

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Homeless Services Committee

January 11, 2017

Minutes

By Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque

Welcome & Introductions - Councilman Joe Buscaino, Chair

Elected officials in attendance: Los Angeles Councilmember Joe Buscaino; Rolling Hills Estates Councilmember Britt Huff; Redondo Beach Councilmember Christian Horvath; Hermosa Beach Mayor Hany Fangary and Palos Verdes Estates Councilmember Jim Goodhart.

Others in attendance: City of Lawndale, Steve Mandoki; City of Hawthorne, Christopher Burrus & Fariba Moghadam; City of Lomita, Daniella Ward; City of Hermosa Beach, Nico De Anda-Scaia; Hermosa Beach Police Department, Landon Phillips; Redondo Beach Police Department, Wayne Windman; City of LA CD 15, Jacob Haik & Nicole Deering; Office of Assemblymember Muratsuchi, Andrew DeBlock; Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn, Erika Velazquez; County of Los Angeles Homeless Initiative, Ashlee Oh; LAHSA, Paul Lange & Gary Mitchell; PATH, Meredith Berkson; Move LA, Denny Zane; SBCCOG Jacki Bacharach, Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque & Cierra Washington.

Chair Buscaino gave welcoming remarks, noting that 2016 had many challenges in dealing with homelessness issues but that he is hopeful for 2017. He thanked the SBCCOG for its advocacy in securing funding and working with PATH to address homelessness in the South Bay. He thanked former Supervisor Don Knabe, Supervisors Ridley-Thomas and Hahn. He acknowledged Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi's representative Andrew DeBlock who was in attendance.

Approval of minutes from November 9, 2016 meeting-approved

2017 Homeless Count

Paul Lange, Supervisor, Regional Coordination, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

Mr. Lange passed out the South Bay Homeless Count flyer. He coordinates services for the region including the South Bay, South LA, Westside and Metro LA. He said that the information obtained in the Homeless Count is crucial for programming purposes. The count for SPA 8 will take place on January 25. HUD requires this effort to be done in last 10 days of January across the nation. He discussed that it features a shelter count, demographic survey, youth count and street count. It includes all of Greater Los Angeles except Pasadena, Long Beach and Glendale. The shelter count looks at the numbers and capacity, the survey aims to capture 5,000 valid surveys of what led to homelessness and demographic data, transitional age youth survey and street count. He said that youth are difficult to count. LAHSA solicits input from local communities and depends on them to provide deployment sites. South Bay cities can get involved by opting-in, volunteering and promoting the count. It takes 500 volunteers in the South Bay for the count to be effective. The South Bay has 100 percent participation from the cities and the South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness fills in the gaps. In response to a question, he explained that the count is only done once a year since it is a massive undertaking.

New Measures to Address Homelessness

County Tax Proposal - Ashlee Oh, LA County Homeless Initiative

Ms. Oh gave statistics that show that homelessness in LA County is up by 6 percent from 2015 and 19 percent from 2013. She noted the housing gap, stating that 15,341 units of permanent housing and 8,376 of rapid re-housing units are needed at a cost estimate of \$450 million per year. She noted that the LA Homeless Initiative provides \$100 million in one-time funding.

She discussed County Ballot Measure H on the March 7 ballot which would authorize a ¼ cent sales tax that would begin July 1, 2017 for homeless services, rental subsidies, and housing. It would provide \$355 million for 10 years then sunset. It could only be used for addressing homelessness. There would be a citizen's oversight board and independent auditor. The County is looking at 22 strategies eligible for new funding. (18 original and 4 new). She discussed the strategies of preventing homelessness for families and individuals, subsidizing housing and related housing services, employment assistance, case management and services for individuals while incarcerated and when discharged and the new strategy of mental health services. A hotline is being developed and the program in which multi-disciplinary teams are dispatched would be expanded. (There is currently one team per SPA.) She said COGs will be asked to select a representative to participate in revenue budget planning. Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG stated that the Steering Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the SBCCOG Board of Directors endorse Measure H at its meeting on January 26.

HHH for LA City - What's Next

Chair Buscaino stated that the LA City HHH bond measure passed with 76 percent approval. He said it will last 29 years and build 10,000 homes along with wrap-around services. A program will be developed for the build out of homes. He encouraged the other cities to find a way to do something similar that would allow them to build "brick and mortar" homes, noting that all cities share responsibility and need to help. Palos Verdes Estates Councilmember Jim Goodhart noted that the League of CA Cities is looking at establishing a new objective regarding homelessness. Meredith Berkson of PATH discussed the need for prevention services for singles adults. Hermosa Beach Mayor Fangary gave an example of a constituent who was living in his business and asked the best way for cities to connect with the county. Ms. Oh stated that when recommendations are developed they want to make sure cities are at the table, noting city-specific strategies in the Homeless Initiative from which cities can pick or choose or implement all of them. She announced a County Homelessness Conference that will take place on February 8.

Overview of PATH services-Meredith Berkson, PATH Activities since November - what's happening in the field

Meredith 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, agency coordination, barriers/obstacles and status of workshop for landlords. The presentation is available at www.southbaycities.org.

Key points covered:

- 600 unduplicated contacts have been made. (Goal was 450.)
- Hotline is an effective community engagement strategy. It averages 6.1 calls per day.
- 70 people have been connected to mental health services. (It takes a while for clients to acknowledge mental health issues and be willing to explore help.)
- 11 people have been connected to substance abuse treatment and an additional 14 referred.
- 17 people have been connected with mainstream benefits and additional 24 have been referred. SSI/SSDI is a long process.
- 26 people placed in interim housing with 52 referrals, 70 placed in permanent housing with 178 referrals.

- 46 people have been placed in shared housing. This is a good option given the tight rental market.
- Landlord event scheduled for March 22 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Supervisor Ridley-Thomas will give the keynote speech and there will be landlord and tenant speakers. Location being sought, Carson is a possibility.

Discussion of South Bay cities' approach to dealing with people sleeping in vehicles – Chair Buscaino

Chair Buscaino stated that the LA City Council approved a new ordinance (which replaced the previous 8502 ordinance) that restricts 24-hour lodging in vehicles in residential areas or within 500 feet of schools and daycare centers. It is allowed in commercial and industrial zones unless there is signage prohibiting it. It sunsets in 2018 and the City will be looking at land and parking lots where people would be allowed to sleep in vehicles. Chair Buscaino asked what other cities are doing to address the issue. Lt. Windman of Redondo Beach PD stated that they do not have a lot of people living in vehicles but there are a few displaced families that frequently park in the pier parking structure and people that are living on boats. Chair Buscaino noted that while homelessness is being decriminalized, there is a criminal element especially with vehicle dwelling relative to drug dealing and prostitution. Mayor Fangary and staff member Nico DeAnda-Scaia discussed the experience in Hermosa. Mr. DeAnda-Scaia stated that the City had enforced an ordinance against sleeping in vehicles for many years but has stopped because of constitutionality issues. The City has recently drafted an oversized vehicle ordinance which allows the vehicles to be there but establishes a permit process by which to do so. Meredith Berkson of PATH stated that many people living in vehicles are employed or interested in employment and can benefit from short-term rental subsidies via Harbor Interfaith Services and PATH. Tahia Hayslet of Harbor Interfaith Services stated that her agency is in discussions with LAHSA regarding safe parking areas and that funding allocations are being explored.

Status of Funding Renewal – Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG

Ms. Bacharach stated that both Supervisor Ridley-Thomas' and Hahn's offices have indicated that the funding would be renewed until June and that it is going through the process.

Other Business

Ms. Bacharach made an announcement encouraging attendance at the 18th Annual SBCCOG General Assembly on February 24 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Carson.

Next Steps and Follow-up Actions

Explore Homeless Initiative strategies individually. Invite South Bay Workforce Investment Board representative. City spotlight on best practices and success stories.

Chair Buscaino closed the meeting by noting that everyone has a different story of what led to homelessness and whether it be drugs or mental health issues vs. people who lost their job and are living in an RV, we can't give up on any of them. He commended his staff member Nicole Deering who took a displaced family into her own home over the holidays. The family is now permanent housed.

Adjournment to March 8, 2017-Meeting adjourned at 4:42 p.m.