South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Services for Seniors Working Group

Tuesday, December 1, 2015 Meeting Minutes
By Grace Farwell

In Attendance: Diane Brown, City of Hawthorne; Michelle Jordan, City of Inglewood; Jan Buike, City of Manhattan Beach; Marcelle McCullough, City of Palos Verdes Estates/PVE-CARES; Meghan Ballard, City of Redondo Beach; Britt Huff, City of Rolling Hills Estates Council Member, H.E.L.P.; Bea Virobik, City of Torrance Commission on Aging/South Bay Village; Ghislaine (Ges) Davis, City of Torrance Commission on Aging/South Bay Village; Sarah Wiltfong, Assembly Member David Hadley; Sylvia Richardson, Palos Verdes Library District; Kerianne Lawson, Beach Cities Health District; Rhonda Ozanian, Bluedot; Melinda Gann, ADIA; Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG; Grace Farwell, SBCCOG; Steve Lantz, SBCCOG; Guest Speakers: Meredith Berkson, PATH; Julia Winkler Jacobson, Uber

1. Welcome and Self Introductions

2. Grace Farwell briefly recapped highlights from previous meeting

3. Meredith Berkson provided an overview of PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) Services and Homelessness in the South Bay and the new South Bay Dedicated Services
    - Goal is to help people off the streets and into permanent homes; 10,000 people by 2020
    - Meredith spoke about homelessness in the South Bay and presented statistics related to the senior population
        - 759 homeless people between the ages of 55-61 and 329 homeless people over the age of 62 for a total of 1,088
        - This count only includes seniors living on the streets or in shelters; it does not include seniors who are staying on family or friend's couches, those in hospitals or SNFs, or those imminently at risk of becoming homeless
        - Some causes include
            - Poverty
            - Lack of affordable housing
            - Healthcare costs very expensive
            - Disabilities/co-occurring disorders
            - Lack of family connections or unwillingness to reach out to family for assistance
    - PATH will be establishing a hotline in January 2016. City staff in attendance at the Working Group meeting stated this will be helpful as a resource for the homeless seniors.
    - A question to the attendees – do you know a landlord for PATH to contact?
    - Homeless count will take place on January 27, 2016
    - Meredith will come to future meetings to give an update
    - Slides from Meredith's presentation are available on the SBCCOG website under resources: www.southbaycities.org

4. Julia Winkler Jacobson provided an overview of uberASSIST and uberWAV programs.
    - uber is 5 year old company and operational in 58 countries, over 300 cities, has over 100,000 driver partners, and millions of riders
    - uberASSIST is designed to provide additional assistance to seniors and people with disabilities.
        - Vehicles can accommodate folding wheelchairs, walkers, and scooters.
        - Driver-partners are trained by Open Doors Organization to assist riders.
        - It is in operation across Los Angeles, Orange County and many other US cities.
        - cost is currently $1 per mile + $0.18 per mile; $4 minimum
    - uberWAV provides transportation for those needing an extra hand or access to wheelchair accessible vehicles and connects riders with experienced drivers and curb-to-curb service.
        - Vehicles are equipped with ramps or lifts for wheelchair access.
        - uberWAV is operational in LA County.
        - cost is currently $1.85 per mile + $0.35 per minute; $7 minimum
    - There was discussion about smart phones for seniors as that is the current mode for accessing uber. Something to explore is the possibility of providing "used" or recycled smart phones to seniors. As people turn in their smart phones for newer models, make them available for use by seniors.

5. "Senior" Update from Assemblyman David Hadley's office
    - Sarah Wiltfong, District Director provided information on the following Senior Town Hall meetings that occurred in November and were open to the public
        - November 4th – Transportation; 80 people attended; possibly have a transportation hearing with Chair of the statewide Aging and Long-term Care Committee in 2016; this town hall meeting brought an awareness to what is available and what is NOT available.
        - November 18th - Financial Literacy; not too many in attendance
        - November 19th - Scam Stoppers; good turnout
    - If there are ideas for legislation, please let Sarah know.

6. Follow-up Actions
        - PATH – homeless update
        - uberASSIST – schedule meeting to investigate having a pilot in the South Bay
        - Smart phones for seniors
        - Recycled phone ideas
        - Do you know of a landlord for PATH to contact?
        - Homeless count is on January 27, 2016

7. Next meeting – **Tuesday, January 26, 2016 @ 9:30 am**