

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL**  
**HSOC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**April 21 2021, 1:00-3:00pm**  
**Zoom Call**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>		<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	<b>STAFF &amp; GUESTS</b>
Devin Drake Janna Nichols Kristen Barneich Susan Funk		Scott Smith	Carolyn Berg Dawn Ortiz-Legg George Solis Grace McIntosh Jessica Lorange Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Molly Kern Russ Francis
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>			<b>CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS</b>
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Susan called the meeting to order at 1pm.		
2. Public Comment	None.		
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes			Janna made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Devin. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
4. Action/Information/Discussion			
4.1. Discussion Item: Report	Carolyn reported that she and other County representatives		

<p>Out on Regional Collaborative Initiative with Cities and County</p>	<p>have been meeting with City managers and leaders from other counties, as well as other agencies such as SLOCOG (San Luis Obispo Council of Governments) to look into strategies for regional collaboration. Devin shared that a recent meeting was very positive and collaborative, with a lot of information shared. The Committee discussed the importance of communications going forward, as those not previously involved in homeless issues may not be aware of the evidence-based practices that have worked in other communities. There may be a need to respond to some misperceptions about homelessness by reference to data on effective approaches.</p> <p>Carolyn stated that the support of local agencies and the County will be important for next steps, as well as action planning with the cities, and considering how strategies from the revised Ten-Year Plan can be taken forward. The Countywide Homeless Action Team is also looking to engage with stakeholders outside of HSOC.</p>	
<p>4.2. Discussion Item: May 2021 Update to the Board of Supervisors on Homelessness</p>	<p>Carolyn reported that the Board of Supervisors will receive an update on homelessness at their May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The agenda for this meeting should be posted in the week commencing April 26<sup>th</sup>. The update will include a staff report that sets out what has happened since 2009 and the first Ten-Year Plan, progress made since then, and the County's next steps. The update will bring attention to the communications strategy and pilot programs including the safe parking and blue bag programs.</p> <p>The Committee discussed how HSOC could engage in this update, such as by providing input during public comment, especially around the regional initiative and collaborative approach.</p> <p>The Committee discussed the possibility of informing HSOC of the Board item, as there is no full HSOC meeting before May 4<sup>th</sup>.</p>	

	An informational email about the Board meeting would be acceptable as this would follow on from discussion of the Encampment Committee recommendations at the March 17 <sup>th</sup> HSOC meeting. Susan requested that Laurel draft this informational email.	
4.3. Action Item: Approve Staff Clarification to Encampment Committee Recommendations	Laurel shared that the proposed clarification is not related to the recommendations in the Encampment Committee recommendations document, which was approved by HSOC at its March meeting. The clarification is in the description used for the regional framework. Laurel read out the proposed replacement text (also available in the agenda packet), which provides a more detailed description about the process with the regional framework.	Janna made a motion to approve the staff clarification to the Encampment Committee recommendations, seconded by Kristen. The motion passed with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
4.4. Discussion Item: The Role of HSOC, Engagement with Stakeholders and Communications	<p>Janna voiced concerns about the time it takes to get HSOC and the County's strategies on homelessness actioned, while public pressure is leading authorities to take enforcement action outside of this. There has recently been a concentrated effort from cities to disassociate parks from homeless encampments, but no solution is provided as to where people should go instead. While the HSOC puts a lot of time into committee work, and has produced a series of recommendations, events are moving too quickly for the HSOC to keep up with.</p> <p>Grace shared that some people in the community question HSOC's role and relevance, as there is a sense of disconnect between what needs to happen and the pace at which HSOC moves.</p> <p>The Committee noted that the HSOC sometimes appears to carry out motions in the face of a crisis, but as the CoC (Continuum of Care), it is required to go through the processes</p>	

	<p>around grants, etc., as HUD (Department of Housing &amp; Urban Development) demands this of CoCs in order to receive funding. Carolyn noted that the cities are wary of implementing the Encampment Committee's recommendations without knowing more about the impact that these recommendations would have.</p> <p>Kristen suggested that a way forward would involve presenting the recommendations as solutions to the problems that authorities are responding to due to public pressure, e.g. encampments, for which the solution may involve helping people via sanctioned encampments and the work of local nonprofits.</p>	
4.5. Discussion Item: Ten-Year Plan Update	<p>Laurel reported that County staff have been sharing proposals with city managers and community partners. The next step is to form the Leadership Group for the Strategy Committee. As HSOC has approved, the Executive Committee will form the core of the Leadership Group. HSOC granted the Chair the authority to appoint people to the Leadership Committee.</p> <p>The Executive Committee discussed the structure of the Leadership Group. Some of the input from cities includes not making the committee too large; there have been suggestions that 5-7 people may be better than 9-12. Focus groups in addition to the main committee could be a way of ensuring regional diversity and representation of different interests. Susan will work with Dawn and Laurel on recruiting for the Leadership Group.</p>	
4.6. Discussion Item: State and Federal Homeless Assistance Grants	<p>Laurel reported that the RFP (Request for Proposals) for Round 1 of the HHAP (Homeless Housing, Assistance &amp; Prevention) Program was released on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Applications are due to the Department of Social Services (DSS) on June 8<sup>th</sup> at noon. More</p>	

	<p>information is available on the Homeless Services website. An information session held via Zoom will be held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> April at 11am. The link to the Zoom call is available in the RFP and on the website.</p> <p>Susan asked that applicants be informed in this session that they should be prepared to give a short (60 second) pitch on how they intend to make best use of the funding. This is a change resulting from discussions in the full HSOC about making the grant review process more efficient and transparent. Laurel confirmed that applicants will be told this, and also that the Grant Review Committee will be split into two meetings, allowing for County staff to take questions from the Committee to applicants and gather additional information before the Committee makes its recommendations.</p>	
4.7. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Update		
4.7.1. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Grant Updates	Laurel clarified that this item was included to allow subrecipients the opportunity to provide any information about their grant programs.	
4.7.2. Discussion Item: Rental Relief Program	Janna shared that the State initiated the COVID Rental Relief program on March 19 <sup>th</sup> . 5CHC (5Cities Homeless Coalition) is working with the State to assist people with applying to this program. No applicants had received payment at the time of this meeting, though 5CHC has heard that the State is about to begin releasing money. 5CHC has been engaging in outreach work but has not experienced the level of calls they expected.	

<p>4.7.3. Discussion Item: Situational Update</p>	<p>Wendy provided an update from the Vaccine Task Force. ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) were working with CHC (Community Health Centers) and the County's Public Health Department to get the Johnson &amp; Johnson vaccine to clients in Atascadero, with any leftover doses going to ECHO volunteers and community members. However, with Johnson &amp; Johnson vaccines being withdrawn, ECHO were not able to carry out a similar vaccination drive that had been planned in Paso Robles.</p>	
<p>4.8. Discussion Item: Discussion Item: Warming Centers Recap</p>	<p>Wendy reported that ECHO has run the warming shelter in Atascadero this year (it was previously run by Transitional Food &amp; Shelter). ECHO expanded the shelter into a winter emergency shelter at the Community Church of Atascadero. It opened in early November, and initially experienced pushback from the local neighborhood. However, over time this changed as the shelter had very little impact on the surrounding area. Some who were initially against the shelter later stepped in to help and donated items. There were only two non-medical police calls over winter, both due to client interactions where ECHO staff had called the police to ensure safety. There were around a dozen medical emergencies. The shelter averaged around fifteen people per night. Six of the chronic homeless people who stayed at the shelter have now been housed permanently, and more of the chronic homeless population who attended are still engaged with ECHO and are expected to get housing.</p> <p>Janna shared that the South County warming center moved locations, eventually to the Grover Beach Community Center, although this is now no longer in use, so at this point there is no location identified for next winter. The South County warming center was open for 19 nights.</p>	

	<p>Grace shared that CAPSLO's warming center was also open for 19 nights, as it was a very dry year so the shelter did not open as much as expected.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that the winter warming centers recap should be taken to the full HSOC.</p>	
5. Future Discussion/Report Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe parking programs – looking at what is working and what is not</li> <li>• Ideas for the 10-Year Plan Leadership Group</li> </ul>	
6. Next Meeting Date: June 16, 2021		
7. Adjournment	Susan adjourned the meeting at 3:20pm.	