

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC) MEETING MINUTES

Date

March 15, 2023

Time

1pm-3pm

Location

Room 101, County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services,
3433 South Higuera St, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

Members of the public were able to participate via Zoom.

Members Present:

Allison Brandum

Amelia Grover

Anne Robin

Aurora William

Brenda Mack

Devin Drake

Elaine Archer

Garret Olson

Gary Petersen

Jack Lahey

Jessica Thomas

Kristen Barneich

Mark Lamore

Michelle Shoresman

Rick Gulino

Rick Scott

Rochelle Sonza

Shay Stewart

Steve Gregory

Susan Funk

Susan Lamont

Wendy Blacker
Wendy Lewis
Zara Landrum

Members Absent:

Anna Miller
Bettina Swigger
Dawn Ortiz-Legg
Janna Nichols
Jeff Smith
Jim Dantona
Kathy McClenathen
Marcia Guthrie
Nicole Bennett
William Crewe

Staff & Guests:

Abby Lassen
Austin Solheim
Daisy Wiberg
George Solis
Greg Weinmich
Jeff Al-Mashat
Joe Dzvonik
Kate Bourne
Krista Jeffries
Kristin Ventresca
Laurel Barton
Laurel Weir
Lauryn Searles
Morgan Torell
Russ Francis
Skylar Caldwell
Staci Dewitt
Suzie Freeman

Tim Waag
Yael Korin

1. Call to Order

Susan Funk called the meeting to order at 1pm.

2. Introductions

New members introduced themselves.

3. Public Comment

Susan Funk explained that the meeting will involve grant recommendations. Per HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) guidelines, applicants are not allowed to participate in discussion during these items. Applicants are instead invited to speak on their applications during public comment.

Kristen shared that Arroyo Grande City Council is looking into a draft safe parking ordinance. Proposals are available online on the City Council's website. The City also set their priorities and homelessness is in the top 6.

Michelle shared that housing and homelessness will be one of the City of San Luis Obispo's major goals going forward. A plan and detailed budget will be produced by City staff in April.

Susan Funk shared that homelessness remains an action priority for the City of Atascadero. The Cities of Pismo Beach and Grover Beach, and the County Board of Supervisors, have also included it as a top priority.

Steve shared that the City of Paso Robles has homelessness at the top of its priority list, as it has for the last four years.

Austin from El Camino Homeless Organization (ECHO) reported on the success ECHO has seen from previous grant funding for its shelter services, including serving meals and offering community shower programs, resulting in families returning to stable and permanent housing.

Jack reported on the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo's (CAPSLO) revised approach to get individuals document ready and housed, and how the funding CAPSLO has been recommended for will allow for a continuation of this.

Elaine reported that the Housing Authority of the City of San Luis Obispo (HASLO) applied for funding for Permanent Supportive Housing, and noted that previous rounds of funding have been critical in providing housing that didn't exist previously.

Aurora reported that LAGS Recovery applied for emergency shelter funding in North County. 115 unique individuals in Paso Robles have used the warming center in the last year.

Rick Gulino reported that People's Self-Help Housing (People's) also applied for funding. People's will be opening five new projects in the next year, which will include 100 units set aside for people experiencing homelessness. This will also include supportive services.

Susan Lamont reported that Lumina Alliance have requested funding to expand their Transitional Housing program to an additional property.

4. Consent: Approval of Minutes

The HSOC approved the minutes by roll call vote.

5. Action/Information/Discussion

5.1. HSOC Administration

5.1.1. Action Item: Vote to Recommend the Board of Supervisors Appoint Luke Dunn to Fill the At Large Seat on the HSOC that was Previously Held by Jennifer Deutsch

Kristin made a motion to recommend the Board of Supervisors appoint Luke Dunn to fill the At Large seat on the HSOC that was previously held by Jennifer Deutsch, seconded by Rick Gulino. The motion passed.

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

5.2.1. Action Item: Recommend Allocation of County Community Development Block Grant - Public Services funding (\$106,421), Emergency Solutions Grant (\$144,346), County General Fund Support (\$351,907), and Permanent Local Housing Allocation funds (\$522,335) for county-wide homeless services programs

Kristin Ventresca presented an overview of the 2023 Action Plan funding recommendations. The 5 Year Consolidated Plan, of which each annual Action Plan forms a part, is a requirement for the HUD entitlement grants, which include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG – 15% of which is allocated to public services) and the Federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG). Also under consideration in recommendations were the Permanent Local

Housing Allocation (PLHA) from the State (30% of which is allocated to supportive services), and County General Fund Support (GFS). The funding recommendations presented to the HSOC (summarized in the meeting but available in full in the agenda packet) were made by an ad hoc Grant Review Committee, which followed County purchasing guidelines. County staff have aimed to reduce the number of contracts, and therefore the administrative burden on subrecipients, by consolidating the recommended grant awards into fewer grant programs.

The next steps, following the HSOC meeting, are for the County to release draft recommendations for a 30 day public comment period, then for participating cities to consider and approve CDBG recommendations which are separate allocations to the County allocation. The recommendations will then be presented to the County Board of Supervisors in Spring, and then to HUD for final approval.

Kristin took questions and clarified that the Grant Review Committee members are anonymous, and that the process has complied with County Purchasing guidelines and regulations. The scoring criteria used by the Grant Review Committee consists of requirements set by HUD plus local priorities as decided by the HSOC.

Shay made a motion to recommend the 2023 Action Plan allocations from the Grant Review Committee to the Board of Supervisors, seconded by Allison. The motion passed by roll call. The HSOC also discussed reallocating some of the shelter funding, but this was not brought to a vote.

The HSOC discussed the level of information they receive regarding the funds they are expected to vote on, and recommended more information, including impact statements. Joe suggested that the methodology for scoring applications should be explored and where appropriate updated, with HSOC's guidance.

5.2.2. Action Item: Vote to Recommend \$1,456,820.92 in Grant Awards for the County and CoC (Continuum of Care) Allocations of the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program Round 2 (HHAP-2) Funding

George provided background on the second round of HHAP funding. A total award of \$1,456,820.92 is available for a broad

range of eligible activities. HSOC set priorities for HHAP 2 in January, consisting of homelessness prevention and operating subsidies for emergency shelter. 15 applications were received. An ad hoc Grant Review Committee met in March to review applications, scoring them against state requirements and local priorities. The proposed recommendations (available in the agenda packet) were in accordance with priorities identified by the HSOC. Kristen made a motion to recommend the HHAP 2 allocations from the Grant Review Committee to the Board of Supervisors, seconded by Garrett. The motion passed by roll call.

5.3. Implementing Five-Year Plan Line of Effort 2 - Focus Efforts to Reduce or Eliminate the Barriers to Housing Stability for Those Experiencing Homelessness or at Risk of Homelessness, Including Prevention, Diversion, Supportive Services, and Housing Navigation Efforts

5.3.1. Discussion Item: Behavioral Health Bridge Program

Morgan and Frank presented on a funding opportunity for Behavioral Health Bridge Housing. This funding is for people experiencing homelessness who have immediate needs and serious health conditions. Housing is provided for a period from 90 days to 2 years. Access to services is a priority. A minimum of 75% funding must be used for bridge housing. The remainder may be used for infrastructure, engagement and outreach.

5.4. 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

5.4.1. Discussion Item: Updates on Efforts to Improve the HMIS System

Joe reported on the County's efforts to improve HMIS, which will contribute to the Strategic Plan's Third Line of Effort (data management). The County's IT department are assisting in the process. The County is working to build consensus with service providers and ensure all needs are met. An RFP (Request for Proposals) will be released soon for the software platform. The current system achieves the baseline minimum standard as set out by HUD, but the new system will go beyond this in order to help

better understand the local situation. The HSOC discussed and voiced support for taking the proposal to the Board of Supervisors.

5.5. Discussion Item: Updates from County Staff

5.5.1. Discussion Item: Parking Village Sites, Tiny Home Villages, and Warming Centers

Joe reported that he made the decision to close the Oklahoma Avenue Safe Parking site, because the site operation was not successful as an effort to address homelessness. The site was set up initially in August 2021 as a response to an emergency situation. Because of the speed of the operation, no service provider was involved in the design of the program. Once the County had begun to organize the site, a request was put out to service providers to take care of the site, but no agency had the appetite to do so. Nothing has changed since this point, and the site has been beset by challenges, including recently, the food pantry's generator being sabotaged by residents. Next steps include a case conferencing process, to be developed by service providers and the County Department of Social Services, to look at each individual case and decide which agency has the best expertise to help people move to their next location. Despite local reporting, there is no timeline around this yet.

Jack recommended that the Services Coordinating Committee, which he chairs, include oversight of the drawdown as a discussion item.

Yael and Tim commented that they have been heavily involved with the site on a voluntary basis, and that residents have repeatedly said that they are doing better at the site than where they had been before, and that the problem with the site is that services and maintenance have not been provided.

5.6. Discussion Item: Committee Updates

Committee updates were included in the agenda packet.

6. Future Discussion/Report Items

None brought forward.

7. Updates and Requests for Information

None brought forward.

8. Next Regular Meeting: May 17, 2023

9. Adjournment

Susan adjourned the meeting at 3:30pm.