

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL  
 HSOC FINANCE AND DATA COMMITTEE MEETING  
 February 1, 2016, 1:00-3:00pm  
 Department of Social Services  
 Room 101**

| <b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>  | <b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>  | <b>STAFF &amp; GUESTS</b>      |                  |
|---|--|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Jessica Thomas<br>Marty Meltz<br>Tracy Schiro                       |  | Laurel Weir<br>Jessica Lorange |                  |
| <b>AGENDA ITEM</b>  |  | <b>CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS</b>     | <b>FOLLOW UP</b> |
| 1. Call to Order and Introductions of Guests                        | Tracy Schiro welcomed the group.   |                                |                  |
| 2. Public Comment   | NA   |                                |                  |
| <b>ACTION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION</b>                                |  |                                |                  |
| 3.1 Discussion- Preparing for the 2017 Homeless Point in Time Count | <p>Laurel shared with the group that at a previous HSOC meeting a suggestion was made to conduct a Registry Week using the Vulnerability Index-Services Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) at the same time as conducting a Point in Time Count. This method would allow the County to build a by name list of homeless persons, as suggested by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, that can be used to help better coordinate homeless assistance. It would also allow for deduplication of the list with data from other systems.</p> <p>The HSOC will need to consider several factors when deciding whether or not to pursue the combined</p> |                                |                  |

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
|  | <p>option:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Additional contract cost.<br/>The agency that conducts the PIT Count study design, volunteer training, and data analysis would likely charge more for the larger effort</li> <br/> <li>2. Increased volunteer needs.<br/><br/>Santa Barbara County does a combined survey and Point in Time Count. Santa Barbara County has slightly fewer homeless people than San Luis Obispo County and similar geography, so we can get an idea of what might be required for our County. Santa Barbara used between 600-800 volunteers.<br/><br/>If the HSOC approved the combined model, more volunteer trainings would be needed as well as more volunteers.</li> <br/> <li>3. Planning for approaching encampments<br/><br/>Our County has previously used a visual counting effort that did not require waking or approaching persons in encampments. To conduct surveys of people in encampment rather than just counting from a distance requires using currently or formerly homeless guides known to encampments, and creating incentives of value.<br/><br/>During San Luis Obispo County's last PIT Count there were individuals that helped conducting outreach in the encampments. These individuals were often familiar with the encampments and the residents as they were typically previously homeless themselves.<br/><br/>Marty recommended the volunteer resources, like those that have the experience from working with</li> </ol> |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|

the warming shelter, and creating a volunteer calendar.

4. Additional gift cards/incentives (approximately \$8800 for gift cards/fees/administration)

5. Extended PIT Count days- 3 to 5 day survey.

6. Database and software- Santa Barbara County paid \$15,000 for database and software, plus monthly contract fees. San Luis Obispo County currently has a database it uses for VI-SPDAT data however, this software currently is not set up to provide the reports needed by HUD.

7. Additional supplies and donated goods needed.

The group supports the integration. Laurel informed the group that they are welcome to give feed back or input before the idea is brought to the Full HSOC Committee.

Marty noted this integration is feasible due to Santa Barbara having similar numbers and demographics to San Luis Obispo County. Tracy recommended the possibility of permitting government staff to help as volunteers during the PIT Count.

Laurel indicated that additional funding may need to be sought for the Count. For the last Point in Time Count, the Cities of Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo contributed funds.

Jessica asked that the process of asking schools for data start soon. Laurel and Jessica will look at the possibility of an Memorandum of Understanding to allow the County Office of Education to share names of families for the purpose of de-duplicating the list.

|  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p>3.2 Discussion- Using the VI-SPDAT to prioritize clients for Continuum of Care funded permanent, supportive housing</p> | <p>Laurel explained to the group that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) would like Continuums of Care (CoCs) to use an established screening tool to prioritize chronically homeless persons for HUD funded permanent, supportive housing. HUD is also asking CoCs to make length of time homeless a factor in the ranking.</p> <p>HUD has recently changed the definition of chronically homeless, such that to be considered chronically homeless, a person must have a disability and 1) have been homeless for a full year continuously, or 2) have been homeless for a full year cumulatively over the past four years.</p> <p>The Continuum of Care grantees have agreed to use the VI-SPDAT version 2.0 to prioritize persons for housing units in the future. The VI-SPDAT 2.0 is being integrated with Homeless Management Information System required questions and a database will be built in the Spring that will allow people to be prioritized based on VI-SPDAT scores and the length of time that a person has been homeless.</p> |  |  |
| <p>4. Future Discussion/Report Items:</p>  | <p>Marty recommended that an HSOC quarterly newsletter start being sent out in order to inform every one of the changes and ongoing events. Marty volunteered to help put this newsletter together. The idea can be brought to the Executive HSOC Committee.</p>  |  |  |
| <p>5. Next Meeting Date:</p>   | <p>The April 4, 2016 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. meeting time has been changed to April 11, 2016 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.</p>  |  |  |
| <p>6. Adjournment</p>  | <p>Tracy adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.</p>   |  |  |

