

# **HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC) SERVICES COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**Date**

November 6, 2023

**Time**

9am-11am

**Location**

Room 356, Department of Social Services  
3433 S. Higuera, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403

**Members Present**

Abby Lassen  
Amelia Grover  
Brandy Graham  
Devin Drake  
Jack Lahey  
Janna Nichols  
Jane Ranahan

**Members Absent**

Allison Brandum  
Wendy Lewis

**Staff and Guests**

Christy Nichols  
Erica Jaramillo  
Kate League  
Laurel Weir  
Lauryn Searles  
Lawren Ramos  
McKenna Cutting  
Merlie Livermore  
Michael Azevedo  
Michelle Pedigo  
Russ Francis  
Sarah Reinhart  
Zackiya Grant-Knight

**1. Call to Order and Introductions**

Jack Lahey called the meeting to order at 9:01am. Introductions were made.

## **2. Public Comment**

Sara Reinhart gave an update on Community Care Expansion (CCE) Preservation Funds. She shared that the Request for Applications (RFA) went out earlier this month to every single residential care facility for the elderly in the county. The grant application deadline is November 11th. Chosen facilities will be awarded funds to add extra beds for people who are elderly and at risk of homelessness, experiencing homelessness, and who might have other health conditions. Part of the funding is also to help preserve existing licensed facilities serving the elderly that need critical repairs or required upgrades.

Devin Drake announced that Kristin Ventresca, who is the Acting Manager of the Homeless Services Division, has accepted a new position as Deputy Director at the County Health department. He also announced that Morgan Torrell is the new Homeless Services Division Manager. Devin also reported that the Welcome Home Village project has been running into issues with three business owners who are against building the homeless project on the Higuera St. location. He said that this project is not shelved as the County is exploring a couple of options for other location sites.

## **3. Consent: Approval of Minutes**

Janna Nichols moved the motion to approve the minutes. Devin Drake seconded. Amelia Grover abstained; all others were in favor. Motion passed.

## **4. Action/Information/Discussion**

### **4.1. Implementing Five-Year Plan Line of Effort 2 – Reduce or Eliminate Barriers to Housing Stability**

#### **4.1.1. Discussion Item: Street Medicine**

Jack Lahey shared that in collaboration with Dignity Health, CenCal, Five Cities Homeless Coalition (5CHC), CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) and SLO Public Health, a Street Medicine convening event took place on September 26<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this meeting was to get the different agencies in one room and define their existing roles in terms of health care and homeless services. Zackiya Grant-Knight and Katie League from the National Health Care for the Homeless Council (NHCHC), a non-profit policy designed consulting company based in New Jersey, were guest facilitators for this conversation about street medicine. Katie shared some of the highlights from this meeting. Among topics discussed included the identification of community services and resources available for medical outreach efforts, who the members of each outreach team are, and billing for medical outreach. From this meeting, Katie offered a few suggestions to facilitate the street medicine outreach efforts: more collaboration and maybe technical assistance around the billing aspect for street medicine; identification of gaps and needs and exploration of funding opportunities; develop care coordination platforms that will include care coordination meetings both on the patient and administrative levels. Katie emphasized the importance of coordination between organizations in communities to help the expansion of street medicine outreach programs in different levels.

Sarah Reinhart also provided an overview of the work the Public Health Department is doing to provide person-centered care to people experiencing homelessness. Sarah also touched on a few sources of funding that are making it possible to provide street medicine. She also described how street medicine outreach ties into ECM (Enhanced Care Management) services.

#### **4.1.2. Information Item: Warming Center Updates**

Jack reported that as of November 1<sup>st</sup>, warming shelter season officially started. Warming Shelters will operate when the outside weather is 38 degrees or lower, or, if there is 50 percent (or higher) chance of rain. CAPSLO will start recruiting for volunteers. Currently, their 40 Prado Homeless Services Center has a capacity of 40 cots. For the South County, Janna Nichols shared that 5CHC (5 Cities Homeless Coalition) has leased a building that will eventually provide a long-term home for a warming shelter in the Arroyo Grande/Grover Beach areas. However, this building is currently undergoing renovations so it will not be ready for this season. She then mentioned that they are working with HASLO regarding a facility they own in Oak Park and El Camino Real in Arroyo Grande, as a temporary warming shelter this season. Mimi Rodriguez from ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) reported that there is no warming shelter in the North County area. However, she shared that ECHO in Paso Robles received approval for funding 20 more beds for their 90-day program and they are working as fast as possible to get these beds in line for the winter season.

#### **4.1.3. Information Item: Updates from 5Cities Homeless Coalition**

Janna Nichols shared that they are having a groundbreaking event today for the Balay Ko on Barca, a new non-congregate shelter that will be composed of 30 units which is expected to be operational by the end of the year. This will be similar in operation to the Cabins for Change program. It is located between Barca and South 4<sup>th</sup> St. in Grover Beach. Janna also reported that the waiting list for the Cabins for Change program is currently 266. They are currently tracking about 75 percent success rate of people graduating from the 90-day program and into permanent housing. Janna also mentioned that their street outreach team continues to be relatively successful in moving people from the streets into housing. Janna also expressed thanks to CenCal for allowing 5CHC to now be a Medi-Cal provider.

#### **4.1.4. Discussion Item: Update on Creation of ad hoc Committee to Focus on Coordinated Entry**

Jack shared that during the last Executive Committee meeting, committee chairperson Susan Funk made a motion to form the Ad Hoc committee. The goal of this committee is to revise the policies and procedures of the Coordinated Entry system and to bring as many people as possible together in the conversation of community service integration. Jack said invites for participation will be sent out in November and the goal is to have a first meeting in December. Jane Renahan (from People's Self-Help Housing) offered to help Jack in setting up goals on how to implement this committee.

#### **4.1.5. Discussion Item: VA (Veterans Affairs) One Team Initiative**

Brandy Graham reported the VA (Veterans Affairs) One Team Initiative program has been going on within the GLA (Greater Los Angeles) VA health care system. San Luis Obispo County falls within the GLA service area. Brandy mentioned that improved collaboration among agencies has propelled co-enrollments in HUD-VASH (US Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing) and SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families). According to Brandy, leadership meetings are held weekly, as committees share and track progress regarding referral system, by name list, voucher availability and other supportive services for the Veterans and their families.

**5. Future Discussion/Report Items**

- Coordinated Entry discussion
- Street Medicine follow up
- Ad Hoc Committee follow up discussion
- Safe Parking sites

**6. Next Regular Meeting**

December 4, 2023, at 9am

**7. Adjournment**

Jack adjourned the meeting at 11:03am