

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
October 29, 2013, 8:00 – 10:00 AM
SLO County Government Center
4th Floor, Conference Room A**

MEMBERS PRESENT		MEMBERS EXCUSED	STAFF & EXTERNAL GUESTS	
Debbie Arnold	John Ashbaugh	Jim Guthrie	Laurel Weir	Martin Meltz
Lee Collins			Dana Lilley	Dee Torres
Jeff Hamm				

AGENDA ITEM	REPORT/DISCUSSION	CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS	FOLLOW UP
1. Call to Order	The meeting was called by Supervisor Arnold.		
2. Public Comment	<p>Martin Meltz announced the Five Cities Homeless Coalition held a successful fundraiser and another at Trilogy this past weekend. He also mentioned that the People’s Kitchen in Grover Beach was in danger of closing and losing their space.</p> <p>Martin Meltz asked HSOC to discuss NIMBY and how it is a problem. Dee Torres said that it is not just NIMBY that is the problem, and said that a lot of people are experiencing problems with homeless people and there are serious issues that need to be addressed. She stressed that case management is needed on the streets, schools, and directly for individuals. If there was the potential for additional outreach workers, she maintained significant changes could be made in the County.</p> <p>Supervisor Arnold asked if AB109 funds could provide for outreach workers. Dee Torres answered that only one on her staff is funded by AB109 and the rest of the case management money is targeted for certain needs.</p>		
BUSINESS			
3. Chairmen’s Remarks	Supervisor Arnold stated that CAPSLO did a nice job with the dinner for Prado and announced there will be		

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	a re-distribution of CDBG funding.		
<p>4. Homeless Enumeration</p> <p>4.1.1.1 Action Item: Vote to endorse summary of the key findings from the 2013 Homeless Point in Time Count</p>	<p>Laurel Weir announced that Applied Survey Research completed the Point in Time count report. The report is a snapshot, but is an incomplete picture without annual data such as school and HMIS data. She announced HSOC had convened an Ad Hoc committee that put together a summary comparing the 2013 Point in Time count data to 2011 data and identifying key themes. Some differences identified by the Committee were that in 2011, the survey used the broader, U.S. Department of Education definition of homelessness that includes families living doubled up with other families, and in 2013, the narrower HUD definition was used that excludes such families. The count in 2011 also included homeless children who were homeless at any point from September 2010-January 2011, whereas the 2013 count counted only those who were homeless at a single point in time in January 2013. Because of these differences, it may appear that overall homelessness has decreased since 2011, which is incorrect.</p> <p>Dee Torres said that it can be troublesome to lump doubled up kids together with the homeless kids on streets in the enumeration data. She expressed concern that resources would then be re-directed to kids placed with families rather than those on the streets who need it more.</p> <p>Lee Collins asked if money has been re-directed as a result of an enumeration. Dee Torres answered that private donors can be lost along with community support.</p> <p>Laurel Weir stated that the press release will only contain the key themes.</p>		

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	<p>Lee Collins said that not all children in schools are doubled up, some are on the streets, but there is no way to know the breakdown within the school count. Dee Torres mentioned that some kids were double counted in 2011 and stated HMIS data may be more accurate, noting that it has given her countywide staff a good handle on who is homeless.</p> <p>John Ashbaugh asked if the second key theme should indicate that the majority of the homeless plan to stay in county.</p> <p>Lee Collins noted that 9.6% is a significant increase in child homeless population and is a key data element.</p> <p>Supervisor Arnold suggested wording be changed to “significant increase in the homeless children population counted by schools”.</p> <p>Martin Meltz suggested putting key themes after “Background” and adding “please review other data”.</p> <p>John Ashbaugh made a motion that the Ad Hoc Committee’s summary be approved, with the change recommended by Supervisor Arnold and moving the key themes after the background.</p>	<p>Motion made by John Ashbaugh. Motion seconded by Jeff Hamm. Motion unanimously approved.</p>	
<p>4.2 Discussion item: Emergency Solutions Grant, Community Development Block Grant and Continuum of Care Competition Update</p>	<p>Dana Lilley announced that the Board voted to approve allocations for the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and General Fund. He stated that in the coming year, Planning would be marrying the General Fund grants for homeless assistance with the budget, attaching all agencies and their funding amount to budget in June. They will be soliciting applications for 2014/2015 ESG, CDBG, and General Fund funding from non-profits and those applications would be due in one week. Most of the applications will be renewal contracts for similar</p>		

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	<p>allocation amounts (similar to the previous year). The General Fund dollars usually go to smaller non-profits who have a hard time qualifying for Federal funding. Dana Lilley expressed satisfaction that these allocations passed with little controversy in hearing..</p> <p>Chairman Arnold asked Dana Lilley to email the Supervisors about the 2014-2015 funding so the Supervisors could notify the non-profits that may wish to apply.</p> <p>Dana Lilley said there is \$180K for support to organizations helping the homeless, and there will be extra money for immediate need items such as bed bug removal and warming stations.</p> <p>Dee Torres asked what the criteria was for a small vs. big non-profit. Supervisor Arnold stated that smaller organizations don't have the staff for reporting required for Federal funding and administrative work. She stated this is about being smarter with this money and allocating it appropriately.</p> <p>Dana Lilley added that HUD practically prohibits money to smaller non-profits and they are monitoring their involvement as a grant administrator. He mentioned \$750K given by the federal HOME program for an apartment complex in Cambria and how HUD may ask for the money back soon if not completed. There have been complications in progressing due to the water shortage but permits are now forthcoming. The federal office in DC can extend it but they are afraid of bad press, Lilley has been told.</p> <p>Laurel Weir stated that while she worked in Washington DC, she had observed that a member of Congress could weigh in on behalf of a community.</p>		

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	<p>Dana Lilley responded that Lois Capps' office had been alerted. Supervisor Arnold also mentioned she could contact a friend at Senator Feinstein's office if additional help was needed.</p> <p>Laurel Weir stated that she has seen some communities successfully request extensions when legislators intervened prior to the passage of the deadline. Because there are unique circumstances in this case, HUD may be able to work with them if it is explained and if HUD still has authority to grant extensions.</p> <p>Dana Lilley said that it could take another 3-5 years until construction is complete and that is if the locals do not appeal with Coastal Community, as they have made mention they would do. He is asking for 2 years.</p> <p>Supervisor Arnold suggested sending an inquiry to Senators to get their attention and asking for two years, citing Supervisor and Community support. Laurel Weir noted that Senators on the appropriations or oversight committees may have better understanding of HUD requirements than Senators who do not work regularly with HUD.</p> <p>Dana Lilley stated that he was concerned about damaging their relationship with HUD, as Santa Barbara now has to pay back \$3million in funding after having a HUD inspector visit. Supervisor Arnold noted that Santa Barbara did not have the same special circumstances SLO had (i.e. Water issue).</p>		
4.3 Nomination Process to replace members who are rotating off HSOC in 2014	Laurel Weir announced that she has been receiving applications for membership on HSOC to fill slots that will become available once some current members' terms expire and they rotate off. Members currently scheduled to rotate off include Mary Parker, who is a		

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	<p>community representative, and Patti Diefenderfer, who represented Community Health Centers of the Central Coast (CHC). HSOC's Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to consider the applications and will vote on the applications. The Nominating Committee will then bring their recommendations to the full HSOC..</p> <p>Martin Meltz asked if applications had been received for the faith-based position. Laurel Weir replied that they had not. Martin Meltz recommended Bob Crouch from the Pismo Faith for Justice group. John Ashbaugh also recommended Robert Reed from Unitarian Church, who works with homeless in SLO.</p> <p>Laurel Weir agreed to reach out those groups. She noted the new member recommendations will be taken to the full HSOC in November and to the Board of Supervisors in January.</p>		
4.4 Update on 100K Homes Campaign Effort	<p>Laurel Weir said that the Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo (HASLO) has tentatively offered 50 vouchers to serve the most vulnerable homeless persons, with two conditions: 1) that case management be provided and 2) that Federal sequestration does not continue.</p> <p>Jeff Hamm asked if there would be zero vouchers available if budget cuts continued or if there would just be less of them. Laurel Weir answered that typically during past budget cuts, voucher programs were the least likely to be cut but we should know in next two months if they are planning to continue an across-the-board sequestration or if the cuts would be more targeted.</p> <p>Dee Torres said that HASLO has provided them with housing and is currently partnering with the Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo (CAPSLO). The case management requirement is</p>		

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	<p>important to HASLO and they are requesting one experienced provider who has worked closely with the chronically homeless but they need funding for it.</p> <p>Supervisor Arnold asked if the Affordable Care Act will help fund such a case management position. Jeff Hamm answered that it depends who provides the services, if they can get them into CHC it is possible because CHC will now be reimbursed from Medi-Cal. Supervisor Arnold noted this would give case managers more support.</p> <p>Jeff Hamm stated that there are limitations placed on the CHC under the ACA about what type of mental health services they can provide and where. He noted that County Mental Health has been criticized in the past for not providing these services because there was no Medi-Cal reimbursement to cover their costs. He is not sure, however, if either the County or CHC could bill Medi-Cal for outreach services they take out into the field.</p> <p>John Ashbaugh stated that the collaboration between CAPSLO and CHC needs to be strong. Jeff Hamm said that there will be a cap for clinical service delivery and the CHC only has one building that will reach mental health capacity and will need to match up with clinicians.</p> <p>Martin Meltz asked if there is a possibility of working with TMHA as potential player. Jeff Hamm answered yes but it is not definite.</p> <p>John Ashbaugh said there are people that are excluded from Prado that still need CHC care. Jeff Hamm answered that this is where the gap exists because these people can't go to CHC but do not qualify for the</p>		

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	<p>County's mental health services if they do not meet the severity criteria. This mostly applies to the chronically mentally ill who Medi-Cal will now help.</p> <p>Jeff Hamm asked how chronic mental illness weights in the survey for the 100K Homes Campaign. Laurel Weir answered that there would be a meeting Friday to start considering a Vulnerability Index. She noted HUD requires a coordinated assessment tool.</p> <p>Dee Torres asked how to keep the Vulnerability Index current and asked if once established it would be used to dictate priorities in the shelters. She added that HASLO also wants some kind of priority list to ensure they are housing the most vulnerable first. Laurel Weir answered that HASLO has said a tool is important and will involve making alterations to waiting list based on need. She said that the HSOC recommendations for case management would be taken to the Board of Supervisors the following week.</p> <p>Supervisor Arnold said there are VA vouchers available and that they should help since many homeless are also veterans. She asked if HASLO was unable to provide vouchers due to sequestration would it stall or put HSOC in limbo. Laurel Weir answered that the Board item was not an action item, and she will come back with more info once the recommendations are made to the Board and more is known about sequestration.</p> <p>Supervisor Arnold mentioned the LINK's board and asked if success would be measured. Laurel Weir answered that 50 new beds would be a significant increase over the 32 permanent, supportive housing beds that are currently funded through the Continuum of Care.</p>		

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5. Committee/Ad Hoc Committee Updates	<p><u>Housing:</u> John Ashbaugh said in the last meeting they looked at the 180/180 program in Santa Cruz and though it provided insight it is not necessarily directly applicable here. He said the 100K Homes campaign will be a fundamental transformation in how the chronically homeless are handled.</p> <p>Laurel Weir mentioned when you give out a voucher finding out how and where they can use it is important. Santa Cruz has set up volunteer “Housing Navigators” to assist with this. Martin Meltz added that Santa Cruz also has Volunteer Coordinators.</p> <p><u>Supportive Services:</u> Jeff Hamm has met with hospitals to discuss care coordination. Medical care costs are driving the Vulnerability Index. Santa Cruz has come up with a robust plan and he is planning to discuss it with his peers there.</p> <p>Jeff Hamm stated that the last four meetings of the Supportive Services committee have focused on challenges in discharging people from jails and hospitals to somewhere other than to homelessness. In the next meeting they will brainstorm ideas.</p> <p><u>Finance and Data:</u> Lee Collins said that the last meeting was spent working on fine tuning the key findings of the enumeration and receiving members’ feedback and amendments.</p> <p>John Ashbaugh asked if there was an intended release</p>		

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	date. Laurel Weir answered later this week.		
Next Meeting Date	Next meeting date was set for Dec. 2, 2013, 8-10am.		
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned at 9:55 AM		