

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

Date

December 4, 2023

Time

9am-11am

Location

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

Members Present

Abby Lassen
Jack Lahey
Jane Renahan
Michael Azevedo (Janna Nichols' alternate)

Members Absent

Allison Brandum
Amelia Grover
Brandy Graham
Devin Drake
Janna Nichols
Wendy Lewis

Other Attendees

Erica Jaramillo
John Hamon
Kari Howell
Laurel Weir
Lauryn Searles
McKenna Cutting
Merlie Livermore
Michelle Shoresman
Mimi Rodriguez

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Jack Lahey called the meeting to order at 9:02am. Introductions were made.

2. Public Comment

No public comment.

3. Consent: Approval of Minutes

Quorum not met. No action taken.

4. Action/Information/Discussion 4.1. Implementing Five-Year Plan Line of Effort 2 – Reduce or Eliminate Barriers to Housing Stability

4.1.1. Information Item: Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Update

Kari Howell provided an update and opportunity for involvement for the upcoming PIT Count scheduled for January 23rd. Kari shared that she has extended invitations to service providers, community organizations, law enforcements, government officials, and other community members, both with and without lived experience of homelessness, to join the PIT Count Committee. Being part of this Committee is an opportunity to provide input and influence in the planning and implementation of the count. According to Kari, the PIT Count Committee's current priorities include confirming the start time for the PIT Count, as well as confirming incentives for the people being surveyed and the guides with lived experience of homelessness. Another priority is looking at the first draft of the survey. This year's count will focus more on survey methodology as priority over observation. The goal is to increase the integrity of the information by interviewing people in the moment to get real time data and information. Kari also shared that there is county-wide call for up to 250 volunteers.

4.1.2. Information Item: Coordinated Entry Ad Hoc Committee Update

Jack Lahey shared that he, Jane Renahan and County staff have been working on what this Ad Hoc Committee would look like. Because there are some complications with what is Brown Act body and what is not, it is still a little unclear what the structure of this Committee would be. The overall goal is to include as many voices as possible from different existing organizations and agencies.

4.1.3. Information Item: Street Medicine Update

Jack mentioned that there's an intention to circle back with the Health Department in re-collaborating for another meeting to discuss Street medicine. On the CAPSLO (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo) side, Jack shared that since the last convening, CHC (Community Health Center) has embedded a Nurse Practitioner and a Medical Doctor 4 days a week at the Prado 40 Center. Although they have not yet practiced traditional street medicine where they go out with the Outreach team, CHC has been integrating themselves into the services by seeing the participants at the Prado Shelter, as well as the overflow location. Jack also shared that if there's someone from the street outreach needing to see a Primary Care physician, they can contact Prado Shelter to set up an appointment. As for the actual on the ground street outreach, Jack reported that nothing has changed. They are joined by Allison Brandum from Public Health one day a week, and other days the Dignity Health team joins them.

Michael Azevedo from the 5 Cities area also reported that they go on their street outreach accompanied by Dignity Health team and Allison Brandum from Public Health. SLO Bangers also joins them to hand out supplies and help with clean ups.

Mimi Rodriguez shared that ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization) outreach has also been partnering with Nurse Allison, alongside a team from the City of Atascadero, Behavioral Health, and the Police Department. Mimi reported that they have seen a major success wherein a client they have been working with for the last two years had a significant physical improvement after being treated at the hospital as part of this outreach.

Laurel Weir mentioned that there's a separate street medicine effort called Vituity Cares Mobile Clinic that is happening in the different regions of the county right now. This is a physician's group that works in Dignity Health and has now partnered with the Octavia system in recording date, time, and other information for their street outreach.

4.1.4. Information Item: Warming Centers Update

Jack Lahey reported that right now Prado 40 shelter is the only warming shelter operating. He reiterated the need for more funding resources to continue operating warming center services in the county. He mentioned that they are seeing more people needing the services.

Michael Azevedo shared that they still don't have a warming shelter in the 5 Cities area. The quote that they received for the cleaning of the temporary building that they were going to rent was substantially higher than what they expected. The other building that will be a permanent location for their warming shelter is still undergoing renovations and expected to be completed in early January.

Abby Lassen shared that through Facebook posting, Aurora Williams has identified three churches willing to serve as warming shelters in the Paso Robles area.

4.1.5. Information Item: Behavioral Health Updates

Laurel Weir reported that the Behavioral Health Agency did a presentation last week to the Board of Supervisors on the future Behavioral Health plans regarding Crisis Stabilization Unit and asking for guidance to release Request for Information for a Behavioral Urgent Care Center. They want to have a 24/7 location for emergency behavioral health services where there is a walk-in and alternate drop off, do medical clearance, prescription, and medication services. They are in the beginning stages of planning and the agency is looking for potential partners to work with them. They are currently engaging in making a strategic plan and have a working group that has been identifying what resources the county currently has and identifying upcoming projects. One of those identified includes the Twin Cities Community Hospital in Templeton. Twin Cities Hospital received a grant to build an empath unit, a grant funded emergency psychiatric unit, and planning is under way. Empath Units are dedicated mental health spaces attached to emergency departments where mental health providers can evaluate and treat patients onsite allowing patients to be seen in a therapeutic setting and free up emergency department space. The Health Agency has been supporting Twin Cities Community Hospital in the application process. Laurel also mentioned that CenCal is leading separately the addition of a sobering center to the SLO County Health Agency campus. This center will provide an alternative to jail and the emergency department for people who require detention for intoxication. These patients may require mental health treatments as well and they can be transferred to either the Psychiatric Health Facility (PHF) or the Crisis Stabilization Unit, which are both steps away within the campus.

5. Future Discussion/Report Items

- Warming Centers update (regarding operations options)
- Street Medicine update (standing item)
- PIT Count update
- Access to Bathrooms
- Oklahoma update

6. Next Regular Meeting: January 8, 2024, at 9am

7. Adjournment

Jack adjourned the meeting at 11:00am