

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
Full HSOC COMMITTEE
March 18, 2015, 1:00-3:00pm
SLO Vet's Hall
801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo
Lounge Room

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS		
Debbie Arnold John Ashbaugh Kristen Barneich Christine Johnson Dee Torres Christina Bearce Jim Patterson Patty Beck Rick Gulino Grace McIntosh Mariam Shah Steve Martin (Alt. for Jim Reed) Anne Robin Jennifer Kirn Jessica Thomas Tracy Schiro Dana Cummings Amy Christey Theresa Scott Danielle Veatch	Shirley Wright Marie Chaney Marianne Kennedy Bob Kelley Sheila Blake Jim Reed	Laurel Weir Morgan Torell Amber Nichols Emily Jackson Scott Smith Mike Ostash Jill Bolster-White Robert Ellis Lee Collins Martin Meltz Karen Bren Suzan Ehdaie		
AGENDA ITEM			CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS	FOLLOW UP
1. Call to Order and Introductions of Guests	Supervisor Arnold welcomed the group and introductions were made.			
2. Public Comment	Morgan Torell stated that more CDBG funding was awarded than originally anticipated, and so cuts to programs were not as much as expected. Scott Smith announced that they are holding a ground opening for their South Street apartments tomorrow. Dana Cummings announced that the Vets Stand Down			

	this year will be May 14-15, and any interested agencies must turn in their logos by April 1.		
3. Approval of Minutes	The previous meeting minutes were reviewed and approved without changes.	Motion: John Ashbaugh Second: Jim Patterson Motion approved with abstentions from Tracy Schiro, Jennifer Kirn and Amy Christey	
ACTION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION			
4. 1 Update on Supportive Services for Veteran Families Program 4.1.1 Action Item: Recommend the Board of Supervisors that they pass a resolution in support of efforts in the County to get to a “functional zero” for homelessness among veterans by the end of 2015	<p>Laurel Weir stated that the VA has initiated a challenge to each community to achieve an end to Veteran homelessness by the end of the year. Affordable housing is important because once the subsidy ends, the Vet will need to be able to afford the housing on their own.</p> <p>To achieve the goal of “functional zero” (# of Vets becoming homeless = # of Vets being housed) by the end of this year, approximately 20 Vets would need to be housed per month.</p> <p>The current vacancy rate in the County is 1.7%, so more housing is needed. Veterans services organizations are asking for community support to find landlords willing to rent units to veterans with Housing Choice Vouchers or to veterans in the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) program.</p> <p>Laurel stated that the SSVF groups had requested HSOC recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the Board express support for the goal of trying to end homelessness among veterans.</p> <p>Dee Torres expressed concern that the action item did not mention other types of homeless people besides Vets and asked if the recommendation could include support for reducing all chronic homelessness regardless of demographics.</p> <p>The group discussed this and agreed to include a</p>		

	<p>clause that was inclusive of the entire homeless population in their resolution to the Board, though this particular support would be for Vets.</p>	<p>Motion: Dana Cummings Second: John Ashbaugh Motion approved unanimously</p>	
<p>4.2 Discussion of San Luis Obispo county's Draft 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan</p> <p>4.2.1 Action Item: Recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the County's 2015-2019 Action Plan be amended to increase the proposed amount of Community Development Block Grant funds for affordable housing development from \$1.5 million to \$3.5 million over five years and funds be targeted towards units that serve extremely low income households</p> <p>4.2.1A Attachment – Excerpt of relevant section of Draft Consolidated Plan</p>	<p>Laurel Weir reported that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires the County to submit a Consolidated Plan (ConPlan) every five years as a condition of receiving certain homeless and housing funding from HUD. The ConPlan sets forth how the County intends to allocate its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and McKinney-Vento Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funding during the five year period covered by the plan. The next plan is due soon and will cover Fiscal Years 2015-2019.</p> <p>Suzan Ehdaie from the County Planning Department presented on the Consolidated Plan process. She explained the County had been working on a draft plan and had recently sought feedback from the HSOC Housing Committee. Members of the HSOC Housing Committee had expressed concern that although the County had identified the need for affordable housing development as the number one priority in the plan, the draft only proposed \$1.5 million in CDBG funding for that purpose over the next five years, while proposing approximately \$4 million for other purposes. The HSOC Housing Committee recommended that the amount set aside in the plan for affordable housing development be increased from \$1.5 million to \$3.5 million.</p> <p>Suzan Ehdaie explained that the incorporated Cities in the County receive a share of the CDBG money and use it at their discretion.</p> <p>Scott Smith noted that CDBG funding was much more flexible than HOME fund money, and could be used to acquire sites and convert existing establishments. He stated that HUD provided some flexibility as to which eligible activities CDBG funding could be used for,</p>		

	<p>and noted that many communities earmark it for curb cuts or other development rather than affordable housing.</p> <p>Suzan Ehdaie noted that County Planning supported HSOC’s recommendation to increase money for affordable housing, however Planning was recommending \$1 million instead of \$2 million. This \$1 million represented the County’s share of the CDBG funding. She noted that to increase funding more than that, cities would have to agree to do so when they decided how to allocate the funding.</p> <p>Patty Beck urged HSOC members to discuss this recommendation at City Council meetings and ask cities to use their portion of the CDBG money for affordable housing.</p>	<p>Motion: Patty Beck Second: John Ashbaugh Motion approved with one abstention from Supervisor Arnold.</p>	
<p>4.3 Update on approach for gathering and providing input to the Board regarding barriers to Housing Choice Voucher utilization</p>	<p>The State has a law prohibiting landlords from discriminating against prospective tenants based on source of income, however Housing Choice Vouchers (formerly known as Section 8) are not considered by the State to be included in the definition of “income” under this law. A coalition of low-income housing advocates have been working to try to get a bill passed that would prohibit landlords from refusing to rent to someone if the only reason for the refusal was because the person would be paying for the unit with a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV). The legislation would not prohibit landlords from continuing to do credit, background, past tenancy, or other checks and would continue to allow landlords to look at other factors, such as amount of income, in deciding to whom they wanted to rent.</p> <p>At a recent Board of Supervisors meeting, Supervisor Gibson proposed to add a provision to the County’s legislative platform for the year that would support the anti-discrimination provision. The Board did not vote on this proposal but asked HSOC for feedback on</p>		

	<p>the need for the proposal and for information regarding the reasons why landlords may choose not to participate.</p> <p>HASLO is going to be sending out surveys to landlords to see whether landlords participate in the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, what do the landlords see as the advantages and disadvantages of participating in the program, and what changes could HASLO make that would help more landlords to be willing to rent to people with vouchers. Laurel stated that they would be bringing back the results of the survey to the next Housing Committee and HSOC meetings.</p>		
<p>4.4 HSOC Membership</p> <p>4.4.1 Action Item: Vote to amend the bylaws to change one of the two affordable housing seats on HSOC to a seat for the Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo and eliminate term limits for that seat.</p> <p>4.4.1A Attachment – Draft of amended bylaws</p>	<p>Laurel Weir stated that the HSOC Executive Committee met earlier this month and discussed the Affordable Housing seat that was previously held by HASLO Executive Director, Scott Smith, before his term limit expired. She stated that the Committee discussed the importance of this seat given the current housing shortage. They are considering amending the ByLaws to change the 2 “Affordable Housing” seats to one seat for “Affordable Housing Developer” and one that is designated for HASLO and to remove the term limit as long as the office is still held in the organization. The group voted on and approved these changes with no objections.</p>	<p>Motion: Anne Robin Second: Christine Johnson Motion approved unanimously</p>	
<p>4.5 Homeless Veterans Stand Down</p>	<p>Dana Cummings reported that the Homeless Veteran Stand Down would be taking place from May 14-16th at the Veterans Hall in San Luis Obispo. The Vets will stay the night and receive showers, meals and services. On Friday, a variety of services agencies will provide services including clothing distribution, haircuts, enrollment for SSVF and other VA programs and other services. He invited providers to send homeless and at risk Veterans to the events.</p>		

<p>4.6 Update on New and Existing Homeless Housing Programs</p>	<p>Jill Bolster White from TMHA provided an update on 50 Now. 53 people on the list have been contacted and assessed, 23 people have been housed, and there are 6 more units that are becoming available. One person left but only because they were reuniting with family, and there is one other person whose criminal history prevents them from qualifying for Section 8, though they are currently being housed by 50 Now. The other 29 people on the top 50 list are expected to be housed by April. They are now fully staffed.</p> <p>Bob Ellis stated SSVF has engaged 43 households 26 of which are eligible, including 4 HUD VASH referrals, some are for homeless prevention, and some more for rapid re-housing. SSVF has served 30-33 individuals with 7 have been housed as of today. They were fully staffed and are now looking to replace some employees they lost.</p> <p>Tracy Schiro stated that DSS has 172 families that have been engaged through their new Housing Support Program. They have permanently housed 27 families so far, with 3-4 more by this weekend. They are experiencing the same challenges as other organizations, but because they can pay for some repairs and necessary improvements they have been successful in signing landlords on. Criminal backgrounds have been an issue, but they are working with landlords on this.</p>		
<p>4.7 2015 Point in Time Count Update</p>	<p>Laurel Weir stated that the Point in Time Count was conducted on January 26, 2015 and provided an update. ASR is compiling this data and incorporating information that was gained through the survey process to compute demographic information. Cities will get specific data on how many people in each jurisdiction were there the night of the count. The data will be analyzed by HSOC for outliers and anyone interested in being on that committee can contact Laurel Weir.</p>		

<p>5. Committee Reports</p>	<p>John Ashbaugh stated that the Housing Committee mostly discussed the shifting of CDBG funds with County Planning, which was previously discussed.</p> <p>Grace McIntosh, Chair of the Ad Hoc Warming Center Committee, provided the following recommendations which they developed in the last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paso Cares should contact CAPSLO to get more information about how to run a warming center in North County where there are currently no warming center options. 2. Ed Gallagher would contact Paso Robles Mayor, Steve Martin and the City Manager about possible city buildings to use for the warming center. 3. Paso Cares should go to City Council meetings to speak regularly. <p>She reported that Paso Cares had followed up on recommendation #1 already and also voted to become an operational entity should a warming shelter become a possibility.</p> <p>Patty Beck reported that the Homeless Services Coordinating Committee met for the first time in conjunction with the Homeless Advisory meeting at CAPSLO. These meetings would be held quarterly, each in a different area of the County, and is meant to encourage service providers to get together and share the issues they are having. Many of the original goals of the Committee, including cross-agency collaboration, have already occurred naturally and so the needs of the Committee may need to be adaptable or re-evaluated throughout the year. Shared client intake assessments are an example of ongoing collaborations between agencies.</p>		
<p>4. Next Meeting Date</p>	<p>May 20, 2015, 1-3pm</p>		
<p>5. Adjournment</p>	<p>Supervisor Arnold adjourned the meeting at 2:58pm.</p>		

