

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
Executive Committee
6/4/2015, 1:00-3:00pm
County Government Center
1055 Monterey Street
4nd Floor, Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & OTHERS	
Debbie Arnold Patty Beck John Ashbaugh Tracy Schiro	Martin Meltz	Laurel Weir Morgan Torell Jessica Lorange	
AGENDA ITEM		CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS	FOLLOW UP
1. Call to Order and Introductions of Guests	Debbie Arnold called the meeting to order and introduced guests		
2. Public Comment	Martin Meltz sent notes that were shared with the group that there was a recently published op-ed article about unaccompanied children.		
3. Action/Information/Discussion			
3.1 50 Now Survey Update and Discussion of Services Needs	<p>Laurel shared an update on the 50 Now Program. The second round of Vulnerability Index surveys was just completed. The Vulnerability Index is used to prioritize persons for the 50 Now program.</p> <p>Approximately 223 individuals had been surveyed to date in the most recent round. There were only 23 persons surveyed in this round who had been surveyed in the first round last August. Between the two surveys, there were nearly 500 unique individuals surveyed.</p> <p>For the most recent round, we got the survey respondents' permission to enter their information into HMIS. This will help us to learn what percentage of persons had ever accessed services before and if they access HMIS participating services after the survey.</p> <p>For the most recent round, they sought to use the process as an opportunity to try to connect more people to services, in</p>		

	<p>addition to prioritizing the most vulnerable persons for the 50 Now program. If the persons indicated they were veterans during the survey, they were asked for permission to refer them to the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program and referrals were made. The SSVF program may also refer veterans to the HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program. If a veteran was selected for 50 Now, but might also be eligible for HUD-VASH, Transitions Mental Health Association (TMHA) will work with the VA to see if the veteran could be placed with the HUD-VASH program. If they are not eligible for HUD-VASH, they could still be placed with 50 Now.</p> <p>John Ashbaugh asked how 50 Now chose who was to be surveyed? Laurel replied that typically, everyone at the survey site who was willing would be surveyed. She also noted that only a small number of persons declined to be surveyed.</p> <p>Morgan Torell asked if individuals from the Top 50 list from the first round would be bumped from the list. Laurel responded that all persons from the first round had been contacted prior to the second round and had been housed or had either not been eligible (e.g. persons who were registered sex offenders), had moved out of the area or were unfindable, or had declined to participate.</p> <p>Patty asked if persons who were very ill would have been overlooked. Laurel replied that at least one hospital in each region was participating in this round to help survey or refer clients to be surveyed. Transitional Food and Shelter, which provides medical respite care to homeless persons recently discharged from the hospital who are too sick to be discharged to the streets or shelter, also surveyed their clients. They also reached out to meal programs, the Community Health Center's Health Care for the Homeless Program, the jail, and homeless</p>		
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	<p>service agencies. She noted that there would be more individuals potentially eligible than there would be housing available., so there would be some persons who were vulnerable but who would not make it into the program because there were others even more vulnerable than them.</p>		
<p>3.2 Update on CalWORKs Housing Support Program Grant</p>	<p>Tracy Schiro reported that 74 homeless families had been placed into permanent housing by the California Work Opportunity and Responsibility to Kids (CalWORKs) Housing Support Program (HSP) since December 2014. Tracy also reported that the County was providing HSP and other County Department of Social Services (DSS) funding to help Family Care Network purchase. Eight of the units would be used to house homeless families who were DSS program participants, and one unit would be set aside for an on-site property manager.</p> <p>She noted there were some families currently occupying the units prior to purchase and if those households were DSS participants, they would be given the option of remaining in the units, or, if they were not participants and not eligible to participate, they would be given relocation assistance and receive housing subsidies for more than one year</p> <p>She reported that DSS anticipates the state would renew the CalWORKs HSP funding for the next fiscal year at at least the same amount that the County received for the Fiscal Year 2014-15.</p> <p>John Ashbaugh asked about the cost to acquire the housing. Tracy replied that it was approximately \$1.2 or 1.3 million for this project. She noted DSS was modeling it after the transitional housing for youth aging out of foster care, which has been successful. The units would be for families who had been involved in Child Welfare and had done everything asked of them to re-unify with their children and homeless families</p>		

	<p>participating in the CalWORKs program.</p> <p>She explained that the program would subsidize the costs of rent so that families could stabilize. Over time, the families would be responsible for contributing rent, but the rent would continue to be affordable. The families will get case management and education on how to get a job, promote, stay clean, and work together as a family. Services will be available for these individuals and their families.</p> <p>She noted that DSS had been receiving thank you letters from some of the families who had been housed, sharing how happy and relieved they were to be in their new homes. She noted DSS had only received complaints by one advocate about 2 families and had worked with the two families to address those situations.</p> <p>She also reported that DSS had sheltered some families in motels over the winter, but that situation was not working well and wasn't in keeping with the Housing First model, so DSS had stopped placing families into motels and was focusing on getting the families into permanent housing first. She noted that families who were not sheltered in motels found housing at higher rates than those sheltered in the motels. She mentioned that motels still would continue to be used, but rarely and only in special circumstances, such as when a parent or child was very medically fragile (e.g. a newborn).</p>		
<p>3.3 Discussion of Anticipated Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Availability</p>	<p>Laurel shared with the group that the Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Availability was expected to be published soon. Nonprofits that currently receive funding will be given an opportunity to apply for renewal funding and there is expected to be a small amount of competitive, bonus funding</p>		

	<p>that any interested group could apply for to provide permanent supportive housing to chronically homeless persons. The County will be asked to once again rank applications for renewal funding and will convene an Ad Hoc Grant Review Committee to assist with ranking.</p> <p>Patty mentioned the discussion at HSOC in the last round of Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding and asked whether the HSOC should consider whether there should be some connection between the amount given to each agency and the number of persons it would serve with those funds.</p> <p>Morgan Torell noted that U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) rules about its Continuum of Care (CoC) grant funds were more rigid than the ESG rules and effectively restricted renewal funding to groups that were already receiving CoC funding. Bonus funds could potentially be awarded for permanent supportive housing to groups that weren't already CoC subgrantees, but HUD guidelines limited the use of bonus funding to supportive housing and ensured that it would be used almost exclusively for persons who were chronically homeless .</p>		
4.Committee Reports	<p>Committee Reports: John Ashbaugh reported the Housing Committee had no new reports since the full HSOC meeting two weeks ago. Patty Beck reported the Homeless Services Coordinating Committee would be holding a meeting in South County in July. Tracy Schiro reported the Finance and Data Committee had met in May and focused on the Point in Time Count survey follow up. She noted the Committee also approved a written description of the scope and focus of the Committee.</p>		

5. Future Discussion/Report Items:	Patty Beck mentioned People’s Kitchen was seeing a lower number of persons attending their meal programs. Marty Meltz reported the County’s Workforce Investment Board had been taking some positive steps forward. Also, he reported that Henkles and McCoy would be the new agency overseeing subsidized employment programs for youth ages 15-24 (or 21 depending on the program).		
6. Next Meeting Date:	August 12, 2015 1-3pm		
7. Adjournment	Debbie Arnold adjourned the meeting at 3:05pm		