

# **South Bay Cities Council of Governments**

**Homeless Services Task Force  
Wednesday, January 10, 2018  
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

## **Meeting Notes**

### **Welcome & Introductions**

Elected officials in attendance: Redondo Beach Councilmember Christian Horvath and Torrance Councilmember Heidi Ashcraft

Others in attendance: Carson, Keith Bennett; El Segundo Sgt. Glenn Del Mendo & Officer Marco Lemus; Hawthorne, Brian James; Inglewood, Lori Jones; Lawndale, Debbie Holland; Redondo Beach, Lt. Wayne Windman; Rolling Hills, Ray Cruz; Torrance, Jane Wierzbicki; Office of Supervisor Hahn, Erika Velazquez; Hawthorne Commissioner Danielle Marquez; Harbor Interfaith Services, Shari Weaver; LAHSA, Megan Emme, Jeff Proctor, Monica Quezada & Allyson Crosby; Daily Breeze, Donna Littlejohn; CSH, Dara Papel; PATH, Meredith Berkson, Lao Moua, Brigid Kelly, Kimberly Farham; Kiran Magiawala; SBCCOG, Jacki Bacharach, Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque & Cierra Washington

Councilmember Christian Horvath opened the meeting and self-introductions were made.

**November 8, 2017 meeting notes**– Received and filed

### **Presentation on Homeless Initiative Strategies A1 – Homeless Prevention for Families and A5 – Homeless Prevention for Single Adults, Jeffrey Proctor, System Components Supervisor, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority**

Mr. Proctor reported that the Homeless Family Solution System (HFSS) pilot program for homeless prevention would be expanded through the alignment of existing Department of Public Social Services Welfare-to-Work funding. A new referral form will be developed that indicates preventative services. Legal services will be expanded in March 2018.

The target population will be families who are imminently at-risk of homelessness screened for showing that they have a high risk of future homelessness without assistance and families who are at or below 50% Area Median Income (AMI). Supportive services include screening and assessment, legal services, landlord mediation, housing stabilization case management, and housing search/ placement. Direct financial assistance will include rental payments, utility payments, security deposits for rent and utilities, transportation costs, and relocation assistance. 600 families are expected to be served through DPSS funding and another 600 through Measure H funding moving forward.

### **Overview of PATH services – Meredith Berkson, PATH**

Ms. Berkson of PATH gave a Powerpoint presentation and answered questions from attendees. The presentation covered an overview of activities since November and what is happening in the field, statistics, success stories, and barriers/obstacles. The presentation is available at [www.southbaycities.org](http://www.southbaycities.org)

#### **Key points covered:**

- Review of contract deliverables and updates.
- 160 permanent housing placements; 88 of these placements are through shared housing.
- There is a trend in the South Bay of less vulnerable people becoming homeless for the first time. Examples include people whose hours are reduced at work; seniors getting priced out of the South Bay.
- PATH awarded additional Rapid Rehousing and Prevention funding for SPA 8.
- Housing relocation is offered to clients. One-way tickets are provided for people with family in other areas that can house them, follow up provided by PATH staff.
- Success story of Robert who had become homeless in Wilmington when he was discharged from prison. He was connected to a sober living house but was unable to maintain his sobriety. This resulted in his discharge from the program and he ended up on the streets. Robert sought help from Harbor Interfaith Services, who referred him to PATH for case management and move in assistance.
- PATH staff to co-locate at South Bay Workforce Investment Board (Inglewood One Stop Center to start) to provide services.
- PATH staff is raising awareness among clients about Hepatitis A.

### **Coordinated Entry System (CES) Update and Information on New SPA 8 Access Center– Shari Weaver, Harbor Interfaith Services**

Ms. Weaver discussed features of the new Access Center located at 599 W. 9<sup>th</sup> Street in San Pedro. It streamlines access to services by having 27 staff from all CES systems in one location. LA County Department of Social Services, Department of Mental Health/Behavioral Health, LAUSD are also located there with the LA County Office of Education coming soon. Ms. Weaver thanked Supervisor Hahn for supporting this effort. She announced an upcoming CES All Systems Convening on January 16 from 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. at Torrance Memorial Medical Center. For the cold weather shelter, 150 beds will be provided by US Vets in Long Beach and 100 beds provided by First to Serve in Inglewood. She reported the following CES goal attainment for the 7/1/17-6/30/18 grant period:

#### **Individuals & Youth**

- 331 Assessments completed
- 27 Moved through Rapid Rehousing
- 59 Moved into other Permanent Housing
- 367 Enrolled through Outreach

#### **Families**

- 529 Assessments Completed

- 110 Moved through Rapid Rehousing
- 65 assisted through Prevention

**Update on 2018 Homeless Count Planning – Megan Emme, Regional Coordinator, LAHSA**

Ms. Emme reported that a final push is underway to recruit volunteers for the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count on January 24 in SPA 8. She said that more volunteers are needed in all South Bay deployment sites, other than Hermosa Beach which had surpassed the minimum number of volunteers. She noted that most volunteers sign up during the final week. Cities had been advised to avoid doing “sweeps” 30 days prior to the Count. Ms. Emme shared ways cities can help support the volunteer recruitment effort.

**SBCCOG Homeless Coordination Work Update – Jennifer LaMarque, SBCCOG**

Ms. LaMarque reported that the SBCCOG is in the third month of its contract with the County to provide regional homeless coordination. A meeting was convened by SBCCOG for cities with homeless planning grants on January 3. The meeting enabled city staff to share information and coordinate with the County Homeless Initiative staff and consultants as well as Harbor Interfaith Services and PATH staff. SBCCOG is working closely with Harbor Interfaith staff to host a homeless outreach event in the coming months. A bus tour of affordable and supportive housing for city staff and elected officials is scheduled for February 14. SBCCOG is working with LA Gateway Chamber of Commerce to address homeless hotspot and other issues; business surveys for South Bay Chambers of Commerce planned. SBCCOG is helping with Homeless Count coordination.

**Other Business** – Jacki Bacharach discussed the need to educate community members, including elected officials and opinion leaders, about the process of homeless outreach and the time it takes to get people housed. She has observed a disconnect in that city leaders have questioned why they are still seeing people on the streets despite homeless services being in place and more resources being allocated to homelessness. She said there seems to be a stereotype that all people experiencing homelessness have mental illness when that is not the case.

**Next Steps and Follow-up Actions** – SBCCOG staff to send Homeless Count info electronically.

**Adjournment**

Submitted by Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque