

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
 HSOC HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING
 AUGUST 4TH 2020, 2pm-3:30pm
 Zoom Call**

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Scott Smith	Cara Vereschagin Mark Lamore	Angela Smith Anne Robin Anne Wyatt George Solis Joanna Balsamo-Lilien Kathy McClenathen Ken Triguero Larissa Heeren Laurel Weir Marianne Kennedy Russ Francis Tom Sherman Veronica Garcia Wendy Lewis
AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions of Guests	Scott called the meeting to order at 2pm.	
2. Public Comment	Wendy commented on the City of Paso Robles declaring an emergency relating to fires in the river bed, and the need for an emergency site for the people who had been camping in the river bed. The City has decided on a property on North River Road and has asked ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) for guidance. The site has security, restrooms and showers, but has poor access for bikes and pedestrians. ECHO will continue to provide services at this location, including help with evening meals, and case management resources.	

3. Consent: Approval of Minutes	This item was tabled as the meeting was not quorate.	
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1 Project Homekey	<p>Laurel shared that the State recently released a NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) for Project Homekey, which provides funding for the purchase of motels or other properties as permanent housing or congregate shelters for homeless people. Eligible applicants are counties, cities and housing authorities. There is a very short turnaround time, and the County has been in discussion with HASLO (Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo) and PSHH (People’s Self-Help Housing) around options for making an application. The County is also talking with the State soon to discuss options.</p> <p>ECHO are also looking into the program, with sites identified in Paso Robles that would be suitable for permanent low income housing. PSHH are leading on this application, and if successful, this work would fit with the HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program) funding for North County, adding in a Permanent Housing component.</p>	
4.2 County Action Plan	<p>George provided an update from the Planning & Building Department (Planning): the 2021 County Action Plan RFP (Request for Proposals) is due for release on September 1, with applications due October 23. Applications will go to the Board of Supervisors in mid April. The Action Plan includes funding from the following programs: CDBG (Community Development Block Grant), Federal ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant), Federal ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus) Round 2, HOME, General Fund Support, Title 29, and PLHA (Permanent Local Housing Allocation). The Action Plan RFP will be released at the same time as the RFP for HHAP (Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention) Round 1 and CESH (California Emergency Solutions and Housing) Round 2 funding, administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS).</p> <p>The NOFA for the second round of HHAP funding will be released by the State in the fall, so there will be a separate RFP for this in future. Staff from Planning will attend the September Housing Committee meeting to</p>	

	<p>share more information about the RFP.</p> <p>Anne Robin asked if there are temporary rental funds available under any of these programs. Laurel confirmed that there will be under the State ESG-CV Round 2 program, although it is not yet clear how much funding will be available from the State.</p>	
<p>4.3 Impacts of COVID-19 on Housing</p>	<p>The Committee discussed the impacts the pandemic is having on their programs.</p> <p>Scott shared that HASLO pays for rent where clients can no longer afford this, but the funding from HUD (Department of Housing & Urban Development) is allocated for the work generally, and not per client. HASLO are finding that individual clients need more support at this time, and so fewer clients are able to be supported through subsidized housing as the money is just not there. The Voucher Program has been cut back, and HASLO anticipates issuing very few between now and the end of the year.</p> <p>Ken from PSHH shared that they are expecting a cut in funding from City and County governments, as COVID cuts into budgets. Tax credits for new developments and construction have been impacted, though most people are making rent payments.</p> <p>Anne Wyatt from Smart Share Housing Solutions shared that they have seen all three of their programs impacted by the pandemic. The Home Share program was effectively paused as they stopped making matches until July, to avoid putting people in unsafe situations where they could become infected. Matches are now being made again, but people are hesitant. This has impacted the organization on an administrative level as they had to put in a lot of resource to create new procedures for relatively few matches. They are not feeling secure in relying on the City and County funding that has covered much of their budget in recent years.</p>	

	<p>Marianne from HomeShareSLO shared that they have been able to make some matches, where houses have separate spaces so people can remain physically apart.</p> <p>Angela from Stand Strong shared that all available rooms are full at this time. They purchased microwaves and refrigerators for all rooms, and have been able to waive rent for those who have lost their jobs. They have tested some clients and all staff, and nobody has tested positive. Their Housing First program has been very busy, leading them to start a waiting list. The safe house is almost always full.</p>	
5. Future Discussion Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the situation in Paso Robles (see item 2: Public Comment). 	
6. Next Meeting Date: September 1, 2020		
7. Adjournment	Scott adjourned the meeting at 2:50pm.	