

HOMELESS SERVICES OVERSIGHT COUNCIL
HSOC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
April 22, 2019, 12:00-2:00pm
Department of Social Services Room 356

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	STAFF & GUESTS	
Devin Drake Janna Nichols Mariam Shah Scott Smith	Susan Funk	Anne Robin George Solis Grace McIntosh Jessica Lorange Laurel Weir Lori Hoffman Russ Francis	
AGENDA ITEM		CONCLUSIONS/ACTIONS	FOLLOW UP
1. Call to Order and Introductions	Mariam called the meeting to order and introductions were made.		
2. Public Comment	None		
3. Consent: Approval of Minutes		Scott approved the minutes, seconded by Devin. Vote was unanimous to approve the minutes.	
4. Action/Information/Discussion			
4.1. Discussion Item: Grant Updates – Homeless Emergency Assistance Program (HEAP), Homeless Housing, Assistance , and	Laurel reported that the State does not anticipate any extension for expenditure of HEAP funding beyond June 30 th 2021. The State suggest that if any providers think they may have difficulty spending the HEAP funds		

Prevention Program (HHAP), California Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Funding	<p>in this time, the County may be able to repurpose HEAP and HHAP funds, as HHAP funds have a longer deadline.</p> <p>Janna asked if the State is likely to back out of providing HHAP funding. Laurel responded that she has not heard any indication that this will happen, and that the County has received a HHAP award letter.</p> <p>California ESG and COVID-19 Emergency Homelessness Funding were discussed under item 4.2.1.</p>		
4.2. Discussion Item: Federal Funding			
4.2.1. Discussion Item: CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act and additional Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Funding	<p>Laurel reported that the CARES Act has appropriated additional COVID-19-related funds for ESG funding, which the County will receive. The CARES Act has also authorized additional CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding, which the County will receive a share of.</p> <p>The County will be releasing a combined RFP (Request for Proposals) scheduled for May 1. Different activities will be eligible under each of the programs, but there will be some overlap. Both ESG and CDBG funds can be used for homelessness prevention. Lori confirmed that providers will be able to braid CDBG and ESG funds with the same client for similar activities, for up to six months, e.g. a client can be supported with 3 months of</p>		

	CDBG funds and then with 3 months of ESG funds.		
4.2.2. Discussion Item: HUD Continuum of Care Grant	<p>Laurel reported that the County is in discussions with HUD (US Department of Housing and Urban Development) about their upcoming audit. Typically they carry out their audits on site, but given COVID-19 they are looking at doing a remote audit for the first stage in June. HUD has selected two programs to look at, to ensure data recording is compliant. The County has notified the subrecipients whose programs will be audited. The second stage of the audit will be an on site permanent housing review, most likely at the end of summer.</p> <p>Janna asked if the audit will still involve a heavy focus on HMIS analysis, as was suggested in previous discussions. Laurel answered that this is currently unclear, as the audit process is being changed as a result of it (the first stage) being carried out remotely. It seems unlikely that HUD will be doing an on site monitoring of Coordinated Entry.</p>		
4.3. Discussion Item: Warming Centers and Safe Parking	<p>Laurel gave an update on the North County. Transitional Food & Shelter were operating their warming center until the end of March, but the County assisted them to keep it open for an additional two weeks. Symptomatic people were tested at the warming center, and were kept in motel rooms until the test</p>		

	<p>results came back. Nobody tested positive for COVID-19 and all were released from the motel rooms. The County has activated Safe Parking programs in Oceano, Los Osos, and San Luis Obispo.</p> <p>Janna provided an update on the warming center in South County, which was due to close at the end of March, but due to rain it was kept open for the first week of April without funding. 10-15 people attended per night. 5Cities Homeless Coalition (5CHC) created a Shelter in Place Safe Parking program in Oceano, and since mid-March have had around 13 people camping in place at that campground. 5CHC has been providing meals and supportive services to people there, and have arranged for some motel placements. 5CHC is now looking at how to expand outreach to those in Safe Parking zones. Mariam shared that there has been an influx of people living in their cars around the Safe Parking areas, and offered the help of HSOC and City leaders, e.g. by writing letters of support to 5CHC if needed.</p> <p>Grace McIntosh provided an update on the 40 Prado Warming Center, which officially ended on March 31, but remained open for the first week of April due to rain. CAPSLO is running a Safe Parking program and had already been talking to SLO City prior to</p>		
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	<p>COVID-19 about expanding these lots. Grace asked for clarification on the use of motel rooms, as CAPSLO has vulnerable clients with potentially fatal and/or communicable diseases, but the EOC have said that motel rooms (which are currently not being used) can only be used for people who have tested positive for COVID-19 or whose tests are pending. Devin confirmed that the motel rooms are provided only for homeless persons who have tested positive for COVID. The County had discussed opening up motels for people who are homeless and at risk, people with medical conditions, and older people at risk. Law enforcement in various cities has been adamantly opposed to this idea, and the EOC has decided it is not the right time for this.</p> <p>Grace asked for clarification around the State contracting with Motel 6 for placements in 19 counties. Laurel responded that local Motel 6 motels had indicated they did not want to house persons who were COVID-positive, as they are already housing low-income persons who are at high risk of COVID complications, so did want not to potentially infect those who are at risk.</p> <p>Janna asked about the equipment at the Alternate Care Site, which may soon become surplus. Devin responded that the EOC is not</p>		
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	looking at getting rid of the equipment yet. There are concerns (not in SLO County but generally) that there may be a reactivation of COVID-19 in winter.		
4.4. Discussion Item: Committee Reports	The Housing and Finance & Data committees did not meet. The Supportive Services committee met but there was nothing to report.		
5. Future Discussion/Report Items			
6. Next Meeting Date	June 17, 2020. The next full HSOC meeting is scheduled for May 6. Laurel clarified that the date was changed to align with the regular (non-COVID) ESG grant timeline. There will also be a meeting later in May for grant review of the COVID-19 Emergency Funds.		
7. Adjournment	Mariam adjourned the meeting at 12:40pm.		