

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
HSOC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – SPECIAL MEETING
January 12 2021, 3:00-4:30pm
Zoom Call

MEMBERS PRESENT		MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Devin Drake Janna Nichols Mariam Shah Scott Smith Susan Funk			Carolyn Berg Dawn Ortiz-Legg George Solis Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Lisa Howe Rick Gulino Russ Francis
AGENDA ITEM			CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Mariam called the meeting to order at 3pm.		
2. Public Comment	None.		
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes			Devin made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Janna. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
4. Action/Information/Discussion			
4.1. Discussion Item: Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention (HHAP)	Laurel provided background on the HHAP (Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention) grant program. The County and CoC (Continuum of Care) have the opportunity to apply to the State		

Program	for the second round of this grant, which will be worth around \$1.5 million. The application is due on January 23 rd .	
<p>4.1.1. Discussion Item: Application and Funding Priorities for Second Round of Homeless Housing, Assistance & Prevention (HHAP) Program</p>	<p>The State requires applicants to carry out a needs assessment and use this to determine funding priorities. There is not enough time to carry out a new needs assessment, but applicants can use needs assessments carried out previously, so the County is proposing to use the needs assessment process that was done for the HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program) and CESH (California Emergency Solutions & Housing) grant programs in 2018, along with the priorities HSOC recommended to the Board of Supervisors in the same year.</p> <p>Other HSOC committees have provided input to this idea, and are in support of the priorities identified (housing as a first priority, and also outreach activities and shelter, particularly in underserved areas).</p> <p>Rick stated that the biggest need facing SLO Housing Consortium is rental assistance, which has not been accessible during the pandemic. Other needs include assistance with utility payments and food.</p> <p>Lisa shared that the County was recently notified they will be receiving \$8.4 million for rental assistance through a new stimulus package. This funding can also be used for utilities.</p> <p>Laurel clarified that addiction recovery is not an eligible use of HHAP funding, so the 40 Prado medical unit funded by HEAP cannot be supported through HHAP funds.</p> <p>The Committee supported the recommendations presented.</p>	

<p>4.2. Discussion Item: Alternatives to Encampment Working Group's Recommendations</p>	<p>Laurel presented the recommendations document from the Encampment Committee's Alternatives to Encampment working group. The recommendation document is due to be discussed by the full HSOC meeting on January 20th.</p> <p>Mariam suggested clarifying the document to include the steps to be taken and who needs to be involved.</p> <p>Susan suggested including an action plan and one page executive summary, including information on the land available in each city and the costs.</p> <p>Janna recommended that the document tie into Supervisor Gibson's original request and state how it is meeting the points in his letter which prompted the establishment of the Encampment Committee.</p> <p>Carolyn suggested that the recommendations should feed into the regional action plan that the County Administrative Office and city managers are currently working on.</p>	
<p>4.3. Discussion Item: COVID-19</p>		
<p>4.3.1. Discussion Item: Update on implementation of state and federal funding to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19</p>	<p>Laurel provided an update on grant programs administered by the County. An ad hoc Grant Review Committee met on Monday 11th January to review applications to the second tranche of the Federal and State ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus) programs, and the third tranche of CDBG-CV (Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus) program. The CDBG-CV applications were also reviewed by an Interagency Advisory Council on January 12th, including representatives from the cities. The recommendations will be reviewed by the full HSOC on January 20th. These funding programs represent around \$12 million.</p>	

	<p>The County recently received the contract from the State for the first round of State ESG-CV funding, and subrecipient agreements have now been sent to subrecipients for signatures. The Department of Planning & Building are still waiting to receive the contract for the first round of Federal ESG-CV funding.</p> <p>George reported that subrecipient agreements for COVID-19 Emergency funding are nearly ready to be distributed.</p> <p>Susan suggested that it would be helpful for the County to share a document clearly showing each of the different grants, including timelines. Laurel responded that the County is required to produce a document like this for the HHAP application, so will share this at the next Executive and Finance & Data Committee meetings.</p>	
4.3.2. Discussion Item: Stimulus Funding for Rental Assistance	Janna reported that 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition) fielded three times as many calls in December, compared to historical data. 5CHC are hiring staff to prepare for the eviction moratorium to be lifted. One challenge is ensuring there is no duplication of service, which is becoming very challenging given the number of providers involved.	
4.3.3. Discussion Item: Vaccination Planning	<p>Laurel reported that the County is moving forward with plans to roll out vaccines, including for homeless people and those who work and volunteer in homeless shelters.</p> <p>Janna shared that she is representing homeless services agencies on the Public Health Department's Vaccine Task Force which is meeting weekly. The Task Force has identified challenges to vaccinating homeless people, including logistical issues with accessing encampments, and overcoming trust</p>	

	issues among homeless people.	
4.4. Discussion Item: Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) Update	<p>Scott shared that the building for the Homekey and HEAP-funded project in Paso Robles has now been purchased. This will provide 42 COVID safe emergency rooms, which will continue to be used as shelter rooms after the pandemic. This part of the building is already in operation, managed by ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization). The rest of the facility (60 units) is still undergoing renovations and will be used for permanent housing, managed by HASLO (Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo) and People's Self Help Housing. Project Homekey funding includes the requirement of 50% occupancy of the building by March 2.</p> <p>Janna reported that 5CHC are moving into the building in South County, and have had enough funding through HEAP to replace the roof and windows, but not enough to do all the renovations they had hoped to.</p> <p>Janna reported that CAPSLO's detox facility is facing a shortfall of \$265,000 but they are moving forward with the project. CAPSLO's project is also receiving funding from NPLH (No Place Like Home).</p> <p>Janna reported that work on the People's Self Help Housing project in Pismo Beach has begun. This building will provide a mix of transitional units for homeless youth and other housing options. This project also uses NPLH funding.</p>	
4.5. Discussion Item: 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness	Laurel reported that the County issued an RFP for a vendor to work on updating the Ten Year Plan. The bid period has now closed, and the County are in the process of selecting a vendor.	

	The County will ask the full HSOC on January 20 th to authorize the creation of a steering committee to work with the vendor to develop a plan and timeline for this work.	
4.6. Discussion Item: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Continuum of Care Program update	George reported that the County received approval from HUD (Department of Housing & Urban Development) to waive the unsheltered PIT (Point in Time) Count for 2021. Stimulus legislation recently passed has allowed HUD to skip the 2020 CoC (Continuum of Care) grant competition. Instead, subrecipient grants from 2019 will be renewed.	
4.7. Discussion Item: Committee Reports	None.	
5. Future Discussion/Report Items	None.	
6. Next Regular Meeting Date: February 17, 2021		
7. Adjournment	Mariam adjourned the meeting at 4:35pm.	