South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Meeting re: Homeless Services

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

Wednesday, July 13, 2016
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

(3:00 – 4:30 pm for elected officials and staff; 4:30 pm – 5:00 pm for staff only)

Agenda

I. **Welcome & Introductions – Jim Osborne, SBCCOG Chair**

II. **Approval of minutes from February 10 and May 11 meetings (attached)**

III. **Overview of PATH services – Meredith Berkson, PATH (3:10 pm)**
   a. Review of Contract Goals
   b. Activities since February – what happens in the field
   c. Hotline – calls/day and how they are handled
   d. Coordination with other agencies and who they are
   e. Coordination with cities
   f. Barriers/Obstacles
   g. Additional Funding Opportunities

IV. **Housing – Working With Landlords (3:30 pm)**
   h. South Bay Realtors, David Kissinger
   i. Apartment Association, Johanna Cunningham
   j. Inglewood Outreach for Affordable Housing, Councilman Ralph Franklin

V. **County Initiative Update – Ashlee Oh, County CEO's Office (4:00 pm)**

VI. **CES update and status of locker and shower proposal – Shari Weaver, Harbor Interfaith Services (4:10 pm)**

VII. **Legislation – HR 4888 & S 2680 (attached) (4:20pm)**

VIII. **Other Business (4:25 pm)**

IX. **Next Steps and Follow-up Actions (4:30 pm)**

X. **Adjournment to September 14, 2016**

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

f. 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.

g. 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

Adjournment- 4:25 p.m.

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Meeting Minutes for Homeless Services Committee
May 11, 2016
(3:00 – 4:30 pm for elected officials and staff; 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm for staff only)
Minutes by Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque

I. Welcome & Introductions-Councilmember Joe Buscaino, Chair

Elected officials in attendance: Los Angeles Councilmember Joe Buscaino; Redondo Beach Councilmember Christian Horvath; Lawndale Councilmember Jim Osborne; Palos Verdes Estates Councilmember Jim Goodhart and Councilmember Jim Vandever; Hermosa Beach Councilmember Hany Fangary.

Others in attendance: Redondo Beach Police Department, Wayne Windman; Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, John Hocking; Harbor Interfaith Services Shari Weaver &Tahia Hayslet; Los Angeles Police Department, Michael Oreb & Gary Walters; City of Torrance, Domenica Megerdichian & Viet Hoang; PATH, Meredith Berkson & Shannon Legere; City of Palos Verdes Estates, Tony Dahlerbruch; Hawthorne Police Department, Scott Swain; City of Carson, Keith Bennett, Cecil Flourney & Amanda Valorosi; City of Inglewood, Cinder Eller-Kimbell & Tracey Duncan; City of Lawndale, Deborah Holland; Torrance Police Department, Matthew Wessels; City of Lomita, Laura MacMorran; Hermosa Beach Police Department, Tom Thompson; City of Rolling Hills Estates, Greg Grammer; City of Hermosa Beach, Shawn Park; City of El Segundo, Raymond Garcia; Pamela Manning, County of Los Angeles; City of Los Angeles Council District 15, Nicole Wells & Jacob Haik; SBCCOG Jacki Bacharach & Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque.

Chair Buscaino gave opening remarks, stating that he believes that the homelessness issue is the most pressing issue cities are currently facing. He said that the recent increase in homelessness makes it even more important for the South Bay cities to work together to address the issue; to work with the service providers, find out what law enforcement is doing in the cities and to collectively review best practices.

II. Overview of PATH services – Meredith Berkson, PATH
a. Activities since February
b. Hotline
c. Coordination with other agencies
d. Coordination with cities

Meredith Berkson of PATH gave a Powerpoint presentation and answered questions from attendees. The presentation covered the 2016 Homeless Count results, implementation plan progress, street outreach, coordination with the Coordinated Entry System and next steps. The presentation is available at www.southbaycities.org.

Key items she discussed:

- Ms. Berkson and the PATH staff are working on building relationships with the South Bay cities. She stated that she has met with staff from the majority of cities and that the hotline postcards have been distributed to the cities. She stated that she has done ride-alongs with several police departments and that she is scheduling a meeting with the LAHSA staff who work out of the Council District 15 office.

- There has been a 22 percent increase in homelessness in the South Bay from the 2015 count. There are 3,663 people experiencing homelessness with 695 sheltered, 2,968 unsheltered and 374 veterans.

- PATH is working to engage the faith community and help them to be able to provide referrals, in addition to providing meals. She stated that they are working with 1736 Family Crisis Center on outreach to veterans and that they have engaged 2 veterans so far. She stated that PATH staff participated in the outreach efforts with Harbor Interfaith in front of the San Pedro Post Office and will continue to engage with them for collective outreach.

- 183 contacts have been made so far; including 116 unduplicated and 67 duplicated contacts and 2 have been referred to substance abuse treatment; 3 people have been linked with temporary shelter; and 1 person has been permanently housed.

- The goal is to canvass each city on a monthly basis, but the patterns of calls to the hotline may show that they need to change the focus.

- Councilmember Osborne stated that he would like to see more people housed. Ms. Berkson explained that connecting clients to permanent housing is not immediate and noted that the program is just getting underway. She explained that they must to do the Coordinated Entry assessments first, which takes some time. She stated that 32 assessments have been completed and that 17 housing applications have been completed so far.

- A question was asked about how available housing units are found. Ms. Berkson stated that it is mostly scattered site housing made available through rental subsidies. She stated that there are some project-based sites such as the Vermont Villas in Gardena.

- A question was asked about whether volunteer opportunities are available as part of the South Bay program and Ms. Berkson stated that there are plenty of volunteer opportunities available.

- PATH is also seeking to develop partnerships with landlords and this is something the cities can help with. Councilman Buscaino stated he would like the South Bay Association of Realtors to be invited to the next meeting.

III. City Actions

e. Los Angeles City - LAPD Harbor Division Captain Oreb

f. Report from Redondo Beach on their services - RB Lieutenant Wayne Windman

Captain Oreb gave information regarding his background, stating that he grew up in the area and most recently served 4 ½ years as the commanding officer of the Central Division which includes downtown Los Angeles and Skid Row. He stated that when he first started with the Division, there were roughly 600 people living on Skid Row and that there were 2,000 to 2,500 by the time he left. He discussed several factors contributing to the increase: AB 109 prison realignment, Proposition 47 and several lawsuits. He stated he has been at Harbor Division for 2 months and that the issues are more manageable than in his previous Division.

He is seeing mental health and substance abuse issues amongst the homeless population. LAPD is pursuing ways to address the issue constitutionally. He initially focused officers on quality of life issues and had 2 part-time officers but realized more focus is needed in this area. The officers will be working full-time starting next week. They participated in the outreach efforts with Harbor Interfaith, PATH and LAHSA and they are doing outreach in the watershed areas. He discussed the department's approach to enforcement, stating that those using drugs and breaking the law will be

arrested and that they focus on getting the people who are arrested into services. If they receive services, their record will be expunged. Captain Oreb raised concerns about the mental health system and Chair Buscaino asked that the Committee consider a Resolution to support Congresswoman Waters' bill aimed at reforming the mental health care system.

Lieutenant Windman stated that he is in his 37th year in the South Bay. The homelessness issue is the biggest problem he's seen over his years of service. There has been a 400 percent increase in calls for service over the past 3 years relative to the homeless issue and the City of Redondo Beach spends $300,000 a year on these calls alone. He tried to have a part-time program to address it but now they have a full-time dedicated officer during the day and 2 at night, as well as ancillary officers on patrol. Half of the food banks in the South Bay are in Redondo Beach which among other factors, makes Redondo Beach an attractive place for people experiencing homelessness to locate.

He described the Department's approach which focuses on connecting people to services, community education and outreach and enforcement. He stated that they work with PATH one day a week, that they are working with Shari Weaver from Harbor Interfaith Services and that they have a Department of Mental Health worker starting in 2 weeks. He stated that they are trying to educate people to not give handouts, but rather to collect funds to donate to the non-profits to help. This approach is being modeled after a successful program in the City of Beverly Hills.

IV. Coordinated Entry

g. SPA 8 - Shari Weaver, Harbor Interfaith

h. PATH Coordination with Coordinated Entry for SBCCOG Program, Meredith Berkson, PATH

Shari Weaver has been with Harbor Interfaith Services for 15 years and previously served as a Sheriff's Deputy. She is the regional planning coordinator for Coordinated Entry for Service Planning Area (SPA) 8. She provided background information on Coordinated Entry, stating that it began in July 2014 via the United Way Home for Good Program. Before Coordinated Entry, individual agencies were providing services but now 38 agencies are partnering. They coordinate with Mental Health of America which oversees the Rapid Re-housing program, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services to identify housing for frequent users of health care services and the US Vets in Inglewood. She also mentioned a partnership with the Century Villages at Cabrillo which houses veterans and gave a debrief on the 4-day outreach in front of the San Pedro Post Office, noting that it was a good team building effort among service providers. She would like to replicate this effort throughout SPA 8. Chair Buscaino asked how the Committee can help and Ms. Weaver stated that they can help by identifying hotspots and encampments. As part of this discussion, Harbor Interfaith Executive Director Tahia Hayslet provided further background information on Coordinated Entry and the process by which a service provider applies to be the regional coordinator. She expressed a need for service providers to work together.

V. Potential additional funding for South Bay – Meredith Berkson

i. United Way funding opportunity

j. Upcoming RFPs

k. County Initiative

Ms. Berkson stated that the United Way released an RFP that includes a 40 percent match for cities. PATH has approached some South Bay Cities and received commitments from Carson and Redondo Beach to try to secure an additional $30,000. She mentioned a LAHSA RFP that deals with Rapid Re-Housing and stated that she would update the Committee at the next meeting.

Jacki Bacharach mentioned that the County wants to see funds being leveraged when they are looking to renew this program and that she would like the Committee to discuss funding issues at the next meeting.

VI. Other Business

A question was raised as to whether cities should contact PATH or Harbor Interfaith for services. Jacki Bacharach stated that they should contact PATH for purposes of the new South Bay program and in order to avoid creating confusion.

Chair Buscaino reiterated his interest in having the Committee support the federal Mental Health Reform Act and Jacki Bacharach stated that she would need to bring it to the Steering Committee as the first step. She asked Chair Buscaino to send her some information to present.

VII. Follow-up Actions

I. **Next meeting date**-Wednesday, July 13th, 3:00 p.m.

Councilmember Jim Osborne offered to chair the next meeting in Councilmember Buscaino's absence.

VIII. Adjournment

HR 4888 (Waters)	End Homelessness Act of 2016. This bill amends the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to make additional FY2017-FY2021 appropriations available for: (1) emergency relief grants to address the unmet needs of homeless populations in jurisdictions with the highest need, (2) rental assistance under the United States Housing Act of 1937 for persons and households who are homeless, and (3) homeless outreach and coordination services. Beginning in FY2017, the bill also provides annual additional funds for: (1) the Housing Trust Fund to provide grants to states for use to increase homeownership and the supply of rental housing for extremely low- and very low-income families, including homeless families; and (2) incremental project-based voucher or rental assistance under the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992. When the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocates grants to states from the Housing Trust Fund for rental housing, the dwelling units must be subject to legally binding commitments to ensure that the residing family's contribution toward rent does not exceed 30% of the family's adjusted income. The bill provides funding to HUD to expand the Healthcare and Housing (H2) Systems Integration Initiative by assisting states and localities in coordinating policies among Medicaid programs, behavioral health providers, housing providers, and finance support services for homeless persons. The bill also makes permanent: (1) certain housing assistance programs under the Homeless Assistance Act, and (2) the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness.	3/23/2016 Referred to House Budget Committee

S 2680 (Alexander)	Mental Health Reform Act of 2016. Reforms mental health funding to increase patient access to effective and evidence-based care particularly focused to those with serious mental illness (SMI). Notable provisions of this legislation include: • In the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) establishes a new Inter-Departmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee, and promotes research and subsequent implementation of evidence-based practices to improve the prevention, diagnosis, treatment of and recovery from mental illness and substance use disorders. • Authorizes major mental health and substance abuse grant programs for individuals with SMI or serious emotional disturbance, and significantly improves the incentive grant program promoting integration of primary and behavioral health care. • Reauthorizes the Garrett Lee Smith youth suicide prevention grant program, and authorizes the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline program. • Clarifies appropriate use and disclosure of protected health information under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, and provides resources and training on requirements for communication between providers, patients and families.	4/26/2016 Passed Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions