

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

HSOC Meeting

November 18, 2020 1:00 p.m.

Members and the public were able to participate by Zoom call.

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Amelia Grover Anne Robin Bettina Swigger Bill Crewe (alt for Paul Worsham) Carlyn Christianson Caroline Hall Devin Drake Grace McIntosh Janna Nichols Jessica Thomas Kristen Barneich Marcia Guthrie Mariam Shah Mark Lamore Marlys McPherson Nicole Bennett (alt for Theresa Scott) Rick Gulino (alt for Joe Thompson) Scott Smith Shay Stewart Steve Martin Susan Funk	Jeff Smith (alt for Deanna Cantrell) Marianne Kennedy Tim Waag	Abby Lassen Angela Smith Bianca Koenig Brandy Graham Brenda Mack Carlos Mendoza Elaine Elaine Mansoor George Solis Jan Maitzen Jill Denton Joanna Balsamo-Lillien Kathy McClenathen Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Lisa Howe Lisa Jouet Lucy Sue Matt Leal Mimi Rodriguez Patti Toews Rebeca Gomez Russ Francis Tom Sherman

		Tony Navarro Wendy Lewis
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		Marlys made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Janna. None were opposed and there were no abstentions. The motion was carried.
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Impacts	Laurel reported that the County continues to work with homeless services agencies in responding to COVID-19. The County has been meeting with agencies to discuss the challenges associated with opening winter warming centers. The number of homeless people has grown, and there are concerns that Public Health may not have the staffing capacity to test everyone who is symptomatic at congregate facilities. The County is looking into using ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus) Round 2 funding to address this by paying for transportation of homeless people from shelters to where they can be tested.	

<p>4.2. Discussion Item: State and Federal Homeless Assistance Grants</p>	<p>Laurel reported that the County will soon release two RFPs (Request for Proposals) for the Federal and State allocations of Round 2 of the ESG-CV program. The Federal grant will be administered by the Department of Planning and Building (Planning), while the State grant will be administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS). The two grants together will be worth approximately \$11 million. Applications will be due on December 17. Eligible activities include street outreach, emergency shelter and rapid rehousing. The Federal grant can also be used for homelessness prevention, but the State grant may not be used for this. State funds must be expended by July 2022, and Federal funds must be expended by September 2022.</p>	
<p>4.2.1. Action Item: Recommend Allocation of County Community Development Block Grant Public Services funding (\$112,776), Emergency Solutions Grant (\$154,034), Permanent Local Housing Allocation (\$305,376) and County General Fund Support (\$218,000), and General Fund Support for Warming Centers and Safe Parking program (\$35,000) funds</p>	<p>Laurel and Matt provided some background on the annual Action Plan grants. The RFP was released in September, and applicants used the online ZoomGrants system for the first time this year. Details were provided on each of the funding programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), worth \$1,840k – of which HSOC reviews 15%. CDBG funding supports low and moderate income individuals, and can be used for housing and economic development • Federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), worth \$154k. This funding is used for a mix of activities to prevent homelessness and enable 	

<p>for countywide Homeless Services Programs</p>	<p>homeless people to move towards independent living</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent Local Housing Allocation (PLHA), worth \$872,502 – of which HSOC reviews 35%. This funding is used for local housing needs and assistance for those at risk of homelessness. This is the first year that Planning are managing the PLHA (Permanent Local Housing Allocation) program • General Fund Support (GFS) allocates \$253k to homeless related services, of which \$35k is set aside for warming stations and safe parking <p>The application deadline was October 28. Staff completed a threshold review to ensure applications met eligibility criteria, then convened an ad hoc Grant Review Committee, consisting of representatives from DSS, Behavioral Health, Public Health, CenCal Health and United Way, on November 9. The Grant Review Committee reviewed the applications and made recommendations, to be reviewed by HSOC. This will be followed by a thirty day review period in the New Year, and then approval will be sought from the Board of Supervisors in April-May, before the Action Plan is submitted to HUD (Department of Housing & Urban Development) by May 15.</p> <p>The Grant Review Committee's recommendations are included in the agenda packet for this meeting. Laurel summarized the recommendations for each funding</p>	
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	<p>program:</p> <p>GFS: the recommendation is to fund the agencies which had been funded in prior years, and to also provide \$10k in funding to the Food Bank. The Committee felt that there was a need to do this, given the significantly increased demand for food due to the pandemic. Providing this funding to the Food Bank would mean funding other agencies at a lower level than last year, and not fully meeting the amounts requested.</p> <p>For the money set aside for warming centers, the Committee recommends a roughly even split between applicants.</p> <p>ESG: the recommendation is to fund 5Cities Homeless Coalition's Rapid Rehousing project. 40% of funds under this funding program must be used for Rapid Rehousing, and this was the only Rapid Rehousing application received. Two other applications were received for Emergency Shelter projects, and the Committee has recommended funding the project proposed by CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) as the number of people served will be higher than the other application.</p> <p>CDBG: the Committee recommends funding three applications from homeless service agencies, for Emergency Shelter and Rapid Rehousing projects. This will ensure representation for each region of the</p>	<p>Devin made a motion to approve the Grant Review Committee's recommended allocation of County Community Development Block Grant Public Services funding</p>
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	<p>county.</p> <p>PLHA: the Committee recommends funding two applications, one from HASLO and the other a joint application between 5CHC, CAPSLO and ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization).</p> <p>Susan asked about whether consideration was given as to whether COVID specific funding would be more appropriate for the foodbank than the annual funds. Laurel clarified that the Food Bank has also received CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act funding due to the increase in demand for food caused by the pandemic.</p> <p>Mariam asked if the Independent Living Resource Center's request for CDBG funding was considered an eligible project. Laurel confirmed that it was, but will most likely be filled by other funding sources later on, which may be more appropriate for the activity they are proposing.</p> <p>Mariam asked about the larger overall annual decrease in funding that 5CHC are facing, compared to other agencies. Laurel responded that the County anticipates CARES Act funding will be made available for 5CHC's activities that are not being funded through the Action Plan.</p>	<p>(\$112,776), Emergency Solutions Grant (\$154,034), and County General Fund Support (\$218,000), and General Fund Support for Warming Centers and Safe Parking program (\$35,000) funds for countywide Homeless Services Programs, seconded by Susan. The motion passed with none opposed. Caro, Grace, Janna and Scott abstained.</p> <p>Anne made a motion to approve the Grant Review Committee's recommended allocation of Permanent Local Housing Allocation (\$305,376) funds for countywide Homeless Services Programs, seconded by Shay. The motion passed with none opposed. Caro, Grace, Janna and Scott abstained.</p>
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<p>4.2.2. Action Item: Recommend 1) allocation of 2019 California Emergency Solutions and Housing program funds (\$392,218) for projects that assist persons experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in the County and 2) reallocation of up to \$101,000 in 2018 California Emergency Solutions and Housing funds</p>	<p>Laurel provided some background on the California Emergency Solutions & Housing (CESH) program. This is a non-recurring grant from the State that is split into two rounds. For the second round of CESH funding, the County received one application, a joint project from CAPSLO, ECHO and 5CHC. This application was for the full amount of funding available, for a Coordinated Entry project. The Grant Review Committee also reviewed this application and recommended that it be funded in full.</p> <p>A portion of the first year of CESH funding had been set aside for upgrading the County's HMIS (Homeless Management Information System), but HUD has stopped supporting this during the pandemic. As there is a new requirement to report on racial equity in some new funding streams from both HUD and the State, the County is proposing to use the funding set aside for HMIS to hire a contractor to conduct a racial equity analysis, provide an action plan for addressing any disparities, provide quarterly updates on the analysis, assist with monitoring progress and identify any needed corrections to the Action Plan.</p>	<p>Anne made a motion to approve the Grant Review Committee's recommended allocation of 2019 California Emergency Solutions and Housing program funds (\$392,218) for projects that assist persons experiencing or at-risk of homelessness in the County, and to reallocate up to \$101,000 in 2018 California Emergency Solutions and Housing funds, seconded by Devin. The motion passed with none opposed. Janna and Grace abstained.</p>
<p>4.2.3. Discussion Item: Homeless Housing, Assistance & Prevention (HHAP) Update</p>	<p>Laurel reported that the State recently released the NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) for the second round of HHAP (Homeless Housing, Assistance & Prevention) funding. This round of funding will be worth around \$1.6m. The application form is due to be released by the end of November, from which</p>	

	<p>time the County will have 60 days to submit the application to the State. This application will require the County to identify and propose outcomes, and so a Special HSOC meeting may be called in December to work on this.</p> <p>The first round of HHAP funding was awarded to the County in Spring. HSOC recommended (and the Board of Supervisors approved) prioritizing this funding to bring HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program) funded projects to completion, and for a project on the North Coast which did not receive HEAP funding. The County is working on the RFP for HHAP Round 1 now, but as agencies have reported being overwhelmed by all the RFPs that have been released this year, the County is considering the timing of this. It may only be released after the ESG-CV-2 application period.</p>	
4.2.4. Discussion Item: Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) Update		
4.2.5. Discussion Item: Continuum of Care Grant		
4.2.5.1. Discussion Item: 2021 Homeless Point in Time Count	HUD has now determined that they will require a PIT Count in January 2021, although the survey requirements will not be the same as in previous years. The County is waiting on more information	

	about the PIT Count must be carried out.	
4.3. Discussion Item: Update on Winter Warming Season	<p>Janna reported that 5CHC has not yet opened their warming center, as they are not able to use the location they have used in previous years. They are looking at opening at South County Regional Center, and hope to be up and running by the end of the month.</p> <p>Grace reported that CAPSLO's warming center is now open, with modifications due to COVID. People can only enter between 7-9pm, and beds are separated by plexiglass shields. People need to leave before 6am so that the room can be sanitized and opened up for breakfast for the general population. The shelter capacity is 18 people.</p> <p>Wendy reported that ECHO has taken over the Atascadero warming center from Transitional Food & Shelter. This warming center is at Atascadero Community Church, and has a capacity of 23 people. It will run consistently through to the end of March. They are also sheltering people at the Motel 6 in Paso Robles, where there are twelve rooms available. There have been more people showing up than they have capacity for, so they have had to turn some people away.</p> <p>Caro reported that Los Osos Cares has not yet opened its warming center, as they are still trying to</p>	

	hire another staff member.	
4.4. Action Item: Vote to recommend twelve persons for appointment to vacant or expiring seats on the Homeless Services Oversight Council	Laurel explained that an Ad Hoc Nominating Committee was convened and recommended twelve people for appointment to the HSOC, either to fill vacant seats, to be reappointed to their current seats, or to replace people who are no longer involved.	Janna made a motion to approve the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee's recommendation to appoint twelve persons to vacant or expiring seats on the Homeless Services Oversight Council, seconded by Carlyn. The motion passed with none opposed. Devin, Grace, Bill, Jessica and Rick abstained.
4.5. Action Item: Approve the Updated HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) Documents	George shared that HSOC has previously updated the HMIS Privacy Notice. Following this, the Finance & Data Committee asked County staff to produce a Grievance Form. This is to be used where a client has an issue with their HMIS data, or any questions which they are unable to resolve with the agency. This form would go to the HMIS lead (DSS) and then taken to the Finance & Data Committee to be reviewed and resolved.	
4.5.1. Action Item: Approve the Updated San Luis Obispo County HMIS Grievance Form		Kristen made a motion to approve the updated SLO County HMIS Grievance Form, seconded by Carlyn. The motion passed with

		none opposed and no abstentions.
4.6. Discussion Item: Possible December meeting	Discussed above in item 4.2.3.	
5. Committee Updates	<p>Janna reported that the Finance & Data Committee has discussed the PIT Count, and are working through other issues such as understanding what agencies can and can't do in terms of privacy, and ensuring that all relevant data is captured for new projects.</p> <p>Devin reported that the Services Coordinating Committee met, and most of what the Committee discussed has been brought to the full HSOC. One additional point is that service providers are seeing an uptick in out of county requests for assistance, though this is normal at this time of year.</p> <p>Abby reported that the Alternatives to Encampments Working Group has been meeting every two weeks, and is close to finalizing their recommendations. The next meeting is on December 3. Abby noted that the Group would benefit from greater expertise from the provider agencies.</p>	
6. Future Discussion/Report Items	None	
7. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting Date: January 20, 2021		

8. Adjournment	Mariam adjourned the meeting at 2:40pm.	