

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Homeless Services Committee

**SBCCOG Office
20285 Western Avenue, Suite 100
Torrance, Ca. 90501**

**Wednesday, February 10, 2016
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

Minutes

I. Welcome & Introductions – Joe Buscaino, Chair

Elected Officials in attendance: Councilmember Joe Buscaino, City of Los Angeles District 15; Councilmember Britt Huff, City of Rolling Hills Estates; Mayor Jim Gazeley, City of Lomita; Councilmember Hany Fangary, City of Hermosa Beach; Councilmember Jim Osborne, City of Lawndale; Councilmember Christian Horvath, City of Redondo Beach, Councilmember Mark Waronek, City of Lomita.

Others in attendance: Lt. Wayne Windman, City of Redondo Beach; Keith Bennett, City of Carson; Shawn Park, City of Hermosa Beach; Nicole Wells, LA Council District 15; Amy Gebert, LA Council District 15; Jacob Haik, LA Council District 15; Sara Russo, City of Lomita; Charles Fisher, City of Torrance; Mathew Wessels, City of Torrance; Steve Mandoki, City of Lawndale; Jeremy Sidell, PATH; Meredith Berkson, PATH; Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG; Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque, SBCCOG

Chair Buscaino gave opening remarks, discussed City of LA goals.

Discussion of draft mission statement for committee, Chair Buscaino would like to add “review best practices and the challenges cities face in addressing homelessness.”

Committee members to review draft mission statement and provide feedback before the next meeting.

Discussion of how this new program will cooperate with other city/county programs.

Jeremy Sidell of PATH made the distinction that this program does not go through LAHSA but is funded separately through County homeless prevention (HPI) funds.

Chair Buscaino discussed frustration with people refusing help, challenges created by lawsuits, lack of housing and discussed proposed City of LA ordinance which would require tents to be taken down by 6:00 a.m. Tents would be permitted from 9:00 pm-6:00 am under the proposed ordinance that is currently under development.

II. Overview of PATH services

- a. Scope of work**
- b. Start-up**
- c. Hotline**
- d. Agencies they are coordinating with**
- e. SBCCOG role**

Meredith Berkson of PATH gave a Powerpoint presentation on the new South Bay Cities Council of Governments Homeless Program and answered questions from attendees.

Presentation available at www.southbaycities.org.

She stated in her opening remarks that this program would not have been possible without the dedication and advocacy of the SBCCOG and that a regional approach is necessary as people experiencing homelessness are mobile, and often move from city to city.

Other items discussed:

- Service Provider Area (SPA) 8 which includes the South Bay had 100% participation in the 2016 Homeless Count.
- City of LA-Machado Lake in Harbor City, roughly 60-70 people living across the street, a cleanup will be done and the people there will receive outreach before and during the cleanup.
- Chair Buscaino asked how the lead service providers are selected for the SPAs. Jeremy Sidell from PATH explained the process. Harbor Interfaith Services is the lead for SPA 8 and the contract ends on June 30, 2016.
- Discussion of PATH's 91% retention rate for individuals placed in permanent housing. Monthly permanent housing reports are done. They work to prevent eviction through the county rapid re-housing via rental subsidy. This is all tracked in HMIS (Homeless Management Information System). Meredith cited reasons for attrition including failure to pay rent, burdensome health care costs and loss of income. She stated that individuals are followed into housing and out of housing.
- Chair Buscaino discussed the need for a report on available Section 8 units in the SBCCOG area. Meredith Berkson of PATH stated that the key to leveraging Section 8 as a resource is building a network of landlords. Chair Buscaino stated that an action item for this committee should be to host Section 8 workshops.
- Discussion regarding the need for advocacy before the LA County Board of Supervisors and the need for cities to provide additional funding. Jacki Bacharach stated that this program is only a pilot at this point and that discussions about getting additional funding for the program moving forward should start probably in August or September.
- Discussion about cold weather shelters available October 15 through the end of March in Inglewood and Long Beach. (There is also a much smaller, 20-bed shelter in San Pedro.)
- Jeremy Sidell of PATH encouraged cities to consider developing permanent supportive housing, noting that state tax credits can be used.
- Discussion of the need for law enforcement to be part of the process of addressing homelessness and that criminals are preying upon people experiencing homelessness due to their vulnerability.

III. Specific City Concerns

a. Activities in Los Angeles District 15

There is an LAPD "Quality of Life" car with 2 dedicated officers and a LAHSA Mental Health Unit housed at San Pedro Municipal Building. Blue Butterfly housing is available for veterans who are single mothers.

b. Other cities

Torrance has a quality of life team consisting of 4 officers and a sergeant.
Lomita has Harbor Hills housing development and Community's Child for single mothers.
Gardena has Vermont Villas permanent supportive housing development.

IV. Mission of this committee

Committee members to review draft mission statement, make recommendations over the next month and prepare to vote on final language at the next meeting.

V. Set regular meeting time and frequency

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 6th 3:00-5:00 pm. For the near future, the meetings will be monthly on the first Monday of the month in the afternoon.

VI. Other Business-None

VII. Adjournment- 4:25 p.m.