

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
Homeless Services Coordinating Committee
November 8th, 2021 10-11:30pm
Meeting held by Zoom call

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS
Brandy Graham Devin Drake Jack Lahey	John Klevins Nicole Bennett	Abby Lassen Angela Smith Anne Robin Carrie Collins Elaine Archer George Solis Jan Albin Janna Nichols Kari Bowron Laurel Weir Leon Shordon Mary Ann Reiss Michael Azevedo Riley Smith Steve Martin
AGENDA ITEM	CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS	
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Devin called the meeting to order at 10am.	
2. Public Comment	<p>Carrie reported that Transitional Food & Shelter (TFS) continues to carry out its work while waiting to find out what will happen to the six units they currently rent out, which are now on sale.</p> <p>Brandy commented that Veterans Affairs has announced a goal to house 500 homeless veterans in the Greater Los Angeles catchment area, which includes San Luis Obispo County.</p>	

	CAPSLO's (Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo)'s SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families) and HUD-VASH (US Department of Housing & Urban Development – Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing) teams will be involved in this effort, and will be reporting to a Regional Coordinator on the number of veterans housed from October 1 st .	
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes		Jack made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Brandy. The minutes were approved with all in favor, none opposed and no abstentions.
4. Action/Information/Discussion		
4.1. Discussion Item: Homeless Hiring Tax Credit	Laurel shared that new legislation at the State level allows for-profit employers to claim tax credits if they hire homeless persons. The documentation process for this will likely run through local CoCs (Continuums of Care). CoCs have suggested that the State and businesses work directly with CoC-funded agencies rather than directly with CoCs, which would be more burdensome. More information will follow.	
4.2. Discussion Item: Federal and State Grant Updates	George shared that SLO County CoC will soon be submitting its application for the HUD CoC Fiscal Year 2021 program. The application deadline for the Collaborative Application is November 16 th . George thanked all the agencies that have assisted with this process.	
4.2.1. Discussion Item:	George reported that, at the end of September, the CoC has	

<p>California Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus (ESG-CV)</p>	<p>submitted expenditures of \$628,000 for the California Emergency Solutions Grant – Coronavirus (CA ESG-CV) program, leaving around \$4.8 million left to expend. The final expenditure deadline is June 30th 2022. There are also expenditure milestones set out in the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act, including a 60% expenditure milestone on November 30th. Due to the delay in receiving the contract from HCD (California Department of Housing & Community Development), the CoC is not going to be able to reach this deadline. There has not been any indication yet that HCD are going to try to take this funding back if this expenditure deadline is not met.</p> <p>Janna shared that the majority of street outreach funds have been expended for 5CHC’s (5Cities Homeless Coalition) ESG-CV Round 1 grant with CAPSLO and ECHO (El Camino Homeless Organization). Funds have been reallocated from Homelessness Prevention to Emergency Shelter. The need for motel assistance has not been as high as was anticipated, so 5CHC will consider where else these funds can be allocated and bring this to the CoC.</p> <p>Carrie shared that TFS continue to prioritize COVID prevention and protection of vulnerable people. ESG-CV funding supports the costs of case management and care for units set aside for people with COVID or who would be susceptible to complications if they contracted COVID.</p> <p>Jack shared that CAPSLO has made less progress with its ESG-CV Round 2 funding than anticipated, as some clients who are prioritized due to COVID vulnerability have been unwilling to access resources.</p>	
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<p>4.2.2. Discussion Item: Emergency Housing Vouchers</p>	<p>Elaine shared that HASLO (Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo) has successfully leased up all vouchers awarded through the Emergency Housing Vouchers program. The original MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with HSOC anticipated leasing 75% of the vouchers by November 1st, and 100% by January 1st 2022, but the 100% target was actually reached before November 1st. HUD had previously suggested they would allocate more vouchers to communities that perform well through this program, but have now stated this will not happen until at least summer 2022.</p>	
<p>4.2.3. Discussion Item: Encampment Resolution Funding Program (ERF)</p>	<p>Laurel reported that the State has released an RFA (Request for Applications) for a new Encampment Resolution Funding (ERF) program. This is a competitive grant program for which approximately \$47.5 million is available statewide. Eligible applicants are cities, counties and CoCs. Cities of any size can apply, which is unusual as typically only a small number of 'large cities' are eligible for State grants. Applications are due December 31st. This is a very specialized grant program, looking for proposals to address particular encampments (ideally of at least 50 people) and not for community-wide efforts. The State wants to see other funding leveraged. Eligible activities include direct services and some capacity building, such as training and services coordination. This funding program is a one time emergency allocation of funds. The State is interested in scalable approaches. An applicants conference will be held on November 19th. More information can be found here: https://www.bcsb.ca.gov/hcfc/documents/encampment_rfa.pdf</p>	
<p>4.3. Discussion Item: Safe</p>	<p>Laurel shared that the County has expanded capacity at its Kansas Avenue safe parking site from 24 vehicles up to 50.</p>	

<p>Parking and Alternatives to Encampments</p>	<p>There have been issues at this site with showers backing up due to reaching capacity. The County is in the process of connecting the showers to a sewer lateral to alleviate this problem. The County has also ordered a new set of showers that are ADA-compliant, but these may not be available until the end of February due to supply chain issues.</p> <p>SLO City is temporarily closing down its railroad safe parking program while making changes to the site. Jack shared that CAPSLO have been informing people about the closure, and that going forward they will be stricter about the 7pm-7am timing of the program, as vehicles being there outside of these hours has caused concern within the community.</p> <p>Laurel shared that the County is in the process of hiring a new Program Manager to focus on Safe Parking. More information will follow.</p> <p>Michael and Janna shared that the City of Grover Beach has begun clearing out one of the encampments near El Camino Real. The City has been clearing vegetation for the last three weeks, and have now moved on to clearing out trash. The City's concerns were fear of fires in the area. This encampment clear out has been done with consultation and consideration of the needs of homeless people in the encampment.</p> <p>Anne shared that she and Laurel have been looking into the service gaps that exist in helping people to engage and move on from homelessness. Feedback from agencies is welcome. More information will follow.</p> <p>Jan asked if everyone from the Palisades Avenue encampment has now been moved to the Kansas Avenue site. The Committee</p>	
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	<p>confirmed this is ongoing, with CAPSLO attempting to encourage people to relocate. Some people have begun to leave, particularly those in vehicles, but others have remained at Palisades.</p>	
<p>4.4. Discussion Item: 2022 Point in Time (PIT) Count</p>	<p>George reported that the County is moving forward with the planning process for the 2022 PIT (Point in Time) Count. This will take place on January 26th (with January 27th as the backup date in case of inclement weather). HUD is revising its requirement so that the full sheltered and unsheltered Count will now be required on even years. The County has held planning meetings with the vendor ASR (Applied Survey Research) and service providers. Volunteer recruitment will be more difficult than in previous years, so there will be more reliance on service provider street outreach teams. The plan is to divide up the County census maps by agency and location. The County and vendor are working on a way for allowing people to sign up to volunteer without going through the agencies.</p>	
<p>4.5. Discussion Item: COVID-19 Updates</p>		
<p>4.5.1. Discussion Item: COVID Vaccine Outreach Efforts</p>	<p>Abby shared that the last meeting between TMHA (Transitions Mental Health Association) and County Public Health for planning vaccine outreach took place on October 12th. The focus was on prioritizing outreach in the City of SLO. Booster shots are now available for those who are unhoused, whether in a congregate facility or at risk of complications due to COVID.</p> <p>Jack shared that CAPSLO and CHC (Community Health Centers) have been working on getting vaccines and booster shots on a</p>	

	rolling basis for people staying at 40 Prado.	
5. Future Discussion/Report Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medically acute cases – what resources are available, how providers could better coordinate (Jack). 	
6. Next Meeting Date: January 10, 2022		
7. Adjournment	Devin adjourned the meeting at 11:20am.	