

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL**  
**Homeless Services Coordinating Committee**  
**May 10, 2021 10-11:30pm**  
**Meeting held by Zoom call**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>		<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	<b>STAFF &amp; GUESTS</b>
Brandy Graham Devin Drake Grace McIntosh		John Klevins Nicole Bennett	Abby Lassen Amy Parker Angela Smith Carolyn Berg Elaine Archer Elaine Mansoor George Solis Jan Maitzen Janna Nichols Jessica Lorange Kelsey Nocket Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Mimi Rodriguez Molly Kern Riley Smith Russ Francis Sheena Jones Susan Lamont Wendy Lewis
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>			<b>CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS</b>
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Devin called the meeting to order at 10am. Some attendees introduced themselves, including Kelsey Nocket, Homelessness Response Manager for the City of San Luis Obispo; Molly Kern, Director of Governmental Affairs for		

	San Luis Obispo Chamber of Commerce; Sheena Jones, Program Manager for the Salvation Army's Street Outreach Program, and Amy Parker, from the Department of Social Services (Morro Bay office).	
2. Public Comment	<p>George reported that the video for the HHAP (Homeless Housing, Assistance &amp; Prevention Program) Round 1 Public Information Session has now been posted on the Homeless Services website, found here:  <a href="https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Social-Services/Homeless-Services/Funding-Availability.aspx">https://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Departments/Social-Services/Homeless-Services/Funding-Availability.aspx</a></p> <p>Devin thanked everyone who called in to the Board of Supervisors meeting on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May, when the Board received an update on homelessness in the county. The Board expressed its desire for swift action. One of the major challenges is finding sites for safe parking programs, where individuals can be supported and the local community is not in opposition. Carolyn shared that the County's intention is to return to the Board with a request for funding, including a budget for safe parking programs that can be scaled up.</p>	
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes		Minutes were approved with none against and no abstentions.
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1. Discussion Item: Coordinated Entry	Laurel provided some background on Coordinated Entry. This is a mandatory process, required by HUD (US Department of Housing & Urban Development) for CoCs (Continuums of Care). Coordinated Entry provides a 'front door' into the homeless	

	<p>services system within SLO County CoC, provided by three local agencies. Permanent Supportive Housing programs within the CoC then take referrals from the Coordinated Entry system, prioritized based on need and vulnerability, determined using a standardized assessment tool.</p> <p>HUD introduced new requirements for Coordinated Entry in October 2020. Coordinated Entry will need to be entered into HMIS (Homeless Management Information System), the database that CoCs are required to use to collect and report homelessness data and outcomes. A report on this is due to HUD on October 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. The County will be coordinating a meeting with its Coordinated Entry partners to plan for entering the Coordinated Entry data into HMIS.</p> <p>Laurel also shared that a new program opportunity involving emergency homeless assistance vouchers will be available through HASLO (Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo). All referrals for these vouchers must go through the Coordinated Entry system. The County will be meeting with Coordinated Entry agencies and HASLO to discuss moving forward with this process. Elaine Archer shared that HUD will be sending out information on the number of vouchers they will be allotting, but HASLO currently expects around 60-70, which will be targeted at homeless people, people at risk of homelessness, people fleeing domestic violence, and people fleeing sex trafficking. This is a one time funding round which will last until 2030.</p>	
<p>4.2. Discussion Item: Federal and State Grant Updates</p>	<p>George shared that the County is still waiting for renewal agreements from HUD for the 2020 CoC (Continuum of Care) grant program. The County is aware that CAPSLO's 2019</p>	

	<p>program expires at the end of May, so has reached out to the Los Angeles field office to ask about a timeline. There has been no official announcement yet for the 2021 CoC grant program. The County is also still waiting for the signed standard agreement from the State for the 2020 ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) program, after which the subrecipient agreement can be executed.</p>	
<p>4.2.1. Discussion Item: California Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) 2021</p>	<p>George reported that the County expects HCD (California Department of Housing and Community Development) to release their NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) for the annual ESG (Emergency Solutions Grant) program at the end of May. Laurel encouraged groups to think about what they might like to apply for now, as there are generally very tight deadlines for this program. The eligible activities are largely the same each year.</p>	
<p>4.2.2. Discussion Item: Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP)</p>	<p>Janna provided an update on 5Cities Homeless Coalition's (5CHC) HEAP (Homeless Emergency Aid Program) projects. The first is a capital project which enabled 5CHC to purchase their housing navigation center. They are also collaborating with People's Self Help Housing (People's) to build transitional housing for homeless youth, as part of the Pismo Terrace project. This has been approved by the State, and 5CHC are now talking to People's about the next phase of the construction project.</p> <p>5CHC's second HEAP project is the homeless youth case management outreach program, mostly targeting people age 18-24, but including some younger. This project experienced some setbacks due to the pandemic, in terms of connections to schools. It became more difficult to reach clients, though 5CHC staff are working to figure out how to get around this. 5CHC developed a strong relationship with Cuesta College and</p>	

	<p>receives referrals from them, and also has received some referrals from Cal Poly. Several young homeless people have been housed. A large percentage of clients are parenting youth, and a large percentage are LGBTQ. 5CHC launched their Host Homes program in May, in which a client is placed with a family.</p> <p>Grace reported that CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) have now closed the funding gap for their detox center, thanks to the Bank of America. Construction is almost complete and CAPSLO anticipate the center will open in late August.</p> <p>Wendy reported that ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) are moving ahead with construction on their rehab center in Atascadero, after delays due to COVID. The project is on track, and the money should all be expended by mid June.</p> <p>Elaine Archer shared that HASLO has housed 33 people already in the Permanent Supportive Housing part of this project, with another 7 due to move in. Unfortunately, there have been water leaks. HASLO has recently become aware of a new CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding opportunity for Homekey projects, and so will apply for this and ask for a waiver from the State to not fill all of the units so they can apply for this new CDBG funding to fix the plumbing.</p>	
<p>4.3. Discussion Item: Coastal Outreach Event</p>	<p>Laurel shared that the County used to organize Community Connection Events twice a year, targeted at unsheltered people who have difficulty accessing resources such as the Department of Social Services (DSS), Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and Community Health Centers (CHC). These events were put on hold due to COVID, but the Estero Bay Alliance for Care (EBAC) has made a request that the County to organize a drive-</p>	

	<p>through/walk-through event on the North coast, potentially including vaccination clinics.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the possibilities and challenges of organizing such an event. Transportation would be the biggest challenge, as most homeless people do not have vehicles. For vaccination clinics, a site needs to have enough space for observation as well as vaccination. The Committee discussed the need to survey clients on the services they would be interested in, that aren't already being provided. Jessica stated that the County already has a survey which could be used for this, and will distribute it to HASLO, CAPSLO and ECHO.</p>	
<p>4.4. Discussion Item: Safe Parking and Alternatives to Encampments</p>	<p>Carolyn shared that the Board of Supervisors has approved the regional effort that the County and Cities are working towards, which the HSOC gave its support to. The next steps will be to produce a scalable cost estimate for safe parking programs, then to source funding from the Board and other agencies.</p> <p>Janna shared that Representative Carbajal has recently introduced legislation to provide grant funding for safe parking programs. The biggest challenge with safe parking programs, however, is finding a suitable location.</p>	
<p>4.4.1. Discussion Item: Homebase Peer-to-Peer Call on Safe Parking</p>	<p>George shared that Homebase, which provides SLO County CoC with Technical Assistance, conducts monthly peer to peer webinars. Their next webinar, on May 13<sup>th</sup>, from 12 noon-1pm, is on the topic of safe parking. This is a good opportunity to benefit from Homebase's technical expertise and for sharing between communities.</p>	

<p>4.5. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Updates</p>	<p>Laurel reported that the county is seeing a decrease in COVID cases, and the challenge now is getting more people vaccinated.</p> <p>Susan reported that RISE has had two rooms set aside as quarantine rooms since the start of the pandemic, but has never had to use them. RISE are now opening these rooms up.</p> <p>Janna shared that there will continue to be challenges about congregate shelter, and overcoming people’s hesitancy to take vaccines. 5CHC outreach teams are reporting major trust issues and disinterest, as well as anti-vaccination intimidation, within homeless communities and encampments. Wendy verified that ECHO has been seeing this too, although around 40% of their sheltered residents have taken the vaccine.</p>	
<p>5. Future Discussion/Report Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion item about COVID vaccine outreach efforts (Janna)</li> </ul>	
<p>6. Next Meeting Date: July 12, 2021</p>		
<p>7. Adjournment</p>	<p>Devin adjourned the meeting at 11:25am.</p>	