

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
HSOC Special Meeting
June 8, 2021 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 Brenda Mack Carlyn Christianson Caroline Hall Devin Drake Grace McIntosh Janna Nichols Kathy McClenathen Kristen Barneich Mark Lamore Mary Ann Reiss Rick Gulino Scott Smith Steve Martin Susan Funk	Anna Miller Bill Crewe Dawn Addis Dawn Ortiz-Legg Jeff Smith Jessica Thomas Nicole Bennett Shay Stewart Susan Lamont	Abby Lassen Angela Smith Brandy Graham Cara Vereschagin Daniela Garcia Dee Torres Elaine Archer Elaine Mansoor George Solis Jan Maitzen Jeff Al-Mashat Jessica Lorange Kelsey Nocket Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Michael Arcuri Riley Smith Rita Holland Russ Francis Sheena Jones Tom Sherman Wendy Lewis Yael Korin Yesenia Alonso

AGENDA ITEM		CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Susan called the meeting to order at 1pm.	
2. Public Comment	Devin announced that the League of Women Voters are hosting a panel on homelessness on Monday 21 st July, 12 noon-1pm via Zoom. The panel will include Devin, Janna and Susan, with Supervisor Ortiz-Legg moderating. More information to follow.	
3. Action/Information/Discussion		
<p>3.1. Action Item: Vote to 1) authorize the HSOC Chair to sign a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) with the Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo for the administration of the Emergency Housing Voucher program, and 2) authorize the HSOC Executive Committee to approve amendments to the MOU if needed at a later date and to report back to the HSOC on any amendments approved by the Executive Committee</p>	<p>Laurel provided some background on this item. Emergency Housing Vouchers are available under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). HASLO (Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo) will receive 156 of these vouchers. The vouchers can only be issued (or reissued if returned) by September 30th 2023. Funding for the vouchers will expire in September 2030. Eligibility for these vouchers is more restrictive than regular housing vouchers. Eligible groups are people who are homeless, people at risk of homelessness, and people fleeing domestic violence and human trafficking. Homeless recipients must be referred through Continuum of Care's (CoC's) Coordinated Entry system. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is needed for this to happen. The County has met with HASLO and the agencies involved in Coordinated Entry, and has adapted a template provided by HUD (US Department of Housing & Urban Development) for this purpose. The</p>	

	<p>MOU has been approved by County Counsel, and now needs to be approved by HSOC. The next step is for the Board of Supervisors to approve the MOU at their meeting on June 22nd.</p> <p>Elaine Archer shared that HUD may redistribute vouchers, or distribute additional vouchers, depending on how many of the 156 have been issued by November 2021-January 2022.</p> <p>Brenda asked why Transitional Food & Shelter (TFS) are not included on the list of agencies in the MOU. Elaine Archer responded that HASLO will enter into a separate MOU with them. The MOU that HSOC is reviewing is with the Coordinated Entry agencies, which does not include TFS.</p> <p>Bettina asked how the Emergency Housing Vouchers program is being communicated to people on the current waiting list. Elaine Archer responded that HASLO has sent a letter to people on the waiting list, asking them to confirm whether they were homeless when they entered the list (which would make them eligible), and if so, requesting permission to cross-reference their names with the Coordinated Entry list.</p> <p>Susan asked how many people on the current waiting list may be eligible for the Emergency Housing Vouchers. Elaine answered that this is likely to be a low number, as people who are both homeless and</p>	
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	<p>have a disability are eligible for the mainstream vouchers which HASLO received last year. Many people on the waiting list meet this criteria, while there is a much shorter list of people who are homeless but do not have a disability.</p> <p>Susan asked about the priority listing, and whether currently homeless people who are not at high risk of COVID are included. Elaine Archer clarified that homelessness is a requirement for all categories. Scott agreed that this will be made clearer in the MOU.</p> <p>Yael asked if the funding through this program can be used for other activities than paying rent, such as for housing. Laurel confirmed that this program is only for vouchers to pay rent, but there is also supplemental HOME program funding under ARPA, for which the County's Planning & Building Department is receiving around \$3 million. Agencies will be able to apply for this funding via the Planning & Building Department's annual Action Plan application process in the fall.</p> <p>Brenda suggested that case managers help people to fill out forms and find a place to rent, as people facing homelessness are not necessarily in a position where they are able to do this.</p>	<p>Mary Ann Reiss made a motion to authorize the HSOC Chair to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo for the administration of the Emergency Housing Voucher program, and to authorize the HSOC Executive Committee to approve amendments to the MOU if needed at a later date and to report back to the HSOC on any amendments approved by the Executive Committee, seconded by Devin. The motion was passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.</p>
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<p>3.2. Action Item: Vote to use 1) a Census Methodology for the 2022 Homeless Point in Time Count of Sheltered Persons; 2) an Observational Count Combined with a Sampling Methodology for obtaining demographic and survey information for unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness; and 3) a contractor to plan and carry out the count in accordance with this methodology</p>	<p>George shared that HUD requires CoCs to conduct a full sheltered and unsheltered PIT (Point in Time) Count every two years. 2021 would have been a year that SLO County CoC carried out a full PIT Count, but due to COVID, HUD allowed CoCs to apply for an exception. As such, SLO County CoC only carried out the sheltered count in January. HUD have not yet confirmed that a full sheltered and unsheltered count will be required in 2022, but their direction is that CoCs should plan for one. Planning takes several months, so the County is asking HSOC to approve moving forward with preparations for an observational count of the whole County, a sampling methodology for demographic information, and releasing an RFP (Request for Proposals) to hire a vendor to assist with the planning process. Janna added that the Finance & Data Committee considered this item at their last meeting and are recommending this for approval.</p> <p>Carlyn noted that there were issues with the last observational count, concerning communication with volunteers in a clear and consistent way. There was confusion over what to do depending on the weather, and which volunteers were tasked with going to which groups of unsheltered homeless people.</p>	<p>Carlyn made a motion to use a Census Methodology for the 2022 Homeless Point in Time Count of Sheltered Persons, an Observational Count Combined with a Sampling Methodology for obtaining demographic and survey information for unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness, and a contractor to plan and carry out the count in accordance with this methodology, seconded by Janna. The motion was passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.</p>
<p>4. Next Regular Meeting: Wednesday 21st July at 1pm</p>		

5. Adjournment	Susan Funk adjourned the meeting at 1:40pm.	
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