

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
Homeless Services Coordinating Committee
August 31, 2016, 1:30-3:00pm
DSS Room 101

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS	
Janna Nichols Martin Meltz Patty Beck Terra Clayton	Anne Robin Theresa Scott Sheila Blake	Laurel Weir Jessica Lorange Ivana Yeung Sandy Curran Lisa Fraser Karen Jones Steve Martin Joe Gossner Aurora Williams Joe Madsen Amelia Sandra Bourbon Carol Ziesenhenne Judie Najarian	
AGENDA ITEM	CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS		FOLLOW UP
1. Call to Order and Introductions of Guests	Janna welcomed the group and made introductions.		
2. Public Comment	Laurel shared with the group that the South County MASH Event took place yesterday in Grover Beach. 86 attendees. DMV, Social services, were a few in attendance. Thanks to all who participated.		
ACTION/INFORMATION/DISCUSSION			
3. Consent item: Approval of Minutes			Martin made a motion to approve the minutes seconded by Janna. All were in favor.

<p>4.1 Discussion Item: Committee Membership</p>	<p>Janna asked the group for those who are interested in being part of the committee.</p> <p>Interested parties include: Jessica Thomas Lisa Fraser Joe Madsen Amelia Abernathy/Terra Clayton Jenny Wiseman Aurora Williams Martin Meltz Steve Martin Joe Gossner Sandy Curry Patty Beck Judie Najarian</p>		
<p>4.2 Discussion Item: 2017 Point In Time Count</p>	<p>Laurel informed the group that we are preparing for the 2017 Point in Time Count. The count occurs every other year, is a very large effort that will help secure funding along with providing information about the number of people who are homeless in our county. This count is planning on being done the last week of January and will be done in a 4-hour period.</p> <p>The plan is to survey as many adults as possible using the Vulnerability Index – Services Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDA) -- a vulnerability assessment, and data gathering tool. Using the VI-SPDAT to conduct the survey will not only provide data but will also to help identify people who are most vulnerable and prioritize them for permanent supportive housing units when such units become available. Santa Barbara County conducts a similar style of count and uses about 700 volunteers.</p> <p>There is an Ad Hoc committee to help with the</p>		

<p>4.3 Discussion Item: Continuum of Care Competition</p>	<p>volunteer recruitment efforts. The committee is currently coming up with job descriptions for the volunteers. If you are interested in participating or helping to recruit volunteers, please let Laurel know.</p> <p>The Point in Time count will be collaborating with the County Office of Education and local school districts to assist with the homeless family count. Each school district has a liaison that helps identify and keep lists of homeless families/students. Jessica Thomas shared that there is an effort to ensure de-duplications and missing data along with sharing information. Janna suggested sharing the survey in advance with the group.</p> <p>Laurel noted that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Education have two different definitions of homelessness. For example, the Department of Education considers families who double up in housing with another family as being homeless, whereas HUD does not. For the Point in Time Count, we will be using the HUD definition.</p> <p>HUD issued the notice of funding availability for the Continuum of Care (COC) in June which is a few months early this year. This is the new competition, not last year's competition which was discussed at the last meeting. Our county is eligible to receive up to \$902,328 to be used to renew existing projects or reallocate to new projects. In addition, the county can compete for up to \$59,616 in bonus funding to be used for new, permanent supportive housing.</p> <p>Janna explained the steps of the process, that the notice of funding availability is received from the federal government, the county then asks for applications, the local grant committee meets to rank the applications, the Homeless Services Oversight</p>		
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	<p>Council votes to support or amend the grant committee recommendations, the Board of Supervisors votes to support or amend the recommendations, and the county then submits the application to HUD.</p> <p>Local applications are ranked and placed into one of two Tiers by the grant review committee. HUD's priorities in the national competition were used to rank the order of local projects. Organizations who currently have funding were invited to apply for renewal funding or to propose projects for reallocation, and organizations that didn't already have funding were invited to submit for new or reallocated funding. Transitions Mental Health Association currently uses CoC funding to support a transitional housing program but proposed converting those units to permanent, supportive housing and reallocating the funding from transitional housing to permanent housing. CAPSLO also did not re-apply for transitional housing funding it currently receives and instead applied to reallocate funds to be used for a Coordinated Entry project.</p> <p>The community's CoC application is due to HUD in September. The Executive Committee approved the project rankings last week. Because no project applications were received initially for bonus funding and because one renewal application was withdrawn, the HSOC in July voted to re-open the competition for bonus funding and Tier 2 funding.</p> <p>There were three applications received as a result – one application for the permanent supportive housing bonus funding and two applications for reallocated funding in Tier 2. One permanent housing project has been placed into Tier 2. Being in Tier 2 means the group will have to compete against other Tier 2 projects nationwide. Scores for Tier 2 projects in the national competition are heavily affected by the</p>		
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<p>4.3.1 Discussion Item: Performance Measures and HSOC priorities</p>	<p>overall community score. One additional permanent housing project was placed the competition for permanent housing bonus funding.</p> <p>Janna noted the importance of trying to score well in the HUD competition. She explained that the CAPSLO South County Case Management project was lost in the 2015 round because the application scored below the median. The way in which we can affect the funding received is by increasing our score for the HUD funding application. Our score is going to be increasingly affected by HUD’s “System Performance Measures” for CoCs.</p> <p>Janna would like to have the group look at the work that can be done in the Homeless Services Coordinating Committee assisting with improving the CoC’s performance on System Performance Measures and increasing scores in future applications. These measures are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Earned income 2) Recidivism rate- whether or not people who have been placed into housing return or don’t return to homelessness 3) Length of time homeless 4) Number of homeless persons 5) Employment and income growth 6) Successful placement from street outreach 7) Number of persons that become homeless for the first time <p>Ivana noted that the CoC’s scores also can be helped by having more service providers enter their client data into in the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Judie Najarian noted that Sunny Acres has not reported their beds in HMIS because they don’t have the staff time to do so, but suggested</p>		
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<p>4.3.2 Discussion Item: HUD priorities</p> <p>4.3.3 Discussion Item: Work plan for HSCC Committee</p>	<p>that it would be possible if the County could assign a floating HMIS data entry person to come to their agency once or twice a week to enter new clients.</p> <p>Laurel explained that the CoC scored low on the measure regarding employment and income growth and Janna noted that would be a good area for the Committee to focus on to try to improve the score. Martin shared with the group that there is a gentleman in Morro Bay who is interested in trying to promote employment opportunities for low income persons there. Janna and Laurel noted that the Department of Rehabilitation, which helps persons with disabilities to find employment, will be an important partner, as chronically homeless persons, by definition, have one or more disabilities.</p> <p>Regarding HUD priorities, Laurel shared that one of the items the CoC was penalized on last year was that the CoC did not training on the preventing family separation in the shelters. Neither ECHO nor CAPSLO’s shelters separate families, which is why there have been no trainings in the past.</p> <p>Laurel then distributed HUD’s guidance on preventing the break up of homeless families and explained that HUD ESG funded shelters should be able to house families with male adults and/or male teens and are prohibited from refusing shelter entry to a family member solely on the basis of gender. She also explained that families that had experienced such separation at a HUD funded shelter in the County could contact Ivana Yeung at the Planning Department or Laurel to ask that the situation be addressed.</p> <p>Janna reported that the Homeless Services Oversight Council had identified four priorities for 2016:</p>		
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<p>4.4 Warming Centers and 2016-17 Winter planning</p>	<p>Create permanent affordable housing Increase supply of short term housing Create flexible system of care Centralize and streamline access to support</p> <p>Laurel explained that the CoC, ESG, and VA grantees are taking part in developing a coordinated entry process to help centralize and streamline access to support. The idea is to create more transparency for the clients and an easier process. Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo, El Camino Homeless Organization, and 5 Cities Homeless Coalition have applied as part of the CoC application to be the local leads of the project.</p> <p>Janna asked the group how the group would like to address the issues brought up at the previous meeting:</p> <p>CoC issues Decriminalization of homelessness Immediate issues Warming centers Displacement plan Substance Use withdraw management</p> <p>Martin brought up his concern with displacement. He would like to see an organized discussion about this issue. Aurora shared with the group that she hiked through encampments in Atascadero and there was evidence of drug or alcohol use. She would like to have service providers invited to the dinner program to meet the participants at El Camino Homeless Organization. She recommends being creative at homeless engagement.</p> <p>The discussion of items 4.4 and 4.5 were combined into one discussion. Janna provided a brief recap of Winter 2015-16 activities. Patty Beck has been setting up a work group to discuss warming shelters in the</p>		
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<p>4.5 Discussion Item: Community Group and Ad Hoc Committee Updates</p>	<p>upcoming winter.</p> <p>Janna shared that the warming center in South County is being planned due to Fall coming soon.</p> <p>Patty suggested asking the police departments in advance about the clearings of the encampments for the winter of 2016. She also recommended asking from groups that were actively part of the displacement last year to come to a meeting to discuss their experience.</p> <p>Martin recommended that a secondary task force for the displacement issue should be created instead of the warming center committee. Lisa shared concerns of women with new babies being sheltered. Terra explained that some of them could qualify as medically fragile and be permitted to stay in the shelter during the day time.</p>		
<p>5. Future Discussion/Report Items:</p>	<p>NA</p>		
<p>6. Next Meeting Date:</p>	<p>Is scheduled for September 28, 2016, 1:30 p.m., location TBD</p>		

7. Adjournment	Janna adjourned the meeting at 3:05pm		
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