

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC) MEETING MINUTES

Date

July 20, 2022

Time

1pm-3pm

Location

Zoom

Members Present

Allison Brandum

Amelia Grover

Anna Miller

Anne Robin

Bettina Swigger

Brenda Mack

Caroline Hall

Dawn Ortiz-Legg

Devin Drake

Garret Olson

Jack Lahey

Janna Nichols

Jeff Smith

Jessica Thomas

Jim Dantona

Kathy McClenathen

Kristen Barneich

Laurel Barton (alternate for Dawn Addis)

Marcia Guthrie

Nicole Bennett

Rick Gulino

Scott Smith

Shay Stewart

Steve Martin
Susan Funk
Susan Lamont
Wendy Lewis
William Crewe

Members Absent

Andy Pease
Dawn Addis
Mark Lamore

Staff and Guests

Aurora William
Barbara Lorenzen
Becky Mc
Bonnie Ernst
Bridget Kurtt DeJong
Carlos Mendoza
Carrie Collins
Danielle McClellan
Elaine Archer
George Solis
Gregory Fearon
Jeff Al-Mashat
Jessica Lorange
Joe Dzvonik
Julien Powell
Kate Swarthout
Kelsey Nocket
Laurel Weir
Lauryn Searles
Lawren Ramos
Leon Shordon
Mia Trevelyan
Molly Kern
Rebecca Jorgeson

Russ Francis
Sara Erickson
Sarah Montes Reinhart
Scott Collins
Sue Warren
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

Anna 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 Devin. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.

3. Introductions

None.

4. Public Comment

Amelia shared that Dignity Health and partner agencies have received a Partnerships for Action grant, and will be participating in the California Health Care & Homelessness Learning Collaborative over the next two years. This will enable them to improve and enhance healthcare delivery to people experiencing homelessness. Dignity Health will be reaching out to stakeholders over the next few months.

5. Consent: Approval of Minutes

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

6. Action/Information/Discussion

6.1 Discussion Item: Point in Time (PIT) Count Update

Laurel reported that the 2022 Point in Time (PIT) Count Report was released on July 19. The PIT Count is a biannual count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness, which is carried out as a condition of HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) grant funding. Unlike data drawn from the County's HMIS (Homeless Management Information System), the PIT Count includes people who are not currently receiving services. The count is conducted within a 6-8 hour period around dawn, supplemented by surveys carried out by people with lived experience of homelessness in the days following the count.

The PIT Count was not carried out in 2021 due to COVID. In 2022, specialized protocols were put in place to protect the volunteers conducting the count. The Omicron surge did impact the County's ability to recruit volunteers, guides and surveyors, particularly in North County.

The overall number of people counted in the 2022 PIT Count was 1,448, representing a slight decrease from 1,483 in 2019. This is almost certainly due in part to COVID protocols and other impacts of COVID. North County in particular showed a lower count in 2022 than 2019, and was the region particularly impacted by challenges in recruiting volunteers and guides.

There was a small increase in the percentage of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness compared to those experiencing sheltered homelessness. The length of time that people are homeless has increased, which is consistent with data from HMIS.

92% of people experiencing homelessness in SLO County lived in SLO County when they became homeless. More than half had lived in SLO County for more than ten years when they became homeless.

Around one third of people experiencing homelessness reported that their current episode of homelessness was their first. 22% reported that they became homeless due to a COVID-related issue. 14% of people surveyed were employed; 27% were unemployed and unable to work, and a further 32% were unemployed and looking for work. The 2022 PIT Count shows a large uptick in people experiencing homelessness reporting they had experienced Domestic Violence – 37% compared to 22% in 2019.

Laurel and George took questions on the report and confirmed the following:

- The survey was sampled more heavily in South County and among unsheltered people.
- People staying at the Oklahoma Avenue Parking Village were included in the unsheltered count.
- Data for subpopulations is included in the report, including people aged 65+. This subpopulation has seen an increase since 2019.
- The transitional housing data in the report was based on data reported to the County by Lumina Alliance and TMHA (Transitions Mental Health Association).
- The report has been posted to the County website, and the County has sent press releases to local media.
- Results will have been impacted by active outbreaks occurring at shelters at the time of the count, as shelters were directed not to accept new people.
- 323 surveys were completed.

6.2 Action Item: Review and Vote to Approve the Draft Strategic Plan

Susan Funk, Joe Dzvonik and Bridget DeJong presented the Draft Strategic Plan to Address Homelessness. The vision of the Strategic Plan is to reduce homelessness by ensuring that people at risk of losing housing can retain it, and those experiencing homelessness can equitably secure safe housing with appropriate supports, minimizing trauma to the individual, the community and the environment. The goals of the plan are to reduce the number of people experiencing homelessness to 50% of the current level within five years, and to reduce unsheltered homelessness to 50% of the current level within five years. The Plan is organized into six lines of effort: housing opportunities and shelter options; housing stability; data management efforts; funding and resources; regional collaboration; and public engagement. The first line of effort – creating affordable and appropriately designed housing opportunities and shelter options for underserved populations – is the primary effort, with the other lines of effort supporting this.

The Plan emphasizes a rapid cycle implementation strategy to add capacity. Planning and implementation will be occurring simultaneously. The Plan recognizes the need to work across jurisdictional boundaries and across sectors in order to move forward in a coordinated manner. This will include a Regional Compact, to codify relationships between different stakeholders and agencies.

The Steering Committee gathered feedback on the Plan by presenting it to City Councils and community venues, via a public online survey, and via a survey of people currently experiencing homelessness. Primary concerns raised have included the need for more behavioral health services, the need for more data and transparency, and concerns about the ability of the community to meet these goals due to opposition from residents and businesses ('NIMBYism') and funding issues. The options for HSOC are to approve the Plan as it is and send it on to the Board of Supervisors for review; to approve the Plan with specific amendments and send it on to the Board of Supervisors for review; or to send it back to the Steering Committee to revise.

Rick made a motion to approve the Draft Strategic Plan without amendment, seconded by Jim. The motion passed with none opposed. Dawn Ortiz-Legg, Jack Lahey and Laurel Barton (alternate for Dawn Addis) abstained.

6.3 Discussion Item: Committee Updates

Committee updates were included in the agenda packet.

6.4 Discussion Item: Administrative/Homeless Action Committee Update – Joe Dzvonik

6.4.1 Discussion Item: Oklahoma Avenue Tiny House Village Request for Proposals

Joe reported that a Request for Proposals (RFP) has been released for the building of a proposed Oklahoma Avenue Tiny House Village. The RFP was released more than two weeks ago, and the closing date is the end of July (for the design and build portion).

6.4.2 Discussion Item: HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) Update

This item was covered in the above discussion of the Strategic Plan (item 6.2).

6.5 Discussion Item: Update on Oklahoma Avenue Parking Village – Jeff Al-Mashat

Jeff Al-Mashat reported that the expansion of the Oklahoma Avenue Parking Village has been completed, providing some more space, though not as much as had been hoped due to larger vehicles arriving including very large RVs. Clients at the site

present with different issues that can make finding housing a challenge. Recent successes have included family reunifications.

6.6 Discussion Item: Federal & State Grants Update

Laurel reported that the County intends to release a Request for Proposals in early August, for HUD's special NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) to address rural unsheltered homelessness. This timeline may change however, as HUD has not yet published its guidelines for this grant program.

For the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program Round 3 (HHAP 3), the County has not yet received feedback from the State. The HSOC will need to vote on the HHAP 3 goals once the State has provided feedback, so there may need to be a special meeting of the HSOC in August for this purpose.

7. Future Discussion/Report Items

- Particular concerns were raised by several HSOC members about families as subpopulation
- Update on Coordinated Entry updated processes
- Update on CenCal Health housing services – Nicole
- Update on CenCal Health meals program – Nicole
- Update on Housing and Homelessness Incentive Program – Nicole

8. Updates and Requests for Information

None.

9. Upcoming Meetings

Next Regular Meeting: September 21 at 1pm

10. Adjournment

Susan Funk adjourned the meeting at 3:28pm.