

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL

HSOC Meeting

March 16, 2022 1:00 p.m.

Members and the public were able to participate by Zoom call.

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Amelia Grover Andy Pease Anna Miller Anne Robin Bettina Swigger Brenda Mack Caroline Hall Dawn Ortiz-Legg Devin Drake Janna Nichols Jessica Thomas Kathy McClenathen Kristen Barneich Marcia Guthrie Mark Lamore Nicole Bennett Rick Gulino Scott Smith Shay Stewart Susan Funk Susan Lamont Wendy Lewis William Crewe	Dawn Addis Jeff Smith Steve Martin	A William Abby Lassen Amanda Tanner Carrie Collins Elaine Archer Elizabeth Pauschek Garret Olson George Solis Jack Lahey Jason Holland Jeff Al-Mashat Jen Ford Jill Bolster-White Jim Dantona Joe Dzvonik Karen Kowal Kate Swarthout Kelly Boicourt Kelly Underwood Kelsey Nocket Laura Russo Laurel Barton Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Mimi Rodriguez

		Molly Kern Rita Holland Russ Francis Sam Blakeslee Shannon DalPorto Susan Pyburn Suzie Freeman Tom Sherman Wendell Wilkes Yael Korin
AGENDA ITEM		CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
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 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, seconded by Anne. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

3. Introductions	Sam Blakeslee, Karen Kowal, Jen Ford and Garret Olson introduced themselves.	
4. Public Comment	Janna raised concerns that the county is likely to see another COVID surge and there is not a process to reinstitute the Care and Shelter program which has now ended, or what agencies should do in the interim if they receive notification that a client is homeless and COVID positive. Amelia and Jack raised the same concerns.	
5. Consent: Approval of Minutes		Janna made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mark. The minutes were approved, with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
6. Action/Information/Discussion		
6.1. Action Item: Recommend and Authorize the County of San Luis Obispo to Serve as the Administrative Entity for the Continuum of Care Allocation of Emergency Solutions Grant Funds from the State of California and Authorize an	George provided some background on this item. HCD (California Department of Housing & Community Development) administers the California Emergency Solutions Grant (CA ESG) program. This program funds the county's street outreach, emergency shelter and rapid rehousing services. HCD is now soliciting authorization from Continuums of Care (CoCs) for allocations for the 2022 and 2023 years. Approval of this item will allow for the County of San Luis Obispo to serve as the Administrative Entity for this funding,	Kristen made a motion to recommend and authorize the County of San Luis Obispo to serve as the Administrative Entity for the Continuum of Care allocation of Emergency Solutions Grant funds from the State of California and authorize an approval

Approval Letter	worth approximately \$150k for 2022, and an amount to be determined for 2023. The 2022 NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) is expected in May, with applications due in July.	letter, seconded by Caroline. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
6.2. Action Item: Vote to Recommend Four Persons for Appointment to Vacant Seats on the Homeless Services Oversight Council	Laurel provided some background on this item. The HSOC previously voted, and the Board of Supervisors approved, amending the HSOC's bylaws to expand the number of seats on HSOC. County staff have worked with the Clerk's office to establish terms for new seats, in accordance with the Maddy Act. Four applications for membership have been received. A non-conflicted, ad hoc Nominating Committee was convened and recommended all four applicants for membership. Laurel provided background on the four applicants. Following the vote at this meeting, County staff will bring the recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for final approval, with new applicants to be appointed in April.	Kristen made a motion to recommend four persons (Allison Brandum, Garret Olson, Jim Dantona and Jack Lahey) for appointment to vacant seats on the Homeless Services Oversight Council, seconded by Dawn. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
6.3. Discussion Item: San Luis Obispo Countywide Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness - Presentation of Early Findings Selected Draft Strategies for Discussion and Feedback	Susan and Joe presented on the Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness, which is now taking a 0-5 year approach, as a ten year plan is not required. A number of surveys have gone out, to stakeholders and service providers. There is general agreement on the biggest challenges to ending homelessness in the county. The Strategy Committee has looked at shelter and service capacity, and the growth of homelessness between 2019 and 2022. Regional trends show that there has been increasing support, including housing	

	<p>vouchers, but the housing market has also tightened. The county's capacity for shelter only covers 20-30% of those observed in the 2019 Point in Time (PIT) Count. Implications for the strategic plan include adding capacity in housing and shelter, and innovation in low cost housing and shelter. There are governance concerns, as no one agency is in charge of addressing homelessness. HSOC is an important nexus between agencies and is an advisory body to the County Board of Supervisors, but homelessness is an issue that includes land use and social services issues. The suggestion is to develop a regional Homelessness Action Compact, to obtain cooperation between all stakeholders, and to continue to further empower the HSOC. The Strategy Committee and County Administrative Office are looking at how to operationalize the plan and track progress.</p> <p>The HSOC discussed the plan and presentation, and gave the following feedback:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Services and supportive housing are important but they do not meet the needs of clients with high health care needs, who are currently often sent to other counties which have the support needed. • Due to a lack of funding or not qualifying for higher level care, some medically fragile older homeless clients are falling through the cracks and are not receiving, or are not eligible for, the support they need. This should be explicitly included in the plan. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An analysis of each location and its support and infrastructure would be useful, as sites should not just be places to congregate homeless people but also address a range of services, beyond the scope of typical homeless services, to include nutritional health and proximity to school districts. • Another tier of analysis which should be included is subpopulation groups and their specific needs, in terms of physical accommodation and ways to serve them. • Input from currently and formerly homeless people should be incorporated as part of ongoing feedback and review. • The plan should also consider exits to other types of housing, for example when a client becomes older and requires a higher level of care, this can become difficult if not planned for. Some vouchers are flexible in this sense, but others are not. <p>Susan and Joe took questions and clarified the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan will include quantitative goals and the resources needed to meet these, although more data is needed at present. • In governance terms, the HSOC would be in charge, rather than any particular group or person. 	
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<p>6.4. Discussion Item: HSOC Dual Roles in Data-Driven Oversight and Funding Allocation and Management</p>	<p>Susan recommended that the HSOC take a more assertive role in data driven oversight. As County staff and agencies clean up system issues and the Strategy Committee sets goals, HSOC will need to take the lead on what is working successfully. The oversight is important so HSOC can continue being strategic in its data-driven work.</p>	
<p>6.5. Discussion Item: Committee Updates</p>	<p>Scott reported that the Housing Committee met in February. The City of SLO gave a presentation on their Inclusionary Housing Ordinance. There were updates on safe parking, sanctioned encampments, Federal and State grants, and the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Mark reported that the Finance & Data Committee will meet in March to look at preliminary data from the PIT Count, and making a plan to reform HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) into an open system.</p> <p>Devin reported that the Services Coordinating Committee meets in April, and will report back on its work considering an End of Life Protocol.</p>	
<p>6.6. Discussion Item: Update on Kansas Avenue Safe Parking (Jeff Al-Mashat)</p>	<p>Jeff reported that the Kansas Avenue safe parking site now has the official address of 855 Oklahoma Avenue. County staff are working on a number of improvements to the site, including a dining pavilion, charging station, Wi-Fi and transportation. Around 80-90 people are living at the site. County staff are attempting to manage the number of</p>	

	<p>vehicles at the site. Jeff thanked the Food Bank and CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) for the services and support they have provided to the site.</p> <p>Janna raised that there is a distinction between safe parking sites and sanctioned encampments, and the Oklahoma site is more accurately characterized as the latter given the types of services provided. This confusion may have led to wrong expectations of other safe parking sites. This discussion will be forwarded to the Services Coordinating Committee.</p>	
6.7. Discussion Item: Federal & State Grants Update	<p>Laurel provided an update on current and anticipated funding programs, including renewal and non-renewal grants.</p> <p>George reported that HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) has announced funding awards for Fiscal Year 2021. The San Luis Obispo CoC has been awarded \$1.1 million for renewal projects. Unfortunately, the CoC was not awarded any of the bonus funding that was applied for. HUD will later provide feedback on how the CoC scored.</p>	
6.8. Discussion Item: Bringing Families Home Program Update (Jannine Lambert)	Tabled.	This item will be forwarded to the next full HSOC meeting.
7. Future Discussion/Report Items	None.	

8. Updates and Requests for Information	None.	
9. Next Regular Meeting: May 18 at 1 p.m.		
10. Adjournment	Susan adjourned the meeting at 3:20pm.	