

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC)
MEETING MINUTES**

Date

May 17, 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

Bettina Swigger

Brenda Mack

Clint Weirick

Christy Nichols (Alternate for Nicole Bennett)

Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg

Devin Drake

Elaine Archer

Garret Olson

Jeff Eckels (Alternate for Kathy McClenathen)

Jeff Smith

Kristen Barneich

Laurel Barton (Alternate for Zara Landrum)

Lawren Ramos (Alternate for Jack Lahey)

Marcia Guthrie

Mark Lamore

Michelle Shoresman

Rick Gulino

Steve Gregory
Susan Funk
Susan Lamont
Wendy Blacker
Wendy Lewis
William Crewe
Zara Landrum

Members Absent:

Gary Petersen
Jack Lahey
Janna Nichols
Jessica Thomas
Jim Dantona
Kathy McClenathen
Luke Dunn
Nicole Bennett
Rick Scott
Rochelle Sonza
Shay Stewart

Staff & Guests:

Abby Lassen
Brian Amoroso
Daisy Wiberg
Daniel Bradley
Deborah Erb
Devon McQuade
George Solis
Glenn Silloway
Graham Knaus
Jeff Al-Mashat
Joe Dzvonik
Kate Bourne
Kristin Ventresca

Laurel Weir
Lauryn Searles
Lisa Howe
Merlie Livermore
Morgan Torell
Russ Francis
Sarah Montes Reinhart
Suzie Freeman
Trisha Raminha
Yesenia Alonso

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Susan Funk called the meeting to order at 1pm. Introductions were made by those present as guests.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were approved by voice vote.

3. Action/Information/Discussion

3.1 California State Association of Counties AT-HOME Plan to Address Homelessness

3.1.1. Discussion Item: AT-HOME Presentation

Graham Knaus, CEO of CSAC (California State Association of Counties) presented on the AT-HOME Plan to Address Homelessness. The “AT-HOME” approach, composed of six pillars: Accountability, Transparency, Housing, Outreach, Mitigation and Economic Opportunity, is a comprehensive plan to help make meaningful progress in housing those who are unhoused or at risk of becoming unhoused in California communities.

Joe Dzvonik presented a slide showing how the CSAC “AT-HOME” Plan is in alignment with the San Luis Obispo Countywide plan (Lines of Effort) to help reduce homelessness.

A discussion regarding funding sustainability, flexibility, developing regional compact specifying roles, etc. followed.

3.1.2. Action Item: Vote to Concur with the County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors' Endorsement of AT-HOME Plan and Approve a Resolution in Support of the Plan

Brenda Mack made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Mark Lamore. The motion passed by roll call.

4. Public Comment

Allison Brandum shared a need for homeless people to have a safe place to leave their belongings when they must go to their appointments.

Devin Drake mentioned the improvement made in the meeting room by installing microphones above the ceiling.

Wendy Lewis of ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) shared that as of the meeting date, 70 individuals in their program found housing.

Anne Robin mentioned that this is her last meeting in HSOC as she is retiring in June. She recommended Morgan Torrell as her replacement.

5. Action/Information/Discussion

5.1 Discussion Item: Report on May 2 Update to the Board

A copy of Joe's presentation to the Board was part of the packet. Kristin Ventresca gave an overview of some of the activities of the Homeless Services Division since its formation on August 9th. She also reported that there are three Encampment Resolution Fund applications that are in progress. Descriptions of each project were also included in the agenda packet. A fourth project is Home Key converting 30 hotel rooms in SLO Inn.

5.2 Action Item: Vote to Approve Just Cause Form to Allow Members to Participate Remotely in Accordance with AB 2449

Motion to approve Just Cause Form was passed, seconded, and approved by roll call vote.

5.3 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

5.3.1. Update on HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) Vendor Selection Process

Kristin Ventresca presented the projected timeline for the vendor selection process. She reported that Request for Proposals (RFP) was published in March. The RFP was a result of the business plan that was developed with significant input from various stakeholders. It is currently underway for a 4-step process in vendor selection. The first round of reviews in scoring to narrow the options down has been completed. The second round where selected vendors review demonstrations is currently happening. After the scoring is received, finalized and reference checks have been made, a final selection will occur in June. Contract negotiations will occur with the selected vendor and then the contract will be taken to the Board of Supervisors for approval in August.

5.4. Implementing Five-Year Plan Line of Effort 4 – Create, Identify, and Streamline Funding and Resources

5.4.1. Action Item: Vote to Approve Memorandum of Understanding Between the San Luis Obispo County Continuum of Care Homeless Services Oversight Council and the County of San Luis Obispo for Regional Coordination of Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program Round 4 (HHAP-4)

George Solis shared that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Continuum of Care and the County of San Luis Obispo is required for the implementation of HHAP-4 funding. A motion to approve the MOU was presented, seconded and the motion passed.

5.4.2 Action Item: It is Requested That the HSOC 1) Express Support for an Application for the FY2022 Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program grant; 2) Endorse CoC Staff's Efforts to Carry Out a Homeless Youth Needs Assessment in Coordination With Stakeholders Including Youth With Lived Experience; 3) Endorse CoC Staff's Effort to Form a Youth Advisory Board (YAB) for the Purposes of Providing Input on the YHDP Application and Any YHDP Funding Awarded; and 4) Direct the HSOC Executive Committee to Consider How to Integrate the YAB With the HSOC, Including Mechanisms for Receiving YAB Input Regarding Funding for Youth-Specific Grants and Grant Set-asides

Laurel asked HSOC's endorsement to approve the grant application to help expand services and housing to homeless youth. A motion to approve the application was presented by Anne Robin, seconded by Clint Weirick. Roll was called and motion passed.

5.5. Implementing Five-Year Plan Line of Effort 5 – Strengthen Regional Collaboration

5.5.1. Discussion Item: Updates from the Cities

Michelle Shoresman of the San Luis Obispo City Council introduced the SLO City's Homeless Services Manager Daisy Wiberg. Daisy shared that the City's Strategic Plan is focusing on a regional approach to help reduce homelessness. She thanked the County's support and collaboration on funding opportunities, specifically in downtown San Luis Obispo for interim housing projects. Daisy also mentioned projects which include implementing a hotel voucher program in partnership with CAPSLO; creation of a parking program model in collaboration with the faith community; developing a more formal outreach staff through Compassionate Assistance Mitigation & Prevention (CAMP) standards; and developing a plan for an annual community forum on homelessness.

Kristen Barneich reported that the warming shelter in Arroyo Grande, in collaboration with 5Cities Homeless Coalition (5CHC), is in the works and will be ready and running in winter. As for Safe Parking, one of the requirements of the parking ordinance is to have a homeless services provider directly involved with the parking so there will be some changes to be made. This is put on hold for now pending communication with 5CHC.

Clint Weirick representing Grover Beach shared about the Cabins for Change project, which is getting some attention as a model project and was visited by the HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) State Director recently. He also reported that some encampment individuals are showing willingness to get services.

Marcia Guthrie, representing Pismo Beach, shared that there is an affordable housing project that should be finished by the end of the year. This includes transitional housing in the South County.

Susan Funk reported that the City of Atascadero has been supporting ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) for years. There's also a plan to provide 72 new beds in the works through People's Self-Help Housing occurring on land in El Camino Real, by Atascadero State Hospital property.

Brenda Mack asked if there are any plans for cooling centers this summer in the north county. Steve Gregory shared the Fire Department in Paso Robles is creating two locations for the summer.

5.6. Discussion Item: Committee Updates

Mark Lamore reported that the Finance and Data Committee has received reports from County staff regarding system proposals and how to improve the quality of data through the new HMIS (Homeless Management Information System) software platform.

Elaine Archer shared that there is no update from the Housing Committee.

Jack Lahey from the Services Coordinating Committee was not present to report on any updates.

5.7 Discussion Item: Updates from County Staff

5.7.1. Discussion Item: Federal & State Grants Update

George Solis shared that award letters were sent out for the HHAP (Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program) Round 2 funding approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 4. Contracts were sent to awarded subrecipients, namely 5CHC, CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) and ECHO. Award letters were also sent out for the 2023 HUD Action Plan Grants that were approved by the Board on May 2. The 2023 HUD Action Plan encompasses the HUD Community Development Block Grant, the Home Investment Program, and the Emergency Solutions Grant. Statewide, California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is projected to release their funding availability for the 2023 Emergency Solutions Grant in June. The County received its award letter from Housing and Community Development for the 2022 Emergency Solutions Grant Program on May 9, for a total award amount of \$114,049.

6. Future Discussion/Report Items

Death counts data update.

Point In Time count frequency.

7. Updates and Requests for Information

None brought forward.

8. Next Regular Meeting: July 19, 2023

9. Adjournment

Susan adjourned the meeting at 3:01pm.