

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Senior Services Working Group Meeting Notes

Tuesday, May 25, 2021 @ 9:30 am
Zoom Meeting

Link to all supporting documents:

[May 25, 2021 Senior Services Meeting Documents](#)

1. Welcome

Elected officials/representatives in attendance:

Council Member Huff, Chair (Rolling Hills Estates, H.E.L.P.); Erick Ponce-Furlos (Assembly Member Muratsuchi); Jennifer LaMarque (Representative Supervisor Hahn); Janet Turner (Representative Ted Lieu)

Others in attendance: Lori Gay, Jesse Ibarra, Maria Leonido (NHS); Ges Davis (South Bay Village); Emily Brosius (Beach Cities Health District); Amanda Valorosi, Cac Le (Carson); Julie Todd (El Segundo); Christina Theobald (Gardena); Diane Brown (Hawthorne); Thomas Uwal (Inglewood); Claudia Lopez (Lawndale); McKenzie Bright (Rancho Palos Verdes); Debbie Reed, (Torrance); Teri Neustaedter, Harriet Chase (League of Women Voters Beach Cities); Leti Polizzi (Palos Verdes Library District); Fran Wielin (PV Peninsula Village); Courtney Reed (PATH); Karen Pryor (Priority Lending); Laurie Glover (Silverado Care Community); Jacki Bacharach, Grace Farwell, David Leger (SBCCOG)

2. Previous [meeting notes](#) (7/23/19, 9/24/19, 1/28/20, 5/26/20, 7/28/20, 9/22/20, 12/1/20, 01/26/21, 3/30/21) – posted on SBCCOG Senior Services Working Group webpage

3. PATH Update - Courtney Reed, Associate Director, SPA 8, PATH will be the service provider for the Project Home Key (PHK) in Harbor Gateway. Construction has begun and are anticipating an end of August opening date. About 21 people from Project Room Keys (PRK) that are being demobilized may be placed in this new PHK, hopefully people from SPA 8.

4. Overview of Neighborhood Housing Services – Lori Gay, Executive Director, NHS
Link: [NHS Overview Presentation](#)

Mission: to serve as a catalyst for local residents, business and government representatives to work together to build stronger neighborhoods, improve the quality of life for low to moderate income families and revitalize communities into neighborhoods of choice
NHS is considered So. California' largest nonprofit affordable homeownership provider.

5 Core Business Lines:

1. Financial Education & Counseling
2. Affordable Lending Services
3. Mission-Driven Real Estate Services
4. Project Management Services
5. Neighborhood Revitalization & Advocacy (Community Building & Engagement, revitalization events, urban ag/food justice, conservation programming)



<https://www.facebook.com/SBCCOG/>



<https://twitter.com/SouthBayCCOG>

Lori reviewed the impact of the organization including 4.7 million families served. During the pandemic, NHS launched The Center for Economic Recovery to layout how NHS responds during and post COVID-19 with everything from advocacy to crisis response. They just launched the mortgage relief program. The Center will serve as a funding and production entity, policy, research, and community data intelligence team to: serve families with racial justice, equity and reparative economic reform...for home, for health, for families, for our communities. The 4 core work groups are:

1. Foreclosure Solutions Group
2. NHS Centers for Sustainable Communities
3. Economic Recovery Collective
4. Landing Solutions Collaborative

Services to support seniors includes:

- Financial counseling
- Construction project management
- Affordable mortgage assistance (subsidy programs are available)

Grace commented that NHS may be a great connection to help promote the Home Share South Bay program.

Jesse Ibarra and Maria Leonido are the contacts for NHS to help seniors. (213)381-2862

Janet Turner asked if services are available to seniors who live in wealthy areas. Jesse responded that this not an issue. Assistance is available based on the individual's household, not based on the economics of the area.

5. SBCCOG Regional Coordination Activities Update - Grace Farwell, SBCCOG
Jacki and Grace were interviewed by RPVtv arranged by John Cruikshank. This featured the Home Share South Bay program and also included information on all the good works of the COG. This video is on their You Tube channel. Grace asked attendees to advise of any opportunities to promote Home Share South Bay at meetings and events.

New funding is coming from the County of Los Angeles which will be voted on at the July 6th Board of Supervisors board meeting. \$15million will be divided up amongst the 6 Council of Governments in LA County along with Palmdale and Lancaster in Antelope Valley. The SBCCOG is poised to receive about \$1.9 million. From that, the COG will put out a call for projects to our cities to come up with ideas around interim and permanent housing for those experiencing homelessness as well as continuing the Home Share South Bay program.

6. Age Friendly: El Segundo Update - Julie Todd, Senior Librarian, El Segundo
El Segundo is working on becoming AARP age friendly designated. The application was accepted in February 2020 however the pandemic slowed everything down. Normally this would be a 5-year process. A working group was established, and the city decided to engage a consultant. Julie is reviewing several consultant proposals. The AARP age friendly process, it includes 8 demands of livability which is identified by the World Health Organization. They will focus on 3 of the demands during the first round as this is a lot of work to tackle. They are considering establishing a senior working group to assist with the project and community outreach. The AARP website provides resources to achieve the age-friendly status. Julie looked at another local city who went through this process to network in finding assistance.

Thomas Uwal mentioned that the city of Inglewood is also working on this process so will connect with Julie to share information.

7. Update from cities and organizations regarding in-person programs

- Council Member Huff, Chair (Rolling Hills Estates) RHE is still meeting virtually.
- Amanda Valorosi (Carson) has a COVID-19 test center, groceries deliveries, grab and go for meals, essentials to go for seniors. Reviewing next steps in opening to in-person in June
- Julie Todd (El Segundo) The public library is able to access the library by being let in but hope to open back to normal on June 15. They are starting to do hybrid programming. Moving forward with a fireworks display for July 4th. Hopefully opening the senior center soon.
- Christina Theobald (Gardena) still have grocery deliveries, waiting for guidelines from the County on opening up. The Mayor is preparing state of the city address which will be available on their cable channel. Fun in the Sun senior day next Thursday. Pen pal program and a walking group are other activities.
- Diane Brown (Hawthorne) The billiard room is open for 3 people at a time, the computer room is open for 2 people at a time, still check temperatures when anyone enters, coordinate a lunch program is with the Torrance YMCA on Wednesdays, help seniors with paperwork as needed, free haircuts for seniors once a month.
- Thomas Uwal (Inglewood) Hoping to open on June 15th. Continuing with home delivery meals – deliver 5 meals once a week, continue to transport seniors to doctor appointments. They want to be very safe once the state allows them to open.
- Beach Cities Health District is a vaccination site.
- Ges Davis (South Bay Village) Starting to get more interest in membership as we get closer to post pandemic. The village has been delivering groceries and driving seniors to vaccinations, appointments, parks, library, etc. They currently have 69 volunteers. They have plans for a pen pal program that should start in September.
- Leti Polizzi (Palos Verdes Library District) They have been open since April 6th to browse and use computers; everything else still online. Partners with the Braille institute offering program with talking books for blind and low vision adults.
- Teri Neustaedter and Harriet Chase (League of Women Voters Beach Cities) Working on a state program for seniors, will announce a senior toolkit soon. Committee on Health and Wellness will have a zoom program with Dr. Donna Benton, Director of USC Family Caregivers Support Center on June 22nd at 12:45.
- Karen Pryor (Priority Lending) Lyft is donating rides for seniors to vaccinations

8. Update from Legislative Offices

Janet Turner (Representative Congressmember Lieu)

The American Rescue Plan made a lot of provisions to help a lot of people. The next big step is the American Jobs Infrastructure Plan which should be in place by next month.

Erick Ponce-Furlos (Assembly Member Muratsuchi)

They have been assisting with EDD case work to assist with the rise in cases.

The Assembly Member introduced AB279 for intermediate care and skilled nursing facilities to prohibit senior residential care facilities from terminating, altering, or transferring conditions during COVID-19. The bill has passed the Assembly and is not in committee. Another bill AB1502 is nursing home ownership reform by giving the California Dept of Public Health strong authority to approve and disqualify owners and operators.

Another resource is Wise and Healthy Aging, a non-profit which addresses complaints and improvements in the long-term care system. Link: [Wise and Healthy Aging](#)

Jennifer LaMarque (Representative Supervisor Hahn)

Submitted a motion last month to create a stand alone Dept of Aging. This will reduce the fragmentation of dealing with more than 20 departments by streamlining services. A temporary administrator will begin in July to separate aging out of WDACS.

9. West Basin Change & Save Program, Grace Farwell, SBCCOG

Link: [Change & Save Program](#)

One of the SBCCOGs partners is the West Basin Water District. The Change & Save program is designed to promote and inspire West Basin customers to save money and reduce water use by replacing old fixtures. This program provides free water saving devices such as low flow shower heads and faucet aerators. There is also a rebate up to \$500 for the purchase of a high efficiency clothes washer. Low flow fixtures use less water so saves money on utility bills. Grace asked for all to promote this program.

10. SBCCOG Updates – Jacki Bacharach

The COG is considering having our June Board meeting as a hybrid meeting if possible. We have been very busy on legislative bills regarding housing mandates which could prove disastrous to achieving affordable housing. We will have a presentation at this week's board meeting on the West Harbor development at the Port of LA in San Pedro. The COG is seeking an endorsement of our local travel network concept that will allow for safe network of streets that will be signed for local vehicles other than cars. 4th of July fireworks may be happening but not very open to the public.

11. Announcements and Follow-up Actions

- Send topic ideas to Grace.

7. Next meeting – July 27, 2021

Notes submitted by Laurie Jacobs