

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
Executive Committee
March 5, 2015, 10:00am-12:00pm
County Government Center
1055 Monterey Street
4nd Floor, Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT		MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS	
Debbie Arnold	John Ashbaugh		Laurel Weir	Morgan Torell
Christine Johnson	Patty Beck		Amber Nichols	Martin Meltz
			CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS	FOLLOW UP
1. Call to Order and Introductions of Guests	Supervisor Arnold welcomed the group and they introduced themselves to each other.			
2. Public Comment	<p>Martin Meltz urged HSOC to focus on the following over the next year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To encourage the Housing Committee to look at non-traditional low income housing. 2. Looking at ways to foster employment development for recently housed homeless. 3. Looking into establishing warming stations for next Fall. <p>Laurel Weir stated that she met with Mayor Steve Martin in Paso Robles. He was interested in doing a pilot program where they would have a resource fair for homeless persons once a month, similar to "Project Homeless Connect" in other communities, for up to three months. Service providers would come and provide services, such as health care, and help connect people to programs and services for which they qualify.</p> <p>Martin Meltz stated that homeless organizations are looking into training mentors (non-professionals) to assign to specific homeless clients at the resource even who they think might benefit.</p>			
3. ACTION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION				
3.1 Membership Update – Pending	Laurel Weir stated there were three new membership appointments that were soon to be considered by the			

<p>appointments and current vacancies</p>	<p>Board of Supervisors for appointment to HSOC. They were Dee Torres for the Interested Community Member seat, Jessica Thomas, who was applying to renew her term for the K-12 School District seat, and Tracy Schiro who was applying to replace Lee Collins in the County Government seat.</p> <p>The group discussed concerns that the current HSOC membership rotation process could result in rotating off critical members, such as the Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo, without a natural replacement. Supervisor Arnold suggested considering changing the HSOC bylaws to allow the leaders of certain organizations rather than creating a vacancy that cannot be filled, or that could only be filled by someone more junior in the organization. The group discussed the possibility of changing the 2 Affordable Housing seats to 1 HASLO seat, and 1 Affordable Housing seat and looking into other options. Morgan Torell and Laurel Weir were asked to follow up with the Clerk Recorder's office about Maddy Act concerns and then bring a proposal for the HSOC to consider at the March meeting.</p>		
<p>3.2 2015 Point In Time Count Update</p>	<p>Laurel Weir announced that the 2015 PIT Count was done January 26, 2015. Overall the Count appeared to go smoothly. She stated that that South County groups reported that sweeps were done by the Police or other entities in Arroyo Grande and Grover Beach of two of the largest camps in the weeks just prior to the Count. Kristen Barneich (HSOC Rep in Arroyo Grande) is looking into what happened, as she had requested that the Arroyo Grande police not conduct sweeps just before the Count to ensure an accurate count. In Grover Beach it reportedly was CalTrans that had done the sweep.</p> <p>Results on the Count will not be available for several months, as additional data must be gathered. Demographic information will be obtained through follow up surveys of a sampling of homeless persons</p>		

	<p>around the County. Additional data will also be collected from the jail (only for persons released in the evening following the street count), as well as schools and those being moteled by homeless organizations temporarily. This data will be added to the total number counted. Applied Survey Research (ASR), the company contracted to do the Point in Time count, will work to compile and summarize all the data. A final report is expected by July.</p>		
<p>3.3 Update on Rapid Rehousing Programs including Supportive Services for Veteran Families, CalWORKs, Housing Support Program, the Emergency Solutions Grant Rapid ReHousing Program, and the Klaproad funded program</p>	<p>Laurel Weir stated that the new rapid re-housing programs - Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), CalWORKs Housing Support Program, and Klaproad - are now operating and beginning to house people. As expected, the lack of affordable rental units is the biggest barrier to housing clients.</p> <p>Regarding the SSVF program, Laurel reported the VA has requested all surge communities to come up with a “take down” number, so that each community across the country can get to zero homeless Vets by the end of the year. Our County’s goal is for an estimated 20 Vets per month to be housed, as there are approximately 237 or so homeless Vets in SLO County, though some are families. Because the rental subsidy that each household receives ends rather quickly, they must be on a fast track to getting employment, and also have to have housing that is affordable. For this reason, SSVF providers are suggesting to single veterans that they consider sharing a house or apartment with another veteran to make the rent more affordable</p> <p>Laurel reported DSS has contracted Anne Wyatt part time to act as a Housing Navigator for this program and to look into vacant units that exist around the County to see who may be willing to put vacant units back on the market.</p> <p>SSVF is hosting a kick-off event next month for existing landlords as well as potential new landlords</p>		

	<p>to get them interested in supporting the program. More information will be distributed once the location is identified.</p>		
<p>3.4 Update on Permanent Housing Programs, including 50 Now, U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development – U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, and the Continuum of Care program</p>	<p>As of this date 23 people have been housed by 50 Now. Transitions Mental Health Association has also acquired a 3 bedroom that would house three more soon, so the halfway mark will be achieved shortly. No one that has been housed has been back to Jail, since they have been housed. The first report will be sent to the Board around May. So far the Housing First model seems to be on track. Clients have been housed in a mixture of congregate housing (for singles) and individual units (for families and parents with children).</p> <p>HUD VASH has housed 93 Veterans, and another 33 with vouchers were out looking for housing.</p> <p>Patty Beck stated that while TMHA received a Community Foundation grant for the cost of beds/mattresses for 50 Now, the VA did not have a similar grant. She was working with Dana Cummings from the VSO office to work on a proposal to apply for the next cycle of grants through the Community Foundation. Patty Beck also asked if she could meet with Supervisor Arnold’s legislative assistants to see about the possibility of getting a storage unit for a year. .</p> <p>Laurel Weir reported that we did not receive bonus funding through the Continuum of Care competition this year. We believed we scored well on the overall grant competition, including past performance and need, but there was only a small amount of bonus funding and it was given to a small number of Continuums.</p>		
<p>3.4.1 HUD Continuum of Care grant – possible timing changes for Fiscal Year 2015 funding competition</p>	<p>Laurel Weir reported that the Continuum of Care application process was expected to begin much earlier this year than last year. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) could come out as soon as May. A</p>		

	<p>special HSOC meeting may need to be held in an off month, depending on the timing of the NOFA.</p>		
<p>3.5 Discussion of approach for gathering and providing input to the Board regarding barriers to Housing Choice Voucher utilization</p>	<p>Laurel Weir reported that the Board of Supervisors had recently asked the Homeless Services Oversight Council to provide input to Board regarding a proposed legislative agenda item to support efforts to prohibit landlord discrimination against Housing Choice Voucher holders. Some local landlords currently state in their rental ads that they do not accept Housing Choice Vouchers.</p> <p>Supervisor Arnold stated that under current law landlords do not have to accept Housing Choice Vouchers even if the prospective tenants are otherwise qualified. There was legislation that would be proposed at the State level that would require landlords to accept these vouchers if the clients were otherwise qualified. Supervisor Arnold said that she was hearing from Landlords that some of the reason they were not willing to accept Section 8 vouchers was partially due to the bureaucracy involved in having to have inspections, etc. She expressed concern that requiring them to participate in the program could be detrimental to landlord relationships that were already being fostered and was afraid such legislation would drive away potential landlords.</p> <p>The group discussed the Board of Supervisors request for input from the HSOC regarding this issue. The Committee suggested the HSOC Housing Committee discuss this at the next meeting on March 17th and at the full HSOC meeting on March 18th, talk about the desired approach for gathering information. The goal would be for the HSOC to vote on the recommendation at the May meeting.</p>		
<p>4. Committee Reports</p>	<p>Patty Beck stated they had the first meeting of the Homeless Services Coordinating Council at CAPSLO. There was much coordination going on due to all of</p>		

	the new programs that were now up and running. It might take another meeting to assign task forces for specific tasks that they hoped to accomplish. She thought it had broadened the base of who was communicating with HSOC.		
5. Future Discussion/Report Items:			
3. Next Meeting Date	TBD		
4. Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 11:59am by Supervisor Arnold.		