

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

HSOC Meeting

March 27, 2020 1:00 p.m.

Physical Location: Room 101, Department of Social Services, 3433 S Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA

Members and the public were also able to participate by phone.

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS		
Amelia Grover Anne Robin Bettina Swigger Caroline Hall Devin Drake Grace McIntosh Janna Nichols Joe Thompson Marianne Kennedy Mariam Shah Mark Lamore Nicole Nix (alt for Adam Hill) Scott Smith Shay Stewart Steve Gregory (alt for Steve Martin) Susan Funk	Carlyn Christianson Deanna Cantrell Jessica Thomas Kristen Barneich Marcia Guthrie Marlys McPherson Nicole Bennett Paul Worsham Tim Waag	Airlin Singewald Anne Wyatt Brandy Graham George Solis Jessica Lorange Laurel Weir Russ Francis Susan Warren		
AGENDA ITEM			CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS	FOLLOW UP
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Mariam called the meeting to order at 1pm. Introductions were made.			
2. Public Comment	None.			
3. Action/Information/Discussion				

<p>3.1. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Funding</p>	<p>Laurel explained that there are two separate sources of funding provided by the State to address the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>One source is coming directly to the County and is worth \$266k. The County is moving forward with this funding to provide motel placements for homeless people who have tested positive for COVID-19, or who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 and awaiting test results. This allows them a better chance of recovering and avoiding the spread of infection. The motels work is moving in phases. The first phase will be ready to fully launch the weekend after this meeting, and involves partnering with shelters and warming center agencies. The next phase will involve partnering with hospitals and Coordinated Entry organizations. There are 155 motel beds reserved currently, and the County is working to increase capacity, as well as monitoring usage to make projections about future needs.</p> <p>The second funding source is worth \$289k and will be under the authority of HSOC as the CoC (Continuum of</p>		
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	<p>Care) for San Luis Obispo County. Eligible activities include supplies and equipment for sanitary shelter environments, leases of hotels and motels, isolation placements, equipment to protect staff, meeting the urgent needs of people experiencing homelessness, support for homeless people's transportation to receive medical care, and additional staff.</p> <p>HSOC is required to designate an entity to administer this second funding source. This must happen before the application can be submitted. Once it is submitted, the State will process the application and let us know within around ten days if it is approved.</p> <p>Since the agenda packet for this meeting was posted, County Counsel has advised that the language for the action item be amended to authorize Wade Horton CAO (County Administrative Officer), or designee, to execute documents and take actions as necessary to administer this funding (see next item for the exact wording). This is necessary because the original language would</p>		
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	<p>have authorized the Board of Supervisors to carry out these actions, but the Board is not due to meet prior to the deadline for this funding.</p> <p>Amelia asked for clarification on people who are homeless or at risk of displacement from home, and may be appropriate for a test but were unable to be tested, and whether this population would be considered for motel placement. Laurel confirmed that the County is looking at how they can support this population at present, particularly at keeping people in housing where they are at risk of being displaced. Homeless patients who are not displaying symptoms but are not connected to shelter services are considered for motel placement if they are in high risk categories. The State has said that its intent for the funding is to focus on those who are symptomatic, have tested positive for COVID-19, or are in high risk categories.</p> <p>Laurel shared that the County is looking at simplifying the process for providers to access the funding. A full RFP (Request for Proposals) process would take too long, particularly at a</p>		
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	<p>time when providers are overwhelmed. Devin confirmed that the County wants to get the funding out to where it is needed in the community as quickly as possible, and the County is looking into how this can be achieved while still complying with the State's requirements.</p>		
<p>3.1.1. Action Item: Vote to designate the County as the Administrative Entity for the San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care's (CoC-614) COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Funding Allocation</p>	<p>As covered in the above item, the wording was changed on the advice of County Counsel. Laurel read out the new wording:</p> <p>"Designate the County of San Luis Obispo to serve as the Administrative Entity for the COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Funding Grant and authorize Wade Horton CAO, or designee, to execute all necessary documents and take such further actions as necessary to administer said funding allocation."</p>	<p>All were in favor.</p>	
<p>3.2. Discussion Item: Create an HSOC sub-committee to review and make recommendations on the best use of PLHA (Permanent Local Housing Allocation) funds over the next five years to address homeless</p>	<p>Airlin (Department of Planning & Building) requested that HSOC form a new committee to work with County staff on recommendations for allocating PLHA funds for homeless services. The State has projected \$5.2m in funding over five years. The County has to provide information to</p>		

<p>needs in the county</p>	<p>the State on activities that should be funded, so Airlin wants to work with HSOC to understand what the needs are and how this fits with PLHA's eligible activities. The proposed committee would input their recommendations to help determine high level needs. Input from HSOC and other stakeholders would then be put out to public comment, and then go to the Board of Supervisors. Turnaround needs to be fairly quick as the State's deadline for applications is July 27th and they have confirmed there will be no extension.</p> <p>The Council agreed to create a new committee, comprised primarily of the Chairs of existing committees, with the exception of Janna (Chair of Finance & Data Committee), who deferred to Rick Gulino. Mariam also recommended that the Vice Chair of HSOC (Susan Funk) be included. As such, the new PLHA Committee consists of Mariam Shah, Susan Funk, Scott Smith, Devin Drake, Jeff Smith and Rick Gulino. Laurel and Airlin will schedule the first meeting of this Committee.</p> <p>Grace asked about opportunities for</p>		
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	<p>the general public and community members to have a say in this process. Airlin confirmed that public workshops could be held during the comment period on draft recommendations, possibly a forum held by teleconference depending on the COVID-19 situation at that time.</p>		
<p>4. Adjournment</p>	<p>Laurel suggested the Council reconvene at 1pm on Friday April 3rd to vote on recommendations for the COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Funding Grant. If a quorum cannot be gathered at that time, the Executive Committee will meet in its place.</p> <p>Mariam adjourned the meeting at 1:48pm.</p>		