update.	
4.3. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Update		
4.3.1. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Grant	Laurel reported that the County is in the process of getting contracts sent out to subrecipients for the COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Funding program.	

updates		
4.3.1.1. Discussion Item: Racial Equity	<p>Round 2 of the Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus (ESG-CV) program requires a focus on racial equity. Questions on this were included in the local application. The State has identified particular census tracts where people are disproportionately affected by COVID, including minority communities and people with very low income. Public Health are working on this as part of their COVID response. Applicants to the ESG-CV program will receive extra points if they will be serving people from these tracts. This could be achieved by partnering with organizations working with these tracts, but applicants must be more specific than simply stating they will serve the whole county which includes these tracts.</p> <p>HUD's data analysis tool Stella has recently been updated to include racial equity metrics. Stella can currently be used for reporting on data but will have modelling capabilities eventually. What Stella can tell us about racial equity in the county will be brought to the Finance & Data Committee.</p>	
4.3.2. Discussion Item: Situational update	<p>Laurel reported that the County is seeing a significant increase in people testing positive for COVID, which increases the risk for people experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Janna reported that one staff member at 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition) has tested positive for COVID. 5CHC are taking extra precautions with their warming center.</p> <p>Grace reported that 40 Prado has seen an outbreak, and the situation is still unfolding. In total, 9 clients and one staff member have tested positive, but there are more results</p>	

	<p>pending.</p> <p>Scott reported that a number of clients have tested positive at HASLO (Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo), and they have been placed in non-congregate apartments. No staff members have tested positive so far.</p>	
4.4. Discussion Item: Planning for Vaccinations	<p>Laurel reported that the County has received its first batch of Pfizer vaccines, and will receive its first batch of Moderna vaccines later in the month. People in hospitals and frontline medical staff will be prioritized. The County will be planning to distribute vaccines to vulnerable people including homeless people, and will be reaching out to homeless services agencies about concerns they may have.</p>	
4.5. Discussion Item: Warming Centers	<p>Laurel reported that the Atascadero shelter has been opened (as a winter emergency shelter rather than a warming center). The center will be open every night through winter. The shelter is at Atascadero Community Church, and ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) can provide transportation for people physically unable to walk. Intake is done at the ECHO dinner program.</p> <p>Janna reported that 5CHC is ready to open at the South County Regional Center, and has adopted the same protocols as CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) – the shelter will open if the temperature drops to 38 degrees or if there is a 50% chance of rain. 5CHC are still working out transportation and are talking to the County and the City of Arroyo Grande about having isolation trailers at the back of the shelter.</p> <p>Laurel reported that the Los Osos Cares shelter is also ready to</p>	

	open, and has only been open one night so far.	
4.6. Discussion Item: Committee Reports	<p>Janna shared that George had reported on what the Finance & Data Committee discussed above.</p> <p>There were no other Committee reports.</p>	
5. Future Discussion/Report Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities for HHAP funding (to be discussed at the Special Executive Committee meeting in January) 	
6. Next Regular Meeting Date: February 17, 2021	A Special Executive Committee meeting will be held in January.	
7. Adjournment	Mariam adjourned the meeting at 2:40pm.	