

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

## Senior Services Working Group Meeting Notes

Tuesday, January 28, 2020 @ 9:30 am  
Gardena City Hall, 1700 West 162<sup>nd</sup> Street, Gardena 90247

### 1. Welcome and Self Introductions

Thank you to the City of Gardena for hosting today's meeting!

Elected officials/representatives in attendance:

Council Member Britt Huff, Chair (Rolling Hills Estates, H.E.L.P.): Janet Turner  
(Representative Ted Lieu); Olina Wibroe (State Senator Ben Allen)

Others in attendance:

Stephany Santin, Nikki Sweeney, and Christina Theobald (Gardena); Diane Brown (Hawthorne); Laura Ishizaka (PV Library District); Anita Chun (Torrance Memorial Medical Center); Harriet Chase and Teri Neustaedter (League of Women Voters, Beach Cities); Isabel Rodriguez (Hermosa Beach resident); Courtney Reed (PATH); Jonatan Cvetko, guest speaker (Angeles Emeralds); Jacki Bacharach and Grace Farwell (SBCCOG)

### 2. July 23, 2019 and September 24, 2019 meeting notes – will be available at a later date

### 3. PATH Update and SBCCOG Regional Coordination Activities Update

- Courtney Reed provided a brief overview of PATH services and reported on the following:
  - Since July 1, 2019, 222 seniors 60+ have been enrolled
  - Since December 1, 2019, enrolled 43 seniors in CES
  - Senior housing waitlists are closed
  - Housing accepting applications are outside the area, but people want to stay local
  - Rapid Rehousing (RRH) is currently not available in SPA 8
  - SHARE! Collaborative housing is an option, but people are not interested in sharing a room; \$550-600/month
    - Trying to get people to think of SHARE as a stepping-stone while waiting for housing
  - Shallow Subsidy may be available, but senior must already be on a housing waiting list
    - Will cover \$300/month of rent up to 5 years
    - Must be enrolled in RRH to be able to access shallow subsidy
    - Trying to work with landlords to explain that through the RRH program, they will receive a 3<sup>rd</sup> party payment; if person is able to get on shallow subsidy, then shallow subsidy takes over RRH
  - Higher acuity score, more vulnerable – these are the ones being matched to housing
- Grace Farwell provided an update on LA County Innovation Funds.
  - Call for projects went out to cities and service providers in November
  - Received 11 project applications in December



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



<https://twitter.com/SouthBayCCOG>

- Projects reviewed with recommendations to fund City of Torrance for a homelessness plan and the City of Redondo Beach for an Enhanced Response Pilot Project working with the court system
- Other projects to be funded are regional-focused
  - Education and training
  - Home-sharing
  - Safe Parking
  - Client Aid
  - Review of city ordinances
- The SBCCOG will be hiring an additional staff person to assist with the projects
- Britt Huff brought up a case of a homeless older woman living in her car on the street near the HELP office at the holidays. She had a cat and the shelter wouldn't allow the cat. Courtney will follow up on the case.

#### 4. CBD vs THC, HEMP vs Cannabis: Local Public Health & Safety Policies and the Vaping Crisis

- Jonatan Cvetko provided an overview and referred to [presentation](#) and [report](#)
  - No research on the benefits of CBD; anecdotal information available
  - CBD and THC can work together in tandem; again, anecdotal information available
  - Diagram slide was shown that indicated 5 major health areas, CBD and/or THC, specific diseases
    - Pain/Sleep
    - Gastro-Intestinal
    - Mood/Behavior
    - Neurological
    - Other (cancer, glaucoma, hypertension, fatigue, asthma, muscular dystrophy, HIV/AIDS)
  - THC helps glaucoma patients, cancer patients
    - Glaucoma – works if smoked and not ingested; reduces pressure associated with glaucoma; anecdotal
  - Hemp
    - Produces less than .3% THC
    - No safety testing
  - Cannabis
    - Produces more than .3% THC
    - Requires safety testing
  - Review of CBD claims vs CBD lab test results
    - Many products claim to have CBD but does not bear out in lab tests
  - Consumable CBD products are not approved by FDA
    - Unregulated CBD is everywhere

#### 5. Update from Legislative Offices

- Janet Turner (Rep Ted Lieu) shared information on HR 3 – lower drug costs and expand Medicare benefits
  - Gives Medicare the power to negotiate directly with drug companies to bring down prices

- Makes lower drug prices negotiated by Medicare also available to Americans with private insurance
- Stops drug companies from ripping off Americans while charging other countries less for same drugs
- Creates a new \$2,000 out-of-pocket limit on prescription drug costs for people on Medicare
- Saves taxpayers approximately \$500 billion over the next 10 years and reinvest savings into:
  - Expanding Medicare benefits to cover things like dental, vision, and hearing
  - Combatting the addiction crisis
  - Researching new cures and treatments
- Olina Wibroe (State Sen Ben Allen) shared the following:
  - Need bills related to seniors and aging population; what are biggest issues impacting seniors
    - Affordable housing; need to develop lower income housing for those on fixed incomes
    - Costs of medications; State is looking at developing its own pharmacy
    - Bring back redevelopment funds
    - Accessible buildings are not senior friendly
    - Reimbursement rates for board and care/assisted living facilities
    - Look at those reaching retirement age with no retirement savings/plans
  - SB 50 – expectation that it will pass
    - Senators Ben Allen and Holly Mitchell oppose
    - Most calls that come through to Sen Allen’s office are against SB 50
    - Needs a provision for State to support low income senior housing
  - Parks are very viable for seniors
    - Cities need to address this issue
    - Green belt – change from chips to decomposed granite
    - Equipment for seniors in parks

## 6. Announcements and Follow-up Actions

- Topics for future meetings
  - Census
  - Cannabis doctor
- SBCCOG 21<sup>st</sup> Annual General Assembly – March 19, 2020
  - **Intersections: Finding Tomorrow’s Solutions for Today’s Issues.** The program’s focus is on how to eliminate silos and address issues holistically. Speakers will have a broad range of expertise on the intersection of topics such as transportation, public safety, housing, economic development, and climate change. Besides individual speakers, there will be two panels—one will be on state and local perspectives while the other will focus on public and private perspectives on the topics.

## 7. Next meeting – March 31, 2020

*Notes submitted by Grace Farwell*