

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date

February 21, 2024

Time

3pm-5pm

Location

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

Members Present

Lawren Ramos (alternate for Jack Lahey)
Mark Lamore
Michelle Pedigo
Michelle Shoresman
Susan Funk

Staff and Guests

Erica Jaramillo
George Solis
Janna Nichols
Kari Howell
Kate Bourne
Landon King
Laurel Weir
Lauryn Searles
Linda Belch
Marie Bolin
Merlie Livermore
Michelle Shoresman
Morgan Torell
Russ Francis

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Michelle Shoresman called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm.

2. Public Comment

Lauryn Searles introduced herself. Janna Nichols of 5CHC (5 Cities Homeless Coalition) reported the location of their warming center at 1023 East Grand, Arroyo Grande. Janna also shared that the shelter is averaging about 10-15 guests every night.

3. Consent: Approval of Minutes

Susan Funk moved the motion for approval of the minutes. Mark Lamore seconded. The minutes were approved via voice vote.

4. Action/Information/Discussion

4.1 HSOC Administration

4.1.1. Action Item: Approve the Appointment Alternates

Russ Francis presented the names of the alternates for HSOC members, namely Frank Warren as alternate for Star Graber (County of San Luis Obispo Behavioral Health Agency); Miriam Vargas, as alternate for Margaret Shepard-Moore (Transitions-Mental Health Association); and Jon Nibbio as alternate for Marie Bolin (Family Care Network). Susan Funk moved the motion to approve the appointments. Mark Lamore seconded. Motion passed via roll call.

4.2. HSOC Governance Structure

4.2.1. Discussion Item: HSOC Bylaws Proposed Changes

Laurel Weir shared the proposed HSOC Bylaw amendments in the full HSOC membership. Proposed amendments included adding a seat for a representative from a local Youth Advisory Board, and the appointment of alternates for the different HSOC committees for the purpose of determining whether a quorum is present at every committee meeting. Another proposed change is to add two additional seats to the Executive Committee, namely a seat for a representative from the local Housing Authority, and the second seat would be designated for a representative from the affordable housing sector. It was also proposed to remove the names of standing committees (except for Executive Committee) and replace them with a process for reviewing and appointing Standing Committees.

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: Update on Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Round 5 Process

George Solis reported that the Homeless Services staff are currently working on the HHAP Round 5 applications. According to George, the county and the CoC (Continuum of Care) are eligible to apply for up to \$4.3M in the HHAP Round 5 funding. The applicants must present a Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan which should lay out a strategic approach to address homelessness within the region, emphasizing collaborative efforts among participating applicants, namely the county and the CoC. George also mentioned that the plan must include key elements and follow specified processes. Key elements included identifying roles and responsibilities of the CoC versus the County. This document was reviewed by the HSOC Executive Committee at the December 2023 meeting. Another element is the System Performance Measure and Improvement Plan, which comes from the HMIS data uploaded to the State's Homeless Data Integration System for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This report also includes 2023 Point in Time data. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the county and CoC on what their roles and responsibilities would be in the implementation of the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan would also be required. Participants are also required to

collaborate and engage in public stakeholder processes while developing the Regionally Coordinated Homelessness Action Plan. The public holder process must include at least three public meetings, allowing for extensive input from various groups and individuals. So far, the Homeless Services staff have conducted two of the three stakeholder meetings. The final meeting would be on February 29. According to George, the staff will bring all this information for approval to the full HOSC meeting on March 20, followed by submission for approval to the Board of Supervisors on March 26. Once approved, the application will be submitted to the state on March 27.

4.4 Implementing 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

4.4.1. Discussion Item: Update from County Behavioral Health on 2024 Bridge Housing Program Application

Morgan Torell shared a PowerPoint presentation of the Bridge Housing Program which focuses on addressing immediate and sustainable housing needs of people experiencing homelessness who have serious behavioral health conditions. The Bridge Housing program is short-term (less than 90 days) and mid-term housing (90 days-2 years). Morgan said that the County of San Luis Obispo may apply for up to \$5M for operations and services, up to \$2M for purchase and renovation of existing structures.

4.5. 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

4.5.1. Discussion Item: 2024 Housing Inventory Count (HIC) Data

Laurel Weir provided a brief update. Laurel shared that the Housing Inventory Count (HIC) is done every year as required by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Since the Homeless Services data team is in the middle of transition to the new HMIS system, this discussion is moved to the April Executive meeting.

4.6. Discussion Item: Committee Reports

Mark Lamore reported on the Finance & Data Committee. He mentioned that they are busy getting the HMIS up and running. Staff are going through the training process. BellData system is in a black out phase and will no longer be used. Clarity though Bitfocus will go live on March 4. Mark also provided kudos to Kari Howell and her team for doing an amazing job in coordinating the Unsheltered Point in Time Count in January. The results for the count will hopefully be available sometime in the spring.

Lauryn Searles provided a brief review on the Ad hoc Coordinated Entry Committee. The first meeting was held on February 5th where they discussed the overview of the structure, purpose, and basic foundational understanding of what is Coordinated Entry. Lauryn shared that there are 14 seats on the committee: two seats designated for individuals with lived experience; seven seats for service providers; county departments including Behavioral Health and Social Services; and seats for the Housing Authority and affordable housing developers. According to Lauryn, they also discussed a new policy development process for

Coordinated Entry. An agreement was reached to hold a recurring meeting every 4th Wednesday of each month beginning at 11am.

Janna Nichols reported on the Services Coordinating Committee which also met on February 5. One of the topics discussed during the meeting was the HHAP 5 application process. Janna shared that there was an extensive discussion regarding the Regional Action Plan and how the stakeholder meetings would coincide with the five-year strategic plan. It was recommended to consider a round up meeting after the stakeholders' meetings and before the application is submitted, to review the efforts from the plan that have been executed since beginning the process, utilizing the HHAP 5 Regional Action Plan in alignment with the lines of effort in the strategic plan. Additionally, Janna mentioned that they also discussed the closing of the Oklahoma Avenue parking, the warming centers in various locations, bath and shower programs, CalAIM/ Enhanced Care Management, and street medicine.

4.7. Discussion Item: Updates from County Staff on County Initiatives

Linda Belch shared that on May 14, the Homeless Services Division will be going to the Board of Supervisors to provide an update on the Five-Year plan implementation process. Linda also mentioned that the targeted closing date for Oklahoma Avenue is still scheduled for March 18, depending on any litigation that happens between now and then. The team is working hard with the remaining people in the site to find a permanent location prior to the site closure. Linda also reported that the Welcome Home Village project is still moving forward. The county is currently looking at two possible locations.

In addition, Laurel Weir also reported that the Planning Department is planning to go to the Board of Supervisors on March 12, to present a report on the county's housing element. This report will include an update on where the county is meeting the Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) numbers.

4.8. Discussion Item: Five-Year Plan to Address Homelessness

Laurel Weir presented a preliminary spreadsheet showing data on interim housing beds. She shared that for the Five-Year Plan, a proposal of 300 new interim housing beds over the first three years was made. Laurel reported that there were 50 interim housing beds that came online in 2023. Currently, there are 64 additional interim housing beds that are due to come online in 2024. So far, there is a total of 114 interim housing beds, one-third of the set goal. This will be presented to the full HSOC meeting in March in consideration of the HHAP funding recommendation allocations. For the permanent supportive housing beds, according to preliminary research, Laurel mentioned that there were no new beds that came online in 2023. However, there will be 94 beds coming online in 2024. So far, there is a total of 177 units, out of the 500 units proposed. Per Laurel, this does not include other proposed housing projects.

5. Future Discussion/Report Items

No topics presented.

6. Next Regular Meeting

April 17, 2024

7. Adjournment

Michelle Shoresman adjourned the meeting at 5:06 pm.