

# **South Bay Cities Council of Governments**

## **Homeless Services Committee Wednesday, September 13, 2017**

### **Meeting Notes**

**By Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque**

#### **Welcome & Introductions**

Elected officials in attendance: Torrance Councilmember Heidi Ashcraft.

Others in attendance: Carson, Cecil Flournoy & Keith Bennett; Hawthorne, Vontray Norris, Brenda Williams, Brian James & Catherine Khensouan; Inglewood, Cinder Eller-Kimbell; Lomita, Daniella Ward; Manhattan Beach, Kendra Davis & Julie Dahlgren; Redondo Beach, Lt. Wayne Windman & Aaron Fishman; Torrance, Matt Wessels, Viet Hoang & Jan Wierzbicki; Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn, Erika Velazquez; LA County Homeless Initiative, Ashlee Oh; Harbor Interfaith Services, Shari Weaver; LAHSA, Megan Emme; Mental Health America, Laurie Ramey & Tara Reid; South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness, Nancy Wilcox; Kiran Magiawala; PATH, Meredith Berkson & Lao Moua; SBCCOG, Jacki Bacharach, Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque & Cierra Washington

SBCCOG Executive Director Jacki Bacharach gave opening remarks and announced a change in the agenda: Items 5,6 and 8- the presentations by Ashlee Oh of the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative staff would be moved up to the beginning of the agenda.

#### **LA County Homeless Initiative Presentation on Strategy D7, Permanent Supportive Housing- Ashlee Oh, Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative**

Ms. Oh gave an overview of Measure H, the ¼ cent County sales tax estimated to generate \$355 million annually for 10 years to prevent and combat homelessness. The goal in the first five years is to help 45,000 families and individuals escape homelessness and prevent 30,000 from falling into homelessness. Final funding recommendations for FY 17/18 and tentative funding for FY 18/19 and FY 19/20 have been approved by the Board of Supervisors. Strategies of the Homeless Initiative that will be funded by Measure H include outreach, crisis/bridge housing, permanent housing, prevention help for families and individuals. The State Board of Equalization will deposit the funds in the County account, then it will be distributed to County departments which serve as lead agencies on the strategy.

The lead agencies for Strategy D7: Services for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), are the Departments of Health Services, Mental Health, and Public Health. This strategy features non-time-limited affordable housing assistance combined with wraparound supportive services. The goal is to link 2,500 people to permanent supporting housing in FY 17/18. The final funding allocation for PSH in FY17/18 is 25.1 million and tentatively \$49.3 for FY 18/19 and \$72.1 for FY 19/20. 15,000 units will be needed over 5 years. The client will hold their own lease and contribute one-third of their income toward rent. They will receive intensive case management services, and mental health and substance use disorder services based on need. The Board of Supervisors passed a motion that directs the County CEO to establish a memorandum of understanding with cities and/or city public housing authorities whereby the County will provide supportive services for each PSH units created by the cities. She concluded by announcing the Cities' Summit to Combat Homelessness in Carson on September 27. It is the second meeting of its type for cities and COGS to strategize and collaborate in combating homelessness.

### **City Homeless Planning Grant and COG Homeless Coordination Grant Funding Update-Jacki Bacharach and Ashlee Oh**

Ms. Bacharach reported that the County is funding each of the seven Councils of Governments in LA County for regional homeless coordination services. She asked the group to provide input on how the SBCCOG can be most helpful moving forward. She discussed some of the early actions SBCCOG would be taking including developing a web page of resources, hosting a First Responders Training and landlord workshop, working with the South Bay Workforce Investment Board and meeting with the cities after the grant awards are made.

Ms. Oh discussed the timeline for the planning grant process for cities whereby \$1.5 million in one-time funds for homeless planning grants will be available. September 18 is the deadline and the grant award will be made in late October. There will be an orientation session with the awardees in early November. The funds can be used to hire a consultant or for the use of staff time. The plans will be due at the end of March 2018. Extensions may be requested but plans must be submitted by June 30. Grant amounts are based on the 2017 Homeless Count. Cities with fewer than 100 people experiencing homelessness will be eligible for \$30,000, those with 100-400 will be eligible for \$50,000 and above 400, \$70,000.

### **Presentation on Mental Health America Los Angeles' Homeless Outreach Program and Services-Laurie Ramey, Team Lead for the Homeless Outreach Program, Mental Health America Los Angeles (MHALA)**

Ms. Ramey provided information about the MHALA Homeless Outreach Program (HOP). MHALA has 2 outreach teams which collaborate with the County Departments of Health Services and Mental Health and LAHSA. Each team consists of a nurse, social worker, substance abuse counselor, and outreach specialist. The teams work on outreach, engagement and linking clients to services and housing. Referrals are made through a centralized hotline (562-548-0552). The program has been operating since July and the stats at the end of August are: 290 contacts made, 82 engaged (agreed to services), 50 provided services, 11 linked to interim housing, 18 referred to permanent supportive housing.

### **Overview of PATH services – Lao Moua, PATH**

Lao Moua of PATH gave a Powerpoint presentation and answered questions from attendees. The presentation covered an overview of activities since July 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.
- 276 Coordinated Entry System packets have been completed. 129 people have been placed into permanent housing with an additional 269 referred. 68 people have been placed into interim housing with an additional 219 referred.
- Housing success story of Stephanie and Nelson-connected with PATH via St. James Church's food program.
- Hotline receives 7.8 calls per day on average.
- Mr. Moua discussed the issue of homeless hotspots along city borders such as along the LA (Willmington)/Carson border.
- Review of homeless outreach event in Lennox. He asked the cities if they would be willing to host similar events. PATH has a van and can also provide bus tokens to help people get to the event.
- Announcement of October 11 Homeless Resource Conference in Redondo Beach for service providers and Laundry Love every third Wednesday at the CoinOp laundromat in Carson. It is a collaboration with Calvary Chapel South Bay that enables people experiencing homelessness to wash their clothing for free and complete CES packets.

- Results of Redondo Beach Business Survey discussed.

### **CES Update – Shari Weaver, Harbor Interfaith**

Ms. Weaver discussed the South Bay Health and Housing Resource Fair held at the Lennox Constituency Center on August 24. It was hosted and sponsored by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. 80 service providers participated representing 39 organizations including housing and shelter, education, mental health, healthcare, veterans, supportive services, and outreach. 90 clients attended the event, ranging in age from 1 to 80, with an average age of 38. She would like to have outreach events every quarter and offered to partner with the cities. A new coordinator has been hired to assist with the fine tuning of referrals. Harbor Interfaith Services (as the Coordinated Entry System (CES) lead) is providing letters of coordination for cities applying for the homeless planning grants.

#### **CES Goal Attainment (Individuals & Youth) 7/1/17 to 6/30/18**

117 assessments completed

36 (single adults) moved into permanent housing

Placements obtained through Rapid Rehousing and Housing Navigation

63 (single adults) connected to interim housing or another community based organization that provides housing navigation/location

22 (Youth) moved into permanent housing

19 (Youth) connected to interim housing or another community based organization that provides housing navigation/location / Goal is 11

#### **CES Goal Attainment (Families) 7/1/17 to 6/30/18**

244 families assessed

34 permanent housing placements

33 placements through prevention funds

**Other Business** – Community member Kiran Magiawala reported that he has been volunteering with Laundry Love. There were 30-35 people in attendance at the last event. He said the people who came late had a transportation issue. He inquired about possible transportation options to help people get there. He said that he contacted Uber and learned that they provide free service to homeless veterans.

**Next Steps and Follow-up Actions** – Lao Moua to provide list of Laundry Love locations and Jennifer LaMarque of SBCCOG staff will distribute it to the group along with October 11 Homeless Resource Fair flyer and Housing for Health information. Jacki Bacharach to explore the transportation issue with Uber and try to make connections. Ms. Weaver to send Ms. LaMarque the CES letter of coordination if any additional cities apply for grants.

### **Adjournment**