

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

Date

August 16, 2023

Time

1pm-3pm

Location

Rm 356, County of SLO Department of Social Services
3433 S. Higuera St., San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Members Present

Elaine Archer
Jack Lahey
Steve Gregory
Susan Funk

Absent Members

Mark Lamore

Staff and Guests

Christy Nichols
Dawn Ortiz-Legg
Erica Jaramillo
George Solis
Janna Nichols
Laurel Weir
Luke Dunn
Marie Bolin
Merlie Livermore
Russ Francis
Sarah Hayter
Skylar Caldwell
Suzie Freeman

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Susan Funk called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm. She led the attendees to observe a moment of silence for the late Paso Robles Mayor Steve Martin. Steve Gregory, Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg, Laurel Weir, and Susan Funk each shared their brief tributes about the late Mayor and his dedication to the issue of homelessness, making special mention of the establishment of ECHO in the north county. No introductions were made.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Consent: Approval of Minutes

Jack Lahey moved the minutes to be approved. Susan Funk seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Action/Information/Discussion

4.1. Discussion Item: Update on Initiatives from Counties and Cities Regarding Homelessness

4.1.1 Discussion Item: Report from County Staff

Laurel Weir reported that the Welcome Home Village project has been one of the main focus of the division recently. The said project is planned to be built at the dirt parking lot next to the Department of Social Services building on Higuera Street. A public informational session about this project is scheduled towards the end of this month. A press release will be sent out in the next day or two. Service provider Good Samaritan, Dignity Moves and SLO County staff will be there to answer any questions from the public.

Laurel also shared that Staff are working on some other projects, including a second tiny home project in Grover Beach. Janna Nichols from 5 Cities Homeless Coalition (5CHC) shared that they are in the process of finalizing the design plan for submission to the City of Grover Beach. Janna also shared that barring any issues with electricity, the goal for this second tiny home site is to be open by the end of the year. This will be a 30-unit non-congregate shelter, utilizing the Boss Cubez the SLO County has purchased.

In addition, the Staff is also continuing to work with the City of Morro Bay for a possible project next year, which will be funded either via a private funder or through an Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF) grant. A possible project with the City of Paso Robles is also in the works for next year. Steve Gregory

shared that there are two possible locations for this project being looked at right now.

On the HMIS side, Laurel reported that on August 8th, the Board of Supervisors approved the contract with Bitfocus as the provider to help with the HMIS transition process. Additionally, Laurel shared that HUD (United States Department of Housing and Urban Development) is issuing some data standards changes that will bring some updates to policies and procedures HMIS-related. One important update is the expansion of the definition of homelessness to make it easier to include people who are victims of human trafficking.

Lastly, Laurel mentioned that the Homeless Services Division celebrated its one-year anniversary and is now fully staffed. Supervisor Dawn Ortiz-Legg and Suan Funk both suggested to send out a press release celebrating the one-year anniversary of the Homeless Services Division and to highlight some of the projects that are happening in the realm of homelessness in the county. Supervisor Ortiz-Legg then circled back to the Welcome Home Project information session happening on August 30th. She reiterated the importance of communicating and conveying to the community the importance and difference these projects can make in the lives of people experiencing homelessness. She mentioned her last visit to Dignity Moves' Tiny Homes in Santa Barbara wherein she had conversations with residents who are now benefiting from these tiny homes.

4.2 Discussion Item: Continuum of Care (CoC) Administration

4.2.1 Discussion Item: HSOC Membership Update

Laurel shared that under about 1/3 of membership seats expire at any given year so there will be an announcement of the membership seats expiring at the September HSOC meeting. She also mentioned that there are no longer term-limits so anyone whose membership is expiring can reapply. Other members of the public interested in serving at the HSOC can also apply for those expiring seats. Russell Francis provided the list of the members whose seats are expiring, namely Devin Drake, Kathy Mclenathen, Wendy Lewis, Jim Dantona, Shay Stewart, Amelia Grover, Jessica Thomas, and Nicole Bennett. After these seats are announced and applications are received in September, an Ad Hoc Nominating Committee will be formed and will present the nominated applicants at the next Executive Committee meeting in October. These nominations will then be presented to the November Full HSOC meeting. The list of nominees will be taken to the Board of Supervisors in December to be appointed in time for the January 2024 HSOC meetings.

4.2.2 Member Recusals and Conflicts of Interest

Laurel explained that due to HUD conflict of interest policies related to financial interests of the Continuum of Care (COC) bodies, every time a grant recommendation is agendaized, members of the HSOC who are representing any of the agencies applying for the grant, will have to recuse themselves and leave the room while the grant is being voted on. Also mentioned was that during the public comment period, such HSOC appointed members cannot give any comments or speech or comment on their application. There must be another member of that agency who is not an HSOC appointed member to make the presentation. The County Counsel also said these members do not count towards the quorum. More guidance and clarification regarding the quorum requirements are requested.

4.2.3 Discussion Item: Planning for Bylaw Changes

As part of a larger effort to make HSOC more outcomes- focused, Laurel shared there have been discussions with the Services Coordinating Committee regarding proposing a new Committee focused on Coordinated Entry. Coordinated Entry sets the whole system up in terms of how people get referred and prioritized for the housing resources that are available. Having another option outside of the limitations of the Brown Act to accommodate the sharing of information and having larger conversations amongst agencies is deemed necessary. There will be further discussions on how to set up this committee and its functions.

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

4.3.1 Discussion Item: Transitional Housing, Tiny Homes, and Bridge Housing

George Solis provided an update of upcoming housing projects coming up for occupancy this year. He mentioned the San Luis Obispo Broad Street Place development which has a total of 40 units: 30 affordable housing designations and 10 units set aside for Veterans. He also mentioned Templeton Place which has 10 units of its 36 units also allocated for Veterans. Other projects include the Paso Robles Home Key Renovation providing 34 vacant units; TMHA's Housing Now projects which has 8 units, specifically for people with disabilities; the Pismo Terrace, which according to Elaine Archer of HASLO (Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo) will have almost half of its 50 units housing individuals with mental illness. Elaine also mentioned the Rock View Place in Morro Bay, prioritized for those people

working in Morro Bay; and the Toscano Village in San Luis Obispo. Elaine also shared that they received approval to build on the Maxine Lewis location on Orcutt Street in San Luis Obispo. This project, which is expected to break ground next year, will create 41 studio units for permanent supportive housing for individuals with special needs.

4.4 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

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

Laurel covered this topic on her County Staff update.

4.5 Discussion Item: Committee Reports

In addition to what were already discussed in earlier topics, Jack Lahey of CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) and representing the Services Coordinating Committee, shared an update on prioritization methodology. He also mentioned that VI-SPDAT (Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool) is still using multipliers regarding length of time experiencing homelessness.

Elaine Archer for the Housing Committee mentioned the importance of creating a balance between meeting the needs of those on the housing lists and their impact on the community. She made special mention of the Pismo Terrace project which will house people with mental illness. She expressed the importance of working with service providers to help the residents achieve stability.

4.6 Discussion Item: Meeting Planning

4.6.1 Discussion Item: Agenda items for August and September HSOC Meetings

- Behavioral Health Gaps Analysis – September Full HSOC
- Overview of Coordinating Entry
- New camping ordinance in Grover Beach starting in April

4.6.2 Discussion Item: Consideration of Possible Time change of the HSOC

The suggestion was presented to have the Executive Committee and Full HSOC meetings moved to either the start of the day or towards the end of the day. It was agreed that the Executive Committee will move its meeting

time to 3pm. A doodle poll will be sent out to get the majority vote on the Full HSOC meeting time change.

5. Future Discussion/Report Items

- Homeless Services Division's 1 year anniversary press release
- How to handle HSOC function in relation to the lines of effort
- Safe Parking Program misconceptions/misinformation- Use of Best Practice Guide

6. Next Regular Meeting: October 18, 2023

7. Adjournment

Susan Funk adjourned the meeting at 3:03pm.