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*Path to a Home*



***San Luis Obispo  
Countywide 10 Year  
Plan to End  
Homelessness***

*We envision a future in which the housing and comprehensive services necessary to remain housed are available for all, affording everyone maximum self-sufficiency, and the opportunity to be productive and participating members of our community*

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC)  
Full HSOC Meeting Agenda – Fall Planning Retreat  
November 18, 2015 11:00 a.m. to 3:00pm  
San Luis Obispo Veterans' Hall, Lounge Room  
801 Grand Avenue, San Luis Obispo, CA**

1. Call to Order and Introductions of Guests
  2. Consent Items:
    - Approval of Minutes
  3. Action/Information/Discussion:
    - 3.1 Discussion Item: 2015 Homeless Point in Time Count Presentation
    - 3.2 Discussion Item: San Luis Obispo County 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness and the federal plan to end homelessness (called "Opening Doors")
    - 3.3 Discussion Item: 2015 Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Availability CoC requirements – Implications for Future Rounds
    - 3.4 Action Item: Endorse the timelines of the federal "Opening Doors" plan pertaining to ending homelessness for veterans, chronically homeless persons, families and youth, and all other persons (available online at [http://usich.gov/opening\\_doors/](http://usich.gov/opening_doors/)) and assign Ad Hoc working groups to develop recommended target numbers and timelines
    - 3.5 Action Item – create an Ad Hoc Continuum of Care Competitiveness Committee to examine recommendations of "Opening Doors" document, and identify suggested action steps for the HSOC
    - 3.6 Action Item – Rank 10 Year Plan priorities for the HSOC in 2016
  4. Public Comment
  5. Committee Reports
  6. Future Discussion/Report Items:
  7. Next Meeting Date: January 20, 2016, 1-3 p.m.
  8. Adjournment
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**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		

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL  
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE  
ACTION ITEM  
November 18, 2015**

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3.4**

**ITEM: ENDORSE THE TIMELINES OF THE FEDERAL “OPENING DOORS” PLAN PERTAINING TO ENDING HOMELESSNESS FOR VETERANS, CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PERSONS, FAMILIES AND YOUTH, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS.**

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

Endorse the timelines for ending overall and subpopulation homelessness as set forth in the federal “Opening Doors” plan to end homelessness, and assign working groups to develop recommended target numbers, timelines, and plans for monitoring and reporting.

**SUMMARY NARRATIVE:**

In June 2015, the federal government revised and updated its 10 Year plan to end homelessness, called “Opening Doors”. In the revised plan, (see: [http://usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/USICH\\_OpeningDoors\\_Amendment2015\\_FIN\\_AL.pdf](http://usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/USICH_OpeningDoors_Amendment2015_FIN_AL.pdf)) the federal government’s proposed goals included the following:

- Prevent and end homelessness among Veterans in 2015
- Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness in 2017
- Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in 2020
- Set a path to ending all types of homelessness

The plan calls for the alignment of federal, state, local, and private entities and resources to work together to achieve these goals. Towards this end, the federal government has begun including them in grant applications and asking existing grantees to work towards these goals. For example, in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) recent Continuum of Care Notice of Funding Availability HUD asked Continuum of Care communities to report on whether or not they had endorsed the timelines for ending homelessness for the subpopulations noted above.

Federal agencies have defined ending homelessness for subpopulations as getting to “functional zero”, meaning that homelessness among the subpopulation is rare, brief, and nonrecurring and members of the subpopulation are not forced to live on the street (See for example: [https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf/docs/Ending\\_Veterans\\_Homelessness\\_Overview.pdf](https://www.va.gov/HOMELESS/ssvf/docs/Ending_Veterans_Homelessness_Overview.pdf)). To get to functional zero, HUD encourages communities to develop target goals and timelines

and to use monitoring and reporting to improve systems. Agencies such as the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and HUD are also encouraging communities to build a by-name list of homeless persons in the subpopulation to assist with placement and monitoring efforts. In San Luis Obispo County, Supportive Services for Veterans Families program grantees and HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) staff are working together with County staff and technical assistance providers from HUD and the VA to build a master list of homeless veterans in San Luis Obispo County and to establish goals for getting to functional zero for veteran homelessness.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

No immediate cost to the HSOC is anticipated. Endorsing and adopting the timelines goals would increase the County's score in the 2015 CoC funding competition, which may in turn increase the chances of the County receiving up to \$164,341 in bonus funding for permanent housing for which it qualifies in the aforementioned CoC funding competition. Implementing the timelines may result in additional funding needs being identified and funding being sought.

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

A number of communities and elected officials around the country have already endorsed and adopted the proposed timelines in whole or for specific subpopulations. For example, the Mayors Challenge to End Homelessness calls upon Mayors and other elected officials to make a commitment to ending veteran homelessness. To date, 684 Mayors have signed on, including the Mayor of the City of San Luis Obispo, as well as 165 county and city officials, and nine governors.

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC)  
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE  
ACTION ITEM  
November 18, 2015**

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3.5**

**ITEM: CREATE AN AD HOC CONTINUUM OF CARE COMPETITIVENESS COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S 10 YEAR PLAN TO END HOMELESSNESS AND IDENTIFY SUGGESTED ACTION STEPS FOR THE HSOC TO TAKE**

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

Create an Ad Hoc Continuum of Care Competitiveness Committee to examine the recommendations of the U.S. Interagency Council's Plan to End Homelessness, entitled "Opening Doors", and identify suggested action steps for the HSOC to implement to increase its competitiveness for Continuum of Care permanent housing bonus funding.

**SUMMARY NARRATIVE:**

Originally promulgated in 2010, the federal "Opening Doors" plan to end homelessness has been updated or amended four times since its original publication. The most recent update was published in June 2015 (see: [http://usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset\\_library/USICH\\_OpeningDoors\\_Amendment2015\\_FINAL.pdf](http://usich.gov/resources/uploads/asset_library/USICH_OpeningDoors_Amendment2015_FINAL.pdf)). Changes to the plan include recommendations for retooling crisis response systems for homelessness, an increased emphasis on homelessness prevention, and an increased emphasis on the use of data and performance driven management of community-wide homeless assistance efforts.

Recommendations identified in "Opening Doors" reflect recent research on best practices in addressing homelessness as well as federal priorities for addressing homelessness. Plan objectives not only provide guidance for administration of homeless programs but also are increasingly being incorporated into federal grants. For example, the recent U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Continuum of Care application for Fiscal Year 2015 specifically asked Continuums to state whether they had adopted the objectives for ending homelessness set forth in "Opening Doors".

Since the publication of the Interim Continuum of Care (CoC) regulations in July 2012 and in accordance with the HEARTH Act, HUD's CoC funding competition increasingly has moved towards using performance outcomes to rank Continuums and award bonus funding. The performances rated by HUD in the CoC application have included not only outcomes related to the number of persons housed and homeless, but also the extent to which the CoC oversight

body has discussed and adopted best practices and aligned its policies and priorities with federal goals.

HUD's CoC program provides approximately \$1.03 million annually for transitional and permanent housing and supportive services here in San Luis Obispo County. In most years, the County receives renewal funding for its currently funded CoC programs, and there is an opportunity to compete in the national pool for bonus funding for additional permanent supportive housing, or more recently, Rapid Rehousing programs. Because there is usually not enough money to award grants to all bonus projects, HUD scores individual project applications and funds the highest scoring applications until there are no more bonus funds left.

Over the past year, the importance of the overall CoC performance to an individual bonus funding application's success has increased significantly. In 2014, only 5% of a project application's total points were based on the CoC's score on the application. In 2015, the CoC's score will count for 60% of the points available to an individual project applicant.

#### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

No immediate financial impact is anticipated. Making the Continuum more competitive may result in the receipt of bonus funds in future years.

#### **STAFF COMMENTS:**

The increasing emphasis on CoC performance in ranking individual applications is consistent with the 2012 Interim Regulations and is expected to continue in future years. The federal government is also more closely aligning individual federal agency efforts to address homelessness with goals and objectives in the federal "Opening Doors" plan and strategies identified in "Opening Doors" are likely to be included in other federal homeless assistance grant programs in future years.

**HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL (HSOC)  
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES COMMITTEE  
ACTION ITEM  
November 18, 2015**

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3.6**

**ITEM: RANK 10 YEAR PLAN PRIORITIES FOR THE HSOC IN 2016**

**ACTION REQUIRED:**

After consideration of the priorities and strategies of the County's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, rank the priorities and identify the top five strategies for the HSOC to focus on in 2016.

**SUMMARY NARRATIVE:**

In 2008, in order to increase competitiveness for federal funding and to strengthen local efforts to end homelessness, the Countywide 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, entitled "Path to a Home" was published. The plan reflected the input of over 60 stakeholders – including representatives of community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, local governments, elected officials, sober living facilities, affordable housing developers, law enforcement, local businesses, educational institutions, legal services entities, and persons who had experienced homelessness – and was developed over a period of several months.

The plan (see

<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/Assets/PL/Housing/10+Year+Plan+to+End+Chronic+Homeless+Plan.pdf>) identified four priority areas for the community:

- 1) Facilitating Access to Affordable Housing to Put an End to Homelessness
- 2) Stopping Homelessness Before it Starts through Prevention and Effective Intervention
- 3) Ending and Preventing Homelessness through Integrated, Comprehensive, Responsive Supportive Services

Coordinating a Solid Administrative and Financial Structure to Support Effective Plan Implementation

Within those four priorities were 22 strategies that set more specific goals. The Homeless Services Oversight Council was created in part to carry out Strategy 4.1, which was to "Establish a countywide inter-jurisdictional collaborative homelessness governing body to coordinate efforts to prevent and end homelessness and oversee plan implementation."

Additional strategies or action steps that have already been implemented in part or in whole include development of the Homeless Management Information System, development of partnerships between primary responder providers and mainstream benefit provider

organizations such as CalFresh and the VA, the development of a Housing First program, and generating more short-term and shallow subsidies that help people regain and maintain housing.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

No immediate financial impact is anticipated.

**STAFF COMMENTS:**

Prioritizing goals for 2016 will help the HSOC to focus its work most effectively.