

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL**  
**Homeless Services Coordinating Committee**  
**May 11, 2020 10-11:30am**

**Meeting held by conference call**

**Physical location: Room 356, Department of Social Services, 3433 S Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo**

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS	
Brandy Graham Devin Drake Grace McIntosh Nicole Bennett	Deanna Cantrell John Klevins	George Solis Janna Nichols Jessica Lorange Laurel Weir Russ Francis Susan Lamont Susan Warren	
AGENDA ITEM			CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Devin called the meeting to order at 10am.		
2. Public Comment	Brad Zimmer from ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) sent through a comment asking what other agencies are doing to help clients apply for the IRS stimulus check. Janna answered that 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition) has a staff member guiding clients to appropriate sites. Grace answered that 40 Prado also has a staff member assisting clients with getting online and walking them through the process of getting the check. Brandy confirmed that CAPSLO's Veterans Programs are also supporting clients in this way.  Anne Robin sent through a public comment asking about needs and resources for cloth face masks for providers, staff and clients. Grace responded that 40 Prado has a good source of masks		George to relay this back to Brad Zimmer.

	<p>from the community.</p> <p>Janna responded that 5CHC currently has a steady supply of masks from community volunteers.</p> <p>Laurel added that providers can reach out either to herself or to Anne Robin for masks, as there is some access to masks at present.</p>	
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes		The minutes were approved, with all in favor.
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1. Discussion Item: Grant Updates		
4.1.1. Discussion Item: Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP)	<p>Janna provided updates on 5CHC's HEAP-funded projects.</p> <p>Building project: 5CHC has a permit request before the City for the office at Grover Beach. Decking and wall repair has been completed, but otherwise the architectural work is in flux.</p> <p>Youth project: 5CHC are continuing to do outreach work. Before COVID hit, they had been working to get young people into housing. 5CHC are conferring with other communities facing similar issues, such as Sacramento. 5CHC have engaged in some TA (Technical Assistance) support.</p> <p>Grace provided an update on CAPSLO's HEAP-funded project. The plan has gone to final initial review, and is then going to SLO City for permit. COVID has pushed the project back by around a month. Moving forward with construction will depend on when CAPSLO receive the HEAP funding.</p>	

	<p>Laurel provided an update on the City of Paso Robles' HEAP-funded project. CalTrans (California Department of Transportation) has carried out an architectural study and found that there is an issue with pedestrian access to the project, as it is based in close proximity to an on ramp onto the 101 highway. CalTrans told Paso that they would need to build a pedestrian underpass at a cost of \$2.5 million, which the city had not planned for. Paso are now looking at alternatives, as this is a major barrier to the project moving forward.</p>	
<p>4.1.2. Discussion Item: Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Program (HHAP) Updates</p>	<p>Laurel reported that the State has approved both HHAP applications (for the County and the Continuum of Care) without alterations. The County expects to put out an RFP (Request for Proposals) for HHAP this summer. This will be a joint RFP with CESH (California Emergency Solutions and Housing Grant) so applicants can apply to both funding programs together.</p>	
<p>4.1.3. Discussion Item: California Emergency Solutions and Housing (CESH) Grant</p>	<p>Laurel reported that the second round of CESH funding will be a smaller amount, around \$400k. This grant is for the same activities and the same spending timeline as the original. The Committee agreed to table the discussion of whether HSOC should continue with the established priorities for CESH funding, until the impact of other grants has been seen. The Committee decided to move the next Homeless Services Coordinating Committee meeting forward from July 20 to July 6, in order to allow the Committee to discuss the issue and make recommendations to bring to the full HSOC meeting on July 15.</p>	<p>Russ to move next Committee meeting from July 20<sup>th</sup> to July 6<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<p>4.2. Discussion Item: Warming Center and Emergency Shelter Updates</p>	<p>Laurel reported that the County extended the opening of warming centers. Grace reported that 40 Prado is currently not accepting new clients, only those who have previously accessed services. 40</p>	<p>Russ to remove the warming centers item from standing agenda items</p>

	<p>Prado is seeing fewer clients now. All families accessing the service have found other options, or have been transported to a local church for respite. Some have been able to get rooms at motels. There are very few people who are turned away because they have not accessed services before, and staff have considered opening up services to new clients. Safeguarding of staff is also a priority however, as they are at high risk in a congregate care setting.</p> <p>Laurel provided an update on ECHO. They have expanded their shower program to five days a week, are providing a 24/7 handwashing station outside, and are maintaining trailers.</p> <p>Susan Lamont reported that RISE has set aside two of ten rooms for quarantine, but nobody has tested positive. RISE has allowed clients to stay longer than usual due to the stay at home order.</p>	
<p>4.3. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Updates</p>	<p>Laurel reported that the State has set up testing sites in Paso Robles and Grover Beach, to test populations including people aged 65+, symptomatic people, and asymptomatic essential employees. As the County has designated homeless services essential, all staff of homeless services provider agencies can be tested for free. Public Health is encouraging all staff who work directly with clients to get tested.</p> <p>There will also be County pop-up testing sites which will test asymptomatic shelter clients in addition to the above groups. People who want to be tested can sign up online through the EmergencySLO site: <a href="https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/testing-locations.aspx">https://www.emergencyslo.org/en/testing-locations.aspx</a></p> <p>Laurel confirmed that if somebody is symptomatic, they should see their primary care physician if they have one, but otherwise they can go to one of the State testing sites. Clients may need</p>	

	<p>help signing up for an appointment.</p> <p>Laurel reported that no tests have come back positive from the County wide testing at meal programs. The County has changed its motel program. Homeless people to isolate in place, unless they are COVID-positive, in which case the County will shelter them in trailers at El Chorro Park, where it is easier to provide meals and services.</p> <p>Susan Lamont reported a situation in which RISE had a client who was symptomatic, but nobody was willing to provide transportation to a medical care facility.</p>	<p>Laurel to raise this issue with Public Health.</p>
<p>4.3.1. Discussion Item: Safe Parking – COVID Updates</p>	<p>Janna reported that 5CHC has been able to house three people through their case managed campground program at Oceano. As people are staying put at the campground, 5CHC staff have been able to provide more assistance to clients and get them closer to being housed. Nobody has become symptomatic. With experience of running a safe parking program, 5CHC are now looking at how to run such a program once the shelter in place order is lifted. Janna noted there is less interest among clients in engaging with the County’s own safe parking program, and this is likely because they are required to leave during the day. Some people do not want to do this, as they will risk losing their parking space on the street, and may not have gas money to keep doing this every day.</p>	
<p>5. Discussion Item: Housing First Technical Assistance – Status/Report</p>	<p>Laurel provided a summary of the Technical Assistance that the State provided last year. The State ran a one day training, discussion and planning session about Housing First. A number of agencies attended.</p> <p>The Committee discussed how these conversations can now be</p>	

	<p>moved forward, and how providers can work together to ensure all staff and volunteers are aware of the services available, why client data needs to be collected, etc. The Committee agreed on an annual base level roundtable platform of training sessions, so that new staff and volunteers can be brought up to speed. This would also help to avoid duplication.</p> <p>Laurel added that the County has been adding training sessions, for example on HMIS (Homeless Management Information System), plus training sessions at case management level.</p>	<p>Anyone with further thoughts to email Laurel: <a href="mailto:lweir@co.slo.ca.us">lweir@co.slo.ca.us</a> or George: <a href="mailto:gdsolis@co.slo.ca.us">gdsolis@co.slo.ca.us</a></p>
6. Discussion Item: Encampment Task Force – Status	<p>Laurel reported that the Encampment Committee has not met for several months, due to nearly all members being involved in responding to the COVID emergency. There is a need to continue the conversation around encampments given recent developments. The Committee asked Devin to reach out to the Encampment Committee Chair Jeff Smith to hold the next meeting.</p>	<p>Devin to reach out to Jeff Smith</p>
7. Future Discussion/Report Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Devin to report on CESH grant funding</li> </ul>	
8. Next Meeting Date	<p>July 6 at 10am. Note this has been moved forward from the scheduled date of July 20. See item 4.1.3 above.</p>	
9. Adjournment	<p>Devin adjourned the meeting at 11:20am.</p>	