

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL**  
**Full HSOC COMMITTEE**  
**September 16, 2015, 1:00-3:00pm**  
**SLO Vet's Hall**  
**801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo**  
**Lounge Room**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	<b>STAFF &amp; GUESTS</b>	
Debbie Arnold Bob Ellis Bob Kelley Mariam Shah Amy Christey Anne Robin Patty Beck John Ashbaugh Jim Patterson Sheila Blake Steve Martin Christine Johnson Steve Martin Jessica Thomas Rick Gulino Dee Torres Jim Guthrie (Alt. for Kristen Barneich)	Tracy Schiro Grace McIntosh Jennifer Kirn Christine Bearce Danielle Veatch Dana Cummings Marianne Kennedy Shirley Wright	Laurel Weir Jessica Lorange Anna Blasco Morgan Torell Suzan Ehdaie Joe Madsen Bill Watt Sue Warren Mike Ostash Matt Kriegbaum Tyler Corey Jill Bolster-White	
<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>		<b>CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS</b>	<b>FOLLOW UP</b>
1. Call to Order and Introductions of Guests	Supervisor Arnold welcomed the group and introductions were made.		
2. Consent Items	Supervisor Arnold asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes		
2.1 Approval of Minutes	With correction moving Christine Johnson from present to absent at the July meeting.	Christine Johnson abstained and John Ashbaugh extends with approval after the correction is made	
<b>ACTION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION</b>			
3. 1 Presentation on Federal Efforts to End Veteran Homelessness, by Anna Blasco from the National Alliance to End	Anna Bliss from the National Alliance to End Homelessness gave a presentation on the federal government's effort to end veteran homelessness by		

<p>Homelessness</p>	<p>the end of 2015. The president has made a commitment that he wants to end veteran homelessness in the U.S. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is one of the programs that is working towards this goal. HUD is looking for the best performance in terms of helping homeless veterans in San Luis Obispo County. The better performers are getting more funding. According to the 2013 PIT count, there were 253 veterans who were homeless in San Luis Obispo County on the night of the count.</p> <p>Best practices have identified 5 steps that communities should take to end veteran homelessness. 1. Identify and keep veterans on a master list, 2. Identify available and potential housing, 3. Set clear numerical goals, 4. Identify supportive services, 5. House the veterans.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is asking its Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) grantees and HUD-VA Supportive Housing staff to work together to end veteran homelessness and has defined ending veteran homelessness as getting to “Functional Zero”. “Functional Zero” is defined as the veterans currently homeless have been housed, homelessness is prevented whenever possible for the veterans in the future and if a veteran does become homeless, and their homelessness is brief.</p> <p>A number of communities across the country are participating in the Mayors’ Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. Mayors participating in the challenge commit to ending veteran homelessness in their cities, with ending homelessness being defined as getting to functional zero. The mayor of San Luis</p>		
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<p>3.2 Action Item: Recommend that the County Board of Supervisors write a letter in support of AB1335, SB377, and AB35</p>	<p>Obispo has signed onto this challenge. While the goal is to get to zero by the end of 2015, some cities, such as Houston, Texas have already reached their goal.</p> <p>Anna shared that she will be meeting with SSVF, HUD-VASH and Continuum of Care staff tomorrow to plan toward the success of housing veterans in the community.</p> <p>Laurel Weir reported the the Housing Committee has asked that the HSOC consider asking the Board of Supervisors to consider writing a letter in support of three housing-related bills: AB1335, SB377, and AB35. Jim Patterson noted that after the staff report was written, AB1335 has been taken off the table for this year and will be brought back in January. SB377 and AB35 are still active. John Ashbaugh reported that AB35 and SB377 had strong, bi-partisan support. AB35 passed unanimously and the Senate vote for SB377 was almost unanimous in favor. These bills have to do with the allocation of low income housing tax credits and would make more funding available. John asked Tyler Corey from the City of San Luis Obispo Planning Department to stand up and explain how tax credits for low income housing are used in the City of San Luis Obispo. Tyler reported that in the past several years, the credits have been the primary source of funding for affordable housing and no other affordable housing has been built without it.</p> <p>Jim noted the governor has until October 11 to vote on the bills.</p>	<p>Patty Beck made a motion to recommend the Board of Supervisors write a letter in support of the 2 bills SB377 and AB35. Jim Patterson seconds the motion: Vote: Debbie Arnold abstained. The rest voted unanimously in support.</p>	
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<p>3.3 2015 Homeless Point in Time Count Presentation</p>	<p>Laurel reported to the group the findings of the 2015 Point in Time Count. The plan is to release the report next week. This is something that HUD requires the community to do as a condition for receiving HUD homeless assistance funding.</p> <p>The count is done every two years in a single 24 hour period in January and is completed in shelters and street locations. The PIT count is a snap shot of the homeless population. It should be understood that an annual count would produce larger numbers. Also, persons who are chronically homeless are typically over represented as a proportion of the population and those who are homeless for only a short period of time will be under-represented versus the results if the count were over a year.</p> <p>The count is one of two primary sources of data about homelessness. Data is also collected from our Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). HMIS can provide annual data, but it only reports demographic information about persons who are accessing services at HMIS participating agencies.</p> <p>A 24-hour Point in Time (PIT) count can only report snapshot data, but it provides information about the total population, including those persons who don't access services entered into HMIS. Comparing PIT data from year to year provides information about increases or decreases in the overall and subpopulations.</p> <p>The count includes both sheltered and unsheltered persons. For the count of unsheltered persons, teams of enumerators went out all over the county. Most teams included a currently or formerly homeless person who helped enumerators find encampments.</p> <p>1515 homeless persons were counted in 2015, versus 2186 in 2013. This represents a large decline. When</p>		
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	<p>looking at the numbers, it is important to look also at any reasons that might have resulted in an undercount. In 2015, the two factors may have affected the count: there were two sweeps of large homeless encampments in the in south county just before the count that may have affected the count. If people moved into the next county, they could have been missed. Also, counts of unsheltered homeless families provided by local school districts were included in 2013 but the contractor did not include data provided by the schools in 2015 because it could not be reduplicated from counts of unsheltered families provided by the CalWORKs Housing Support Program in 2015.</p> <p>It was asked whether HUD would penalize the county for not using school data. Laurel reported that the Continuum of Care was not required to use school data and in fact, very few communities use school data for the PIT count. The use of school data is innovative, not the norm.</p> <p>Laurel also noted that enumerators in the South County received slightly different instructions for counting homeless persons in encampments. The contractor reviewed what had happened and concluded that while it may have led to fewer homeless persons in South County being counted, the difference was not material.</p> <p>Regarding subpopulations, there was a youth specific count this year, which was the first time such a count has occurred. This makes it look like the number of youth has increased, but it is likely a reflection of the increased efforts to count youth. Veteran homelessness has dropped from 239 to 130. Laurel noted that these may have been the results of increased funding to place homeless veterans into housing over the past two years. For example, 70 homeless veterans have been permanently housed in</p>		
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<p>3.4 Discussion regarding recent US Department of Justice statement of interest brief regarding anti-camping ordinances</p> <p>Attachment 3.4A-Statement of Interest of the United States in Bell v. Boise (Civil Action No. 1:09-cv-540-REB)</p>	<p>San Luis Obispo County by HUD-VASH program between January 2013 and January 2015. Additional homeless veterans have been housed by other programs during that time period.</p> <p>Laurel reported that the Executive Committee had asked that the HSOC be updated on the U.S. Department of Justice’s statement of interest brief filed in federal court regarding an anti-camping ordinance in Montana. Anti-camping ordinances can potentially be viewed as cruel and unusual punishment because they are punishing people for engaging in necessary, life sustaining activities in public spaces when there is no option for them to engage in such activities in private spaces. She noted that in many communities, including ours, there were not enough shelter beds to house all homeless persons. John noted that he had provided a copy of the statement to the City of San Luis Obispo’s attorney.</p>		
<p>3.5 Fall Planning Retreat- Scheduling and Planning</p>	<p>HSOC will be holding a fall planning retreat. Laurel asked for the group’s feedback. The Executive Committee suggested that rather than trying to schedule an additional day, that HSOC add 2 hours onto the already scheduled November 18 meeting. It would begin at 11am. The consensus of members present was that starting at 11 on the 18<sup>th</sup> would be the best option.</p>		
<p>3.6 Services Event in Paso Robles</p>	<p>Laurel reported on an event that the County Department of Social Services and CenCal Health will be sponsoring in Paso Robles on October 21 from 10 a.m. -2 p.m. at the Paso Robles Event Center: Estrella Hall. The event, called Mobile Assistance and Services addressing Homelessness (MASH), will be</p>		

	<p>similar to a Stand Down, but for all homeless persons. The event was suggested by Steve Martin as a way to outreach and engage homeless persons in an area of the county where there is no shelter or day center.</p>		
<p>4 .Public Comment</p>	<p>Sue Warren shared that this month is national recovery month. The purpose is to increase awareness of mental health and substance abuse issues and resources available to help people. Please help share the information to make others aware.</p> <p>Janna shared that next Thursday is the Empty Bowls fundraising event in South County for the 5Cities Homeless Coalition. Tickets may be purchased from Janna or online.</p>		
<p>5. Committee Reports</p>	<p>Laurel: The Executive Committee had a discussion about grievance policies last month. It would be beneficial to recommend model grievance policies and to consider a process to obtain additional input from consumers, in addition to what currently exists. An Ad-hoc committee will work on researching the extent to which agencies in the community have grievance policies and identify if there are best practices. The Committee will also research consumer participation models and bring the information back to the full HSOC for consideration.</p> <p>John: The Housing Committee is working on a slide show that could be presented to local governments about the variety of types of affordable housing models. Final version to come out soon.</p> <p>Jessica: The unaccompanied youth task force grant</p>		

	has been awarded to the community. She will be developing an unaccompanied youth task force.		
6. Future Discussion/Report Items	Grievance policies from the new Ad-hoc committee		
7. Next Meeting Date:	November 18, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Veterans Hall in San Luis Obispo.		
8. Adjournment	Supervisor Arnold adjourned the meeting at 3:00pm		