

# 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)**

**Minutes by Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque**

### Agenda

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

Elected officials in attendance: Lawndale Councilmember Jim Osborne; Redondo Beach Councilmember Christian Horvath; Inglewood Councilmember Ralph Franklin and Hermosa Beach Councilmember Hany Fangary.

Others in attendance: Redondo Beach Police Department, Wayne Windman; Harbor Interfaith Services Shari Weaver & Tahia Hayslet; City of Torrance, Viet Hoang; PATH, Meredith Berkson & Shannon Legere; PATH Ventures, Jesus Hernandez; City of Inglewood, Cinder Eller-Kimbell & Tracey Duncan; City of Lawndale, Deborah Holland; City of Carson, Debra Scott; County of Los Angeles, Ashlee Oh; South Bay Association of Realtors, David Kissinger; SBCCOG Jacki Bacharach, Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque & Cierra Washington.

#### **II. Approval of minutes from February 10 and May 11 meetings**

Motion to approve by Councilmember Osborne; minutes approved.

#### **III. Overview of PATH services – Meredith Berkson, PATH (3:10 pm)**

Meredith Berkson of PATH gave a Powerpoint presentation and answered questions from attendees. The presentation covered the progress towards contract goals, hotline, coordination with cities, barriers and additional funding. The presentation is available at [www.southbaycities.org](http://www.southbaycities.org). Please note correction to Powerpoint: the contract goal is connect 58 individuals to mental health services, not 70.

Key points covered:

- Councilmember Osborne asked how the PATH team ensures that clients get to their appointments and if they transport them to clinics. Meredith stated that PATH staff does accompany them to some appointments but that there is also a field-based team from the Department of Mental Health comes out to meet with clients. She stated that some clients are so ill that they cannot get to

appointments after the initial appointment where PATH staff accompanies them.

- Hotline-Cities are being great stewards of the program. They are getting requests from cities, but more from email than calls to the hotline. PATH is working with cities regarding what they can do aside from this program; an example was given about working with churches. They are making presentations to city commissions and coming back with updates. They have met with the majority of the South Bay cities and attend meetings of the South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness.
- Barriers include a lack of housing subsidies from the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Health Services Housing for Health program. Ms. Berkson stated that there should be more available in the next few months and that PATH has applied for their own rental subsidies to add 40 slots. Another barrier is the lack of units and that identifying landlords is difficult.
- A question was raised about whether the increase in rents has been an issue and Meredith responded that it has and discussed the need to build more affordable housing as a solution.

#### **IV. Housing – Working With Landlords (3:30 pm)**

##### **a. South Bay Realtors, David Kissinger**

Mr. Kissinger stated that the South Bay Association of Realtors represents 4,000 realtors throughout the South Bay. He referenced the lack of units stating that data shows the inventory of homes for sale is low as well as rental units due to supply and demand. He stated that they spend a lot of time doing education, legal representation and advocacy. He stated realtors do well when cities are doing well and that they network with landlords. He said he is interested in learning more about the incentives for landlords. He stated that his organization can help with the South Bay homelessness program through public education, town hall meetings and advertising. He stated that he would be interested in partnering with the SBCCOG to host a landlord workshop.

##### **b. Apartment Association, Johanna Cunningham-Did not attend.**

##### **c. Inglewood Outreach for Affordable Housing, Councilman Ralph Franklin**

Councilman Franklin discussed a project in Inglewood where a vacant lot was used to build 20 affordable housing units. He discussed the approach of using federal HOME program funds vs. partnering with developers using tax credit allocation.

He stated that a 40-unit senior housing development is underway. He stated that the city is using HOME funds to partner with PATH Ventures (housing development side of PATH) which will apply for a state tax credit. He discussed the use of Community Development Block Grants.

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

Ms. Oh stated that homelessness is up 6 percent from 2015 to almost 47,000 and that the number of unsheltered individuals has increased significantly. She stated there was

a 27 percent increase in unsheltered in SPA 8. She discussed training that will be available for first responders. A question was asked about whether the cities would have to pay for the training and Ms. Oh responded that the only expense for cities would be the staff time to attend the training. She said she the County will notify police departments and will communicate through organizations like COGs and the Police Chiefs Association. The status is that the curriculum is being finalized, the schedule is being developed and instructors are being identified. LASD is taking the lead on the curriculum.

She stated that the \$96 million in one-time funding that was allocated as part of the Homeless Initiative will be depleted in 2 years. She stated that the Board of Supervisors explored using the following taxes as funding mechanisms: parcel, sales, marijuana and that the only proposal that survived was a special tax on marijuana. If the proposal moves forward and goes to the voters it would need a 2/3 vote.

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

Ms. Weaver provided the following numbers relative to the Coordinated Entry System outcomes and goals:

**CES (Year 2) United Way - Goal Attainment**

734 VI-SPDAT's (CES Survey Assessments) / Goal is 480

258 Permanent Housing Placements / Goal is 212

89 Chronically homeless Vets / Goal is 101

12 on-Chronic Vets / Goal is 27

**CES (Year 1) LAHSA (RRAV) – Goal Attainment (Homeless in City of LA Only – San Pedro, Wilmington, Harbor City & Harbor Gateway)**

36 placements / Single Adult placement goal is 41

4 placements / Veteran placement goal is 41

**Homeless Family Solution System (Year 2)**

639 families served

175 Permanent Housing Placements

She also discussed a storage and shower service provided by Chrysalis in Skid Row. 1400 bins are provided for people living on the streets to store their belongings, along with showers. Councilman Buscaino's Homeless Task Force is looking at having a similar operation in San Pedro to reduce the personal belongings on the street and allow people to hold onto their belongings and keep their important documents close. A service provider would also be co-located to connect people to services. Several possible locations have been identified and they are checking to see if LAHSA funds are available.

She also discussed the operations of multi-disciplinary teams which have been doing street outreach every month in a different city in SPA 8. She referenced a 4-day event in San Pedro in May as well as one in Wilmington and discussed an upcoming event in Lennox/Inglewood. Jacki Bacharach offered for the SBCCOG to be a resource in communicating the information about outreach to the cities.

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

To be monitored.

**VIII. Other Business (4:25 pm)-None**

**IX. Next Steps and Follow-up Actions (4:30 pm)-None**

**X. Adjournment to September 14, 2016-4:34 pm**