HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL HSOC FULL COMMITTEE

May 18, 2016, 1:00-3:00pm

Veteran's Hall: Lounge Room 801 Grand Ave San Luis Obispo, CA 93405

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS			
Jim Patterson	Debbie Arnold	Laurel Weir			
Scott Smith	Marianne Kennedy	Jessica Lorance			
Jessica Thomas	Danielle Veatch	Martin Meltz			
Steve Martin	Amy Christey	Ivana Yeung			
Tracy Schiro	Terra Clayton	Abby Lassen			
Patty Beck	Dee Torres	Aurora Williams			
Clare Battista	Shelia Blake	Morgan Torell			
Anne Robin		Joe Madsen			
Kristen Barneich		Mike Ostash			
John Ashbaugh		Jill Bolster-White			
Rick Gulino		Drew Washer			
Mariam Shah					
Janna Nichols					
Theresa Scott					
Grace McIntosh					
AGENDA ITEM		CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS	FOLLOW UP		
1. Call to Order and Introductions of	Kristen welcomed the group and introductions were				
Guests	made.				
2. Public Comment	Laurel announced to the group that the HSOC				
	executive meeting has been rescheduled to May 25				
	instead of June.				
ACTION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION					
3.1 Approval of Minutes					
		Jim moved to approve the			
		minutes, seconded by Scott,			
		Jessica Thomas abstained			

4.1 Action Item: Recommend Allocation of FY2015 and FY2016 Emergency Solutions Grant (\$219,612) for the Five Cities Homeless Coalition/ECHO/LINK and the Family Care Network

4.1A: Attachment

Ivana reported that on April 11, the County issued a Request for Proposals for the new Emergency Solutions Grant pass through funding from the state. The deadline for applications was May 6th. Applications for funding for Rapid Rehousing programs were received from 5 Cities Homeless Coalition, ECHO, LINK, and Family Care Network as one application. An Ad Hoc grant committee met to consider the applications and the committee recommended the Five Cities Homeless Coalition be awarded \$145,000 and \$74,612 be awarded to the Family Care Network. Ivana asked the HSOC to vote on the grant committee's recommendations.

Ivana reported that per state requirements, while the funds may be used to help residents in all parts of the county, the applicants need to make certain that a portion of the funds are spent to help residents in Grover Beach. Patty asked if the funds are for this fiscal upcoming year or next? Ivana explained the funds can be expended over the next 2 years. Laurel recommended getting clarification from the state whether or not there will be a competition next year. Ivana is going to follow up with the state.

4.2 Information and Discussion Item: Update on Behavioral Health Initiatives Anne Robin provided an overview of the proposed new drug Medi-Cal program that will be considered by the Board of Supervisors in July.

The federal government approved a waiver for the State of California to create a new drug Medi-Cal program. Counties must opt in to the program in order to participate.

If the county opts into the program, it will expand the benefits available for drug treatment. It would also

Patty made a motion to recommend the Board of Supervisors award \$145,000 to the 5Cities Homeless Coalition and \$74,612 to Family Care Network. Seconded by Grace McIntosh. Abstained: Rick, Janna and Jim, the rest voted to approve.

also for cost reimbursement instead of providing a fixed rate for services. Quality assurance activites would also be reimbursable, and there would be more integration with other services. It would also allow the Behavioral Health Agency more say in who they contract with.

The program would be limited to County residence only. To be eligible to receive services reimbursable under the program, the individuals must be Medi-Cal recipients.

The County would be responsible for reporting on outcomes, and there will be measured outcomes around cost, and care among others. It will be additional work for the county. An evaluation will be done by UCLA.

A number of services that have not previously been reimbursable under Medi-Cal would be under the new program, including recovery services, coaches and mentoring. More monitoring will be available for clients as well as reimbursement for those services. Drug and Alcohol case management will also be available.

There will be need of more doctors to help. Short term residential treatment will also be a possibility, with different time frames available.

If the County opts in, the Agency is working on a plan to site some services at the Prado Day Center or the new Homeless Services Center, possibly a mix of mental health and drug and alcohol services.

There are many possible future services. When referring people: drug and alcohol specialists will be determining the level of treatment needed. The decision is a clinical decision.

Youth treatment will also be expanded. Youth treatment will be available over at the South Street facility during the summer. Youth are defined as up to age 21. Funding matching will also be available. We can't use federal to match federal funding; however other types of funding will be matched. Anne also mentioned the No Place Like Home Initiative being considered by the state legislature and the initiative's potential impact on Behavioral Health Services. The initiative proposes to re-direct a portion of the State's Behavioral Health funding to create bonds for the development of housing. If the initiative were enacted as is, it would mean a funding cut of \$681.000 from Behavioral Health services in the first year and even more in years to come. It may not immediately affect our county but it will make a difference in the growth of Drug Medi-Cal and other Behavioral Health Services. We are in a disadvantage against poorer counties. The legislation is currently being monitored and Anne is planning on keeping the group updated. Laurel explained that the housing committee could also discuss the legislation and make recommendations to the HSOC and Board. Dr Graber will be making a similar presentation at the next Benefits ARCH meeting. Anne explained that there is a current allocation formula. Scott Smith updated the group about the recent 4.3 Information Item: Update on challenges the Housing Authority of San Luis Obispo **Housing Choice Vouchers and Tenant** (HASLO) is facing with regard to its Housing Choice

Voucher (HCV) program.

Based Rental Assistance Programs

Under the Housing Choice Voucher program, clients pay 30% of their income toward their rent, and HASLO pays the difference between the client's payment and the actual rent. There are about \$17 million dollars worth of vouchers being paid to landlords each year currently in our county through the federal HCV program.

The issue that HASLO has run into is that the amount of money they receive from the federal government for rent has been decreasing in recent years. At the same time, the rent in our area has increased. As a result, HASLO has had to decrease the number of vouchers being distributed.

Since there is no new money for vouchers, in order to take people off the waiting list for the program, HASLO has relied on a certain amount of people returning vouchers each month to reissue them to others. Voucher holders return the vouchers when they move out of county, move into other housing situations, or become ineligible.

There has been an 12-18% voucher turnover rate in prior years. This year it has decreased to 8-10%. As a result, there are fewer people being taken off the waiting list each month. It also has meant that HASLO is in danger of reaching the cap on the amount of money it is allowed to spend. To address this, HASLO has put a hold on issuing new vouchers temporarily.

Rick Gulino reported the Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program (a program of the federal HOME program) has also been affected by this. Rick explained that TBRA clients pay 1/3 of their income toward their rental, similar to the housing choice vouchers that HASLO uses, except TBRA is a Rapid Rehousing program and only provides the subsidy for a few months. There are case managers for clients participating in TBRA; however, there are no reimbursements for the case management services.

TBRA is typically used for assistance on a temporary basis. It is used to help homeless persons get into housing. The demand has exceeded available funding and TBRA funds have been gone since January. It sounds like the TBRA program will be shut down for about 2 years. Rick asked if HSOC could look at additional funding sources for TBRA. The units do get inspected before the tenant moves in due to health and safety reasons. Every two years the unit gets reinspected.

Scott noted the 50Now program was offered 50 vouchers from HASLO. There are currently 29 of the 50 vouchers being used, with some of the other 50 Now clients being housed through other programs.

2016 HCV funding was cut nearly \$100,000. VASH Vouchers are still being issued at this time, but other vouchers are on hold.

4.4 Information Item: Update on the mayors' request regarding the availability of California Youth Authority property in Paso Robles

Mayor Martin shared with the group that the mayors' request regarding the availability of California Youth Authority property in Paso Robles that an email will go out to update the group due to lack of time. The email will be made available in the meeting materials posted online.

4.5 Committee Reports	John reported that the Housing Committee is looking at ways to make it easier for tiny homes to be able to be built within our community. The committee discussed a motion to come before the Full HSOC. The motion will be looked at in September. Jim also brought up the shared housing program. He asked that the shared housing program update the HSOC committee. Janna updated the group about the HSCC next meeting is June 21. The discussions about work groups and the services that they will be in charge of. If anyone would like to be part of the work group to please attend. There were also discussions about possible one day service events in the future. There were also discussions about the recent encampment clearings and what can be done about future clearings. SOAR and upcoming events were also discussed. Tracy informed that Data and Finance have been mainly focused on PIT Count planning.	
5. Future Discussion/Report Items	NA	
6. Next Meeting Date:	July 20, 2016: 1-3pm	
7. Adjournment	Kristen adjourned the meeting at 3pm	