

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC)
SERVICES COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Date

June 13, 2022

Time

1pm-2:30pm

Location

Zoom

Members Present

Brandy Graham

Devin Drake

Jack Lahey

Janna Nichols

Nicole Bennett

Members Absent

John Klevins

Staff and Guests

Abby Lassen

Carrie Collins

Elaine Archer

Elizabeth Pauschek

Jeff Al-Mashat

Jessica Lorance

Joe Dzvonic

Kelsey Nocket

Laurel Weir

Lawren Ramos

Leon Shordon

Michael Azevedo

Molly Kern
Nita Kenyon
Russ Francis
Steve Martin
Wendy Lewis

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Devin called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

2. Public Comment

Jack shared that 40 Prado is currently on quarantine due to a COVID outbreak. Michael shared that the 5Cities Homeless Coalition office has also experienced exposure to COVID recently, and so is temporarily closed to walk-in traffic. Wendy reported that ECHO's (El Camino Homeless Organization's) shelter in Paso Robles has also seen a few COVID cases, but due to the non-congregate nature of the facility, they are still open to new people. However, the shelter has a waitlist and is having to turn people away.

Nicole commented that HHIP (Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program) is a new initiative at CenCal Health. CenCal Health are working with SLO County CoC (Continuum of Care) to bring additional funding in from the state. Creating a Local Homelessness Plan is the first step of a collaborative application.

Laurel commented that the draft Strategic Plan is now public on the HSOC web page. Public comments can also be submitted via the same page. The draft Plan will be reviewed by the full HSOC at its July meeting.

Brandy shared that the VA (US Department of Veterans Affairs) are releasing several NOFAs (Notices of Funding Availability) for activities including landlord incentives, tenant incentives, and housing navigation support.

Devin commented that the County had its budget meeting today. The Homeless Services Division was not included as the idea is still being worked on, so it is not yet ready for a budget.

Devin also reported that Jessica Lorange was recognized by the Board of Supervisors for receiving the "Women's Wall of Fame" Award by the Commission on the Status of Women and Girls.

3. Consent: Approval of Minutes

Jack made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Janna. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

4. Action/Information/Discussion

4.1 Discussion Item: Tiny House Villages

Devin reported that there had been discussions about the empty parking lot at the Department of Social Services (DSS) building on South Higuera Street, SLO City, being used as a site for a Tiny House Village. However, the plan that came through was not feasible at that location. Other sites are being considered, and the DSS site may be considered in future.

Janna provided an update on 5CHC's Cabins for Change project in Grover Beach. The electrical service conduit has been laid, and they expect to begin assembling cabins from mid-July.

4.2 Discussion Item: COVID-19 Contingency Planning

Laurel reported that there have been prior discussions due to breakouts at several shelters and the phase out of the County's Care and Shelter Unit. The county is continuing to see some people who are experiencing homelessness testing positive for COVID. The situation is more challenging in a congregate environment, or other environment where they could spread COVID to other homeless people.

Joe reported that the County is working with CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) on a plan, which would include the 5CHC and ECHO shelters. Joe and Jack will coordinate with the other agencies to ensure the plan will work for everyone, then look into sourcing funding. Jack added that the plan involves using space differently than in the past, based on advice from the Public Health Department.

4.3 Discussion Item: Point in Time Count Update

Laurel reported that the vendor expects to have the draft report to the County by the end of the month.

4.4 Discussion Item: End of Life Protocol Task Force - Update

The Task Force had not met since the last Services Coordinating Committee meeting.

Janna, Wendy and Jack all commented on an increase in client fentanyl overdoses over the last few months.

5. Future Discussion/Report Items

- Contingency Planning follow up
- Increase in fentanyl availability and overdoses
- Strategic Plan
- Community Based Adult Services presentation

6. Next Regular Meeting: August 1 at 1pm

The Committee approved holding a Special meeting before the end of June to allow for feedback on the services element of the draft Strategic Plan.

7. Adjournment

Devin adjourned the meeting at 1:45pm.