

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

Date

September 21, 2022

Time

1pm-3pm

Location

Zoom

Members Present

Allison Brandum

Amelia Grover

Andy Pease

Anna Miller

Anna Robin

Bettina Swigger

Bill Crewe

Brenda Mack

Caroline Hall

Dawn Ortiz-Legg

Devin Drake

Jack Lahey

Janna Nichols

Jeff Smith

Jessica Thomas

Kathy McClenathen

Mark Lamore

Molly Kern (alternate for Jim Dantona)

Rick Gulino

Scott Smith

Shay Stewart

Steve Martin

Susan Funk

Susan Lamont
Suzie Freeman (alternate for Garret Olson)
Wendy Lewis

Members Absent

Dawn Addis
Kristen Barneich
Marcia Guthrie
Nicole Bennett

Staff and Guests

Abby Lassen
Aurora William
Brandy Graham
Carmen Sampson
Carrie Collins
Christy Nichols
Danielle
David Richford
Elaine Archer
George Solis
Gus Chavez
Jeff Al-Mashat
Jessica Lorange
Jessica Rayray
Kelsey Nocket
Laurel Weir
Lauryn Searles
Lawren Ramos
Leon Shordon
Mallory Mejia
Merlie Livermore
Mia Trevelyan
Russ Francis
Yael Korin
Yesenia Alonso

1. Call to Order

Susan Funk called the meeting to order at 1pm.

2. Administrative Action: Vote to Approve a Resolution Acknowledging Governor Newsom's Proclamation of a State of Emergency and Authorizing Meetings by Teleconference Until the HSOC's Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting Pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, as Authorized by Assembly Bill (AB) 361

Devin made a motion to approve the resolution acknowledging Governor Newsom's proclamation of a state of emergency and authorizing meetings by teleconference until the HSOC's next regularly scheduled meeting pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, as authorized by Assembly Bill (AB) 361, seconded by Mark. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

3. Introductions

Mallory (resident of Oklahoma Avenue Parking Village), Christy (CenCal Health) and Gus (Restorative Partners) introduced themselves.

4. Public Comment

Devin reported that Joe Dzvonic has been hired as the Division Manager of the Homeless Services Division. The Department of Social Services (DSS) is now looking for a place for the new Division to be housed.

Kelsey reported that she gave a presentation to SLO City Council on the City's Draft Strategic Plan and is seeking feedback and comments.

Jack advocated for the two funding recommendations for CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) under consideration at this meeting (see items 6.1.1.1 and 6.2.1 below).

Mark advocated for the funding recommendation for TMHA (Transitions Mental Health Association) under consideration at this meeting (see item 6.1.1.1 below).

Susan Lamont advocated for the funding recommendation for Lumina Alliance under consideration at this meeting (see item 6.1.1.1 below).

5. Consent: Approval of Minutes

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

6. Action/Information/Discussion

6.1 Implementing Five-Year Plan Line of Effort 1 - Create Affordable and Appropriately Designed Housing Opportunities and Shelter Options for Underserved Populations

6.1.1. Continuum of Care Grant – Annual Grant to Support Housing and Coordinated Entry

6.1.1.1. Action Item: Vote to a) Make Funding Recommendations for Up to \$1,328,143 in Fiscal Year 2022 Funding from the Annual Continuum of Care (CoC) Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and b) to Approve Rankings of Proposed Projects

George provided background on the annual HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) CoC (Continuum of Care) grant program competition. This funding is awarded partially on a formula basis and is partly competitive. SLO County is eligible for \$1,066,837 for the Fiscal Year 2022 program. The County received four renewal applications: two Permanent Supportive Housing projects administered by TMHA, one Coordinated Entry project administered by CAPSLO, and the County's own HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) project. The County is also eligible for \$72,585 in new bonus funding. One application was received for an expansion of the Coordinated Entry project administered by CAPSLO. The County is also eligible for \$145,170 in new projects addressing DV (Domestic Violence). One application was received for a new DV project, from Lumina Alliance. An ad hoc Grant Review Committee was convened to review and rank the applications. Recommendations from the Grant Review Committee were presented to the full HSOC for review. Following this, the recommendations will be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors on September 27, then submitted to HUD by the program competition deadline of September 30. If the application scores highly enough, the expansion and DV bonus projects will be funded and the funding will be added into the County's Annual Renewal Demand (ARD) for future years. Scott made a motion to make funding recommendations for up to \$1,328,143 in Fiscal Year 2022 funding from the annual Continuum of Care (CoC) grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and to approve rankings of proposed projects, seconded by Anna. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions. Jack, Janna, Mark, Susan Lamont and Wendy were recused and did not participate in the vote.

6.1.2. Housing Stabilization Vouchers

6.1.2.1. Action Item: Vote to Approve a Letter of Commitment and Support for HASLO's Application for Housing Stabilization Vouchers

Laurel reported that the proposed letter of commitment and support is related to the opportunity for HASLO (Housing Authority of the City of San Luis Obispo) to obtain additional housing vouchers for the community. The number of vouchers is not yet known but is likely to be between 7-10. To be competitive, HASLO needs a letter from the CoC stating the CoC is willing to partner on the implementation of vouchers, including using the Coordinated Entry system for referrals. A draft letter was included in the agenda packet.

Janna made a motion to approve a letter of commitment and support for HASLO's application for Housing Stabilization Vouchers, seconded by Mark. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions. Scott was recused and did not participate in the vote.

6.2. Implementing Five-Year Plan Line of Effort 2: Reduce or Eliminate Barriers to Housing Stability

6.2.1. Action Item: Vote to Recommend a Street Outreach Coordination Project for \$1,699,098 in Funding Under the Special Unsheltered Grant Continuum of Care Program Competition Administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

George provided background on the Special Unsheltered HUD CoC grant program competition. SLO County is eligible for up to \$1.7 million for new efforts targeting unsheltered homelessness. This funding is awarded partially on a formula basis and is partly competitive. HUD will only award 10 CoCs per state with this funding opportunity (there are 44 CoCs in California). The County received one application for this opportunity – a Street Outreach Coordination project administered by CAPSLO, in collaboration with 5Cities Homeless Coalition (5CHC), El Camino Homeless Organization (ECHO), TMHA and the Salvation Army. An ad hoc Grant Review Committee was convened to review the application. Recommendations from the Grant Review Committee were presented to the full HSOC for review. Following this, the recommendations will be reviewed by the Board of Supervisors in October, then submitted to HUD by the program competition deadline of October 21. If successful, the funding will be available from summer 2023, and the funding would be added to the ARD for future years.

Dawn made a motion to recommend a Street Outreach Coordination project for

\$1,699,098 in funding under the Special Unsheltered Grant Continuum of Care Program Competition administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, seconded by Anne. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions. Jack, Janna and Wendy were recused and did not participate in the vote.

6.2.2. Coordinated Training of Homeless Services Agency Staff

6.2.2.1. Action Item: Vote to Allocate an Initial Amount of Up to \$5,000 from Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) Round 3 Funds for Training for Homeless Services Agency Staff

Laurel reported that the Strategic Plan includes a component for coordinated training of agency staff, to ensure consistency and quality of services. This specifically includes trauma-informed care training. The County was approached by First5 Health Access to partner on an opportunity to provide trauma-informed care training. The HSOC Homeless Services Coordinating Committee received a presentation from First5 at their last meeting and discussed the opportunity. Feedback was very positive. The proposal is for the HSOC to set aside up to \$5,000 from HHAP 3 (Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program Round 3) funding for this training.

Brenda made a motion to allocate an initial amount of up to \$5,000 from Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP) Round 3 funds for training for homeless services agency staff, seconded by Rick. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

6.2.2.2. Developing Culturally Sensitive Programs

6.2.2.2.1. Discussion Item: Racial Equity Analysis – Homebase

Laurel reported that state and federal agencies are increasingly considering racial equity, including in funding opportunities. As part of the strategic planning process, the County's consultants Homebase looked at local qualitative data and potential barriers within the community to provide an analysis of racial equity in SLO County and to make recommendations for next steps to address disparities. Their presentation slides were included in the agenda packet.

Key findings from Homebase's report include differences can be observed across populations, e.g., black people are more likely to experience homelessness than the general population; Hispanic and white people are more likely to access homeless services; one major barrier to equity is language.

Recommendations include: ensuring agencies employ bilingual staff and changing program design to address transportation gaps. The analysis will be brought to HSOC committees for further review and then will return to the full HSOC for further discussion. The County is also setting up an advisory group of people with lived experience of homelessness to provide feedback on grant recommendations, systematic issues and involvement of people accessing programs.

6.3. Implementing Five-Year Plan Line of Effort 3 – Improve and Expand Data Management Efforts Through HMIS and Coordinated Entry System to Strengthen Data-Driven Operational Guidance and Strategic Oversight

6.3.1. Discussion Item: Updates to Coordinated Entry Processes to Improve Data Reporting and Coordination of Services to Participants

Laurel gave some background on this item. The County proposed goals for the HHAP 3 grant application, based on HUD System Performance Measures. The CoC will be measured on whether it meets these goals and will be eligible for bonus funding via the HHAP 3 program if successful. The County has submitted goals relating to these outcome measures to the state and is waiting to hear back. Laurel shared a preview of HHAP 3 data.

6.3.2. Discussion Item: Tracking and Reporting on Progress for HHAP Round 3 Grant Outcomes

Covered in the above item 6.3.1.

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

6.4.1. Discussion Item: Update on CenCal Services and Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program (HHIP) – Nicole Bennett, CenCal Health

Christy provided some background on the HHIP (Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program) which CenCal Health is applying for, and requested a letter of support from the CoC for the application. The County as Administrative Entity can sign the letter on behalf of the CoC. The HSOC gave a general consensus of support for this.

6.5. HSOC Membership

6.5.1. Action Item: Vote to Amend HSOC By-Laws to Allow Members to Appoint Alternates at Any Time During Their Term Instead of Only During the First 30

Days of Their Term

Laurel reported that the HSOC is being asked to amend its bylaws to allow for members to appoint alternates at any time. The current bylaws restrict the appointment of alternates to the first 30 days of a membership term. This has created issues as sometimes alternates leave organizations or move out of the area, and members have been unable to appoint a new alternate. As this is a change to the bylaws, the full HSOC has to approve it twice at two separate meetings, so it will be brought back to the November meeting. County Counsel has approved the new language, which is included in the agenda packet.

Shay made a motion to amend HSOC by-laws to allow members to appoint alternates at any time during their term instead of only during the first 30 days of their term, seconded by Janna. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

6.5.2. Discussion Item: Expiring and Vacant HSOC Seats and Annual Invitation to the Public to Apply for Vacant or Expiring Seats

Laurel reported that the HSOC has opened its annual invitation process to the community to consider applying for membership. As there is no longer a limit on consecutive terms that may be served, all members whose terms are expiring have the option of reapplying. The deadline for new and renewal applications is October 3, for applications to be brought to the October 19 HSOC Executive Committee meeting, then the full HSOC meeting in November.

6.6. Discussion Item: Homeless Families

6.6.1. Discussion Item: Back to School

Jessica Thomas presented on the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, which ensures children and youth experiencing homelessness have the same educational opportunities as those not experiencing homelessness. The definition of homelessness used by this Act is more expansive than HUD's, e.g. including children and youth who are 'doubled up' and sharing housing due to economic hardship or natural disaster. The California Homeless Youth Project shows higher levels of youth homelessness in SLO County than in California generally. The SLO County Office of Education publishes a Families In Transition pamphlet which includes homeless liaisons/points of contact for each school.

6.6.2. Discussion Item: Outcome Measures for Homeless Families

This item was tabled.

6.7. Discussion Item: Committee Updates

Committee updates were included in the agenda packet. Devin reported that the Services Coordinating Committee also met since the agenda packet was distributed, and learned that there is a need for better coordination between Street Outreach and volunteer programs. This will be followed up at a future meeting.

6.8. Discussion Item: Update on Oklahoma Avenue Parking Village

Jack reported that there are 43 households at Oklahoma Avenue Parking Village, comprising 64 people on site. Seven spots are unoccupied, with a referral list of 23 households. Forty households have exited the site since CAPSLO began tracking this in February. There is a high level of community involvement.

Suzie reported that the Food Bank now has a physical structure at the site, including a freezer and dry storage. The Food Bank has met with the Public Health Department at the site.

6.9. Discussion Item: Federal & State Grants Update

This item was tabled.

7. Future Discussion/Report Items

- Atascadero site releasing surplus property for new housing

8. Updates and Requests for Information

None.

9. Upcoming Meetings

Next Regular Meeting: November 16 at 1pm

10. Adjournment

Susan Funk adjourned the meeting at 3:30pm.