

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
Homeless Services Coordinating Committee
August 11, 2020 2-3:30pm
Meeting held by conference call

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Brandy Graham Devin Drake Grace McIntosh John Klevins	Nicole Bennett	Angela Smith Elaine Mansoor George Solis Jan Maitzen Jean Field Jessica Lorange Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Lisa Jouet Lucy Sue Michelle Broom Nora Breslin Russ Francis Susan Lamont Tara Ozes
AGENDA ITEM		CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Devin called the meeting to order at 2:05pm. Introductions were made.	
2. Public Comment	George passed on a message from Jessica Lorange: Community Connection Events are canceled until further notice due to the pandemic.	

3. Consent: Approval of Minutes	The minutes were approved with no changes.	
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Updates	<p>Laurel shared that the county has seen very low rates of COVID among the homeless population, with no outbreaks so far. However, there are concerns that this is becoming more likely, particularly in congregate facilities. All facilities are undertaking efforts to create isolation areas. Permanent Housing programs are prioritizing people most at risk of complications due to COVID.</p> <p>Grace reported that CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) closed down to out of county individuals and to new clients at the beginning of the pandemic. They had opened up again prior to the second local shutdown. CAPSLO is still not accepting individual clients from out of county, unless they have received services at CAPSLO's facilities in the county previously. CAPSLO are accepting out of county families and people fleeing domestic violence. The overnight population went down from around 100 to 65, which has helped with maintaining physical distancing. All clients and staff have their temperature taken twice a day, and masks are mandated for everyone. Volunteer numbers have reduced dramatically.</p>	
4.1.1. Discussion Item: Changes to Coordinated Entry Prioritization to Support and Respond to COVID-19	Tara from HomeBase gave background on HUD's (Department of Housing & Urban Development) recommendations and what communities are prioritizing at present. Coordinated Entry remains a requirement all CoC (Continuum of Care) and ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) funded projects. HUD has released guidance to help communities with creating temporary COVID Coordinated Entry prioritization policies, for example,	

<p>presentation from Homebase</p>	<p>prioritizing people over 65 and with underlying medical conditions. This guidance also emphasizes equity for persons of color and others disproportionately impacted by COVID, as well as considerations for mitigating the effects of the pandemic on the rest of the population.</p> <p>HomeBase shared a draft proposal for a SLO COVID-19 Rapid Rehousing Dynamic Prioritization Proposal. This proposal is broken out into two lists:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. COVID Prioritization List – households in congregate settings with a demonstrated high level of vulnerability to be prioritized for up to 80% of available Rapid Rehousing resources, and2. Coordinated Entry Prioritization List – households in congregate settings without a demonstrated high level of vulnerability, who would otherwise be prioritized based on existing Coordinated Entry priorities, to be prioritized for up to 20% of available Rapid Rehousing resources. <p>A COVID-19 Risk Screening and Triage Assessment Tool may be used to assess people’s medical vulnerability and underlying conditions, in order to prioritize them within these lists.</p> <p>Tara and Jean took questions and confirmed that Rapid Rehousing funding can be used to support those at higher acuity, and is not limited to those who recently lost their homes. Chronically homeless people can be supported with CARES Act funding, up until other permanent housing is available for them. The new funding is not for Permanent Supportive Housing, with the exception of Project Homekey. Some communities have used Rapid Rehousing funds to support chronically homeless people, to see if they can become self-sufficient in a Rapid</p>	
-----------------------------------	--	--

	<p>Rehousing model while planning for ways to transition them to permanent housing.</p> <p>Laurel shared that people who are at the highest risk for complications due to COVID do not necessarily score the highest on the VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index – Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool). There are 1-3 openings for Permanent Supportive Housing on average per month. Laurel recommended that providers consider dividing up their openings between people on the normal priority list and the COVID priority list.</p>	
<p>4.2. Discussion Item: Grant Updates</p>		
<p>4.2.1. Discussion Item: Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) grant</p>	<p>Laurel provided an update on HEAP funded projects. The City of Paso Robles are working with the County and ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) to explore alternate sites and looking into the possibility of combining the HEAP funding with Project Homekey funding. If this will not work out in time, given the expenditure deadline, 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition) have suggested they could use HEAP funds for renovation work on their building.</p>	
<p>4.2.2. Discussion Item: California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) grant</p>	<p>Laurel shared that the County will be releasing an RFP (Request for Proposals) for the 2019 CESH funds in September. The full HSOC meeting on August 14 will include a vote on prioritizing the 2019 CESH funds for Coordinated Entry and housing operations costs to support Permanent Housing efforts.</p> <p>Grace reported on CAPSLO’s (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) CESH funded work, which they are delivering</p>	

	<p>with 5CHC and ECHO. Each agency has dedicated outreach staff funded by this project. CAPSLO has a full time outreach worker covering the cities of SLO, Morro Bay and Los Osos.</p>	
<p>4.2.3. Planning timeline for Requests for Proposals for DSS administered grants (CESH round 2; Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP); California Emergency Solutions Grant Emergency Solutions Grant-Coronavirus (ESG-CV round 2) and 2021 Action Plan (Community Development Block Grant; Emergency Solutions Grant; HOME; General Fund; Title 29; Permanent Local Housing Allocation; and Federal ESG-CV round 2)</p>	<p>Laurel shared that the Department of Planning & Building will be releasing its Action Plan RFP in September. This will be an opportunity to apply for a number of funding programs, including the Federal ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant), which funds shelters, street outreach, Rapid Rehousing and homelessness prevention; and also General Fund Support, Community Development Block Grant, HOME, Title 29, Permanent Local Housing Allocation, and the second allocation of ESG-CV (Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus). The Department of Social Services will also be releasing an RFP for the second round of CESH funding and the first round of HHAP (Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program) funding.</p> <p>Planning & Building estimate that the RFP will be released on September 1, with applications due around October 23, and recommendations for funding due to go to the Board of Supervisors in mid April.</p>	

<p>4.3. Discussion Item: Stella Performance Data Presentation (County FY 7/1/19-6/30/20)</p>	<p>George shared that he and other County staff have been participating in HUD workshops relating to COVID. One workshop focuses on system performance improvements, looking at Stella data, which is based on LSA (Longitudinal Systems Analysis) data from HMIS (Homeless Management Information System). George showed the Stella Performance Module dashboard, and shared data based on County fiscal year data from July 2019 – June 2020. In this time, HMIS shows 607 households and 1,205 people were supported, with 122 days as the average length of time spent homeless. 46% of clients exited to permanent housing, while 10% returned to homelessness. It took significantly longer to house a parent with a child than to house a single adult. On average, clients spent less time in emergency shelter programs (93 days) than in Rapid Rehousing programs (135 days) and programs that combine Rapid Rehousing and emergency shelter (231 days).</p> <p>George clarified that the Department of Social Services (Homeless Services Unit) have access to Stella data, so others can put in a request for information.</p> <p>Brandy shared that CAPSLO holds monthly HUD-VASH (Department of Housing and Urban Development – Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) meetings, and requested guidance on improvements. George agreed and shared that the data from Stella can focus on veterans specifically. Only CAPSLO’s Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program is currently recorded in HMIS, though the County is working on including programs from the Good Samaritans and HUD-VASH.</p>	
<p>4.4. Discussion Item: Identify</p>	<p>George continued to share and report on data from Stella. The data shows that clients spend longer in Rapid Rehousing than in</p>	

<p>barriers and discuss strategies to decrease Length of Time Homeless for Rapid Rehousing Participants</p>	<p>other programs, and the committee discussed what the barriers might be to moving on to permanent housing. George suggested explanations including lack of housing inventory, high rent burden, low vacancy rate, and employment barriers. The Finance & Data committee suggested in their last meeting that some people cannot afford their current housing, but struggle to accept this.</p> <p>Brandy shared that SSVF Rapid Rehousing programs can benefit from the creation of a landlord mediation fund which provides reassurance that any damage to property will be paid for, beyond the security deposit. A barrier in SLO specifically is the large number of college students who periodically take up a large proportion of available housing. The committee discussed possibilities of more housing being available now that most Cal Poly students will not be returning, but Laurel shared that there may actually be more students seeking housing in the County this year, as Cal Poly is reducing the availability of dorm rooms to help with physical distancing.</p> <p>Jan from Transitional Food & Shelter (TFS) shared that the main barriers they have seen are rents being much too high, and availability of vacancies being too low. Chronically homeless people generally do not have a rental history, which makes landlords unwilling to rent to them. However, if clients have been able to get Section 8 or Senior housing, TFS have been able to act as a landlord referral.</p> <p>Laurel shared that the cost to HASLO (Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo) per housing voucher has increased by around \$70 per month, as a result of unemployment due to COVID. HASLO are concerned that they are going to run out of funds for</p>	
---	---	--

	vouchers, and will not be issuing vouchers for the foreseeable future. This will have an impact on all programs.	
4.5. Discussion Item: Safe Parking	<p>Michelle reported that CAPSLO has 17 Safe Parking spots available, of which 12 are filled. Participants sleep in their cars, and are able to use CAPSLO's services during the day, including showers, laundry and meals. Ten of the Safe Parking spots are available through December 31.</p> <p>Devin shared that the City of Paso Robles has also opened up temporary safe parking, and that the Department of Social Services (DSS) are looking into possibilities around providing more spaces in their Paso Robles building parking lot. There has been an increase in overnight parking at 40 Prado and around the DSS building on South Higuera street.</p> <p>Laurel shared that the County has trailers set aside at El Chorro Park for sheltering homeless people who have tested positive for COVID. There have not been many cases, and all those who have sheltered in the trailers have been referrals. There have not been any outbreaks in encampments or congregate settings.</p>	
5. Future Discussion/Report Items	None	
6. Next Meeting Date: September 21, 2020		
7. Adjournment	Devin adjourned the meeting at 3:30pm.	