

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

Date

July 17, 2024

Time

1:03pm-3:04pm

Location

Room 101, Department of Social Services, 3433 S Higuera, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Some members (those approved with just cause/ emergency reasons) and the public were able to participate via Zoom video call.

Members Present

Allison Brandum
Amelia Grover
Brenda Mack
Clint Weirick
Devin Drake
Jack Lahey
Janna Nichols
Jeff Smith
Jeff Eckels (alternate for Kathy McClenathen)
Jessica Thomas
Kathy McClenathen (Zoom)
Kristen Barneich
Luke Dunn
Marcia Guthrie
Margaret Shepard-Moore
Marie Bolin
Mark Lamore
Michelle Pedigo (Zoom)
Michelle Shoresman
Rick Gulino
Star Graber
Stefanie Hernandez (alternate for Christy Nichols)
Susan Funk
Susan Lamont
Wendy Blacker
Wendy Lewis
William Crewe

Members Absent

Aurora William
Christy Nichols
Dawn Ortiz-Legg
Rick Scott
Rochelle Sonza
Shay Stewart
Steve Gregory
Zara Landrum

Staff & Guests

Abby Lassen
Erica Jaramillo
Frank Warren
George Solis
Jeff Al-Mashat
Kari Howell
Kate Bourne
Keeley Bosler
Laurel Weir
Linda Belch
Merlie Livermore
Morgan Torell
Nicole Bennett
Russ Francis
Suzie Freeman

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chairperson Michelle Shoresman called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. Introductions were made by those new to the meeting.

2. Public Comments

Janna Nichols from 5 Cities Homeless Coalition (5CHC) shared that Balay Ko on Barca in Grover Beach has opened. She mentioned that they are taking clients in from their waitlist. So far, Janna said that they have 10 residents in. The maximum capacity of this facility is 30 residents. Jack Lahey from CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership in San Luis Obispo) reported that they were awarded another 5-year grant from SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that envisions that people with, affected by, or at risk for mental health and substance use conditions receive care, achieve well-being, and thrive. SAMHSA's mission is to lead public health and service delivery efforts that promote mental health, prevent substance misuse, and provide treatments and supports to foster recovery while ensuring equitable access and better outcomes.

Amelia Grover shared that Janna Nichols from 5Cities Homeless Coalition, Jack Lahey of CAPSLO, Christy Nichols from CenCal Health, the Good Samaritan, and Dignity Health just wrapped up a two-year strategies grant that focused on health care and homelessness. The

Department of Public Health was also part of this program. Amelia mentioned that they hope to continue working on the projects (such as street medicine) they have worked on this group. Rick Gulino from People's Self-Help Housing reported that they are currently taking pre-applications for the new Tiburon Place project in San Luis Obispo. Rick also mentioned that they currently have some open one-bedroom units in Sea Breeze and South Bay properties in Los Osos and The Villas at Higuera in San Luis Obispo. More information can be found at the PSSH website.

Wendy Lewis from ECHO shared that the plans for their build out project in Atascadero will be moving forward and they hope to have a ribbon cutting within the next two months. This project will be adding twenty additional beds, a wing specifically for families, and some additional space needed for other functions.

Susan Lamont from Lumina Alliance mentioned that they have two transitional housing units that opened in San Luis Obispo. A referral must be emailed for anyone that is impacted by sexual assault or partner violence.

Allison Brandum praised the efforts for additional housing availability and reminded everyone about the needs that are occurring right now for the homeless, such as places for using restroom and interim hygiene services while waiting for housing. She also mentioned the need for interim cooling and warming centers for the homeless.

Jeff Eckels from San Luis Obispo Housing Trust Fund announced that they are having their 20-year anniversary celebration on September 5 and invited everyone to celebrate with them.

3. Consent: Approval of Minutes

Janna Nichols moved the minutes to be approved, seconded by Susan Funk. Jessica Thomas abstained. Minutes passed via voice vote.

4. Action/Information/Discussion

4.1. HSOC Administration

4.1.1. Action Item: Vote to Approve Proposed Amendments to the HSOC Bylaws

Laurel Weir shared that at the last meeting, HSOC voted on several Bylaws changes. One amendment made during this vote was the composition of the Executive Committee, which was to add two seats, one specifically for a person with lived experience of homelessness. Per the Bylaws, they are bringing this change to the HSOC again for approval of adding this seat to the Executive Committee. Kristen Barneich moved the motion to approve the addition of this seat. Devin Drake seconded the motion. Roll was called. The motion passed unanimously.

4.1. 2. Action Item: Vote to Approve New Members

Laurel Weir shared that the HSOC has currently two vacant seats, namely from the Business community or a representative from a business interest, and an At-large seat. The HSOC Nominating Committee met and considered the four applications submitted. The nominated applicants were Abby Lassen for the At-Large seat and James Dantona to fill the Business seat. Kristen Barneich moved the motion to appoint the nomination of new members. Mark Lamore seconded the motion. The roll was called. Jack Lahey abstained. Allison Brandum voted no. The motion passed via majority vote.

4.1.3. Action Item: Vote to Appoint Two Members as Officers

Laurel Weir mentioned that the Bylaws change made was to establish a seat on the Executive Committee for a representative from the Housing Authority. In addition, a creation for the seat of a person with lived experience of homelessness was also approved. Michelle Shoresman officially nominated Michelle Pedigo for the Housing seat and Brenda Mack as representative for the seat of a person with lived experience of homelessness. Said motion was seconded by Susan Funk. Roll call was called, and the motion passed.

4.2. Implementing Five-Year Plan Line of Effort 4-Create, Identify, and Streamline Funding and Resources

Laurel Weir mentioned that one of the requests received from the HSOC is for a greater understanding of what is going on the funding environment and the impact it has on the homeless services program. Laurel briefly presented slides regarding an overview the Homeless Services System.

4.2.1. Discussion Item: State Budget and Funding for Homeless Services

Keeley Bosler, who represented CSAC (California State Association of Counties) virtually presented a broader perspective on what they have been advocating for counties and gave some insights on the State Budget. She shared that CSAC budget advocacy is heavily focused on preserving core safety net programs to support families and prevent further homelessness. Frank Warren, Deputy Director from the San Luis Obispo County Behavioral Health Department, presented on the impacts of Proposition 1: Bonds for Mental Health Treatment Facilities. This also included a complete reform of the Mental Services Act, which is now called the Behavioral Services Act. This reform expands services to include individuals with substance use disorders. Morgan Torell also from the Department of Behavioral Health, provided slides showing the Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act of 2024, focusing on behavioral health treatment beds and supportive housing.

4.2.2. Discussion Item: Continuum of care Fiscal year 2024 Program Competition-Notice of Funding Opportunity

Laurel Weir briefly mentioned that the CoC NOFO (Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Opportunity) is expected to be published any day now. HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) requires the CoC to vote on the funding recommendations at least 30 days before the end of the HUD competition. This could likely require a Special August HSOC meeting, depending on the date when the NOFO comes out. Laurel also mentioned that on the Homeless Services website, there will be a link to the notice of intent to apply as the first part of the application.

4.3. Discussion Item: Committee Updates

Mark Lamore mentioned that the Data & Performance Committee is finishing the migration of the HMIS system. Most of the agencies he talked to are satisfied with the new system. They are coming up on annual performance reports to HUD and not anticipating any issues with the reports. Mark also shared that there is a data workgroup scheduled for August 20 to develop dashboards to look at what data elements to focus on to be useful for homeless population information. In addition, Mark also mentioned that there is an Ad hoc group formed to look at the grants review processes.

Jack Lahey shared that Services Coordinating Committee did not meet in July due to the holiday and its next meeting will be in August. He then mentioned that the Coordinated Entry Committee had been working hard on getting universal principle based policies for coordinated entry system. They have been also looking at the coordinated entry activity levels happening in the community. Lastly, Jack also announced that CAPSLO's Coordinated Entry manager Lauryn Searles has left CAPSLO, and they are in search for her replacement.

4.4. Discussion Item: Updates from the Homeless Services Division

Linda Belch provided information that the contracts for Budget for Years 2024-2025 are in process. The Welcome Home Village is making a slow and steady progress. Updates will be provided as the project progresses. Linda also commented that there are additional housing programs that SLO County Department of Social Services manages to help clients who are homeless.

5. Future Discussion/Report Items

- Look at significant cuts to utility assistance due to state and federal budget decrease

6. Next Regular Meeting: September 18, 2024

7. Adjournment

Chairperson Michelle Shoresman adjourned the meeting at 3:04pm.