

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Senior Services Working Group Meeting Notes

Tuesday, July 27, 2021 @ 9:30 am
Zoom Meeting

Link to all supporting documents:

[Link to meeting supporting documents](#)

1. **Welcome**

Elected officials/representatives in attendance:

Council Member Huff, Chair (Rolling Hills Estates, H.E.L.P.); Janet Turner (Representative Ted Lieu); Moises Aglipay (Representative Assembly Member Gipson)

Others in attendance: Alana Riemermann (Shelter Partnership); Ges Davis (South Bay Village); Cac Le (Carson); Christina Theobald (Gardena); Diane Brown (Hawthorne); Thomas Uwal (Inglewood); McKenzie Bright (Rancho Palos Verdes); Zulma Gent, (Torrance); Anita Chun (Torrance Memorial); Teri Neustaedter, Harriet Chase (League of Women Voters Beach Cities); Leti Polizzi (Palos Verdes Library District); Marianne Propst (PV Peninsula Village); Courtney Reed (PATH); Karen Pryor (Priority Lending); Jon Mesko (Your Caring House); Laurie Jacobs, Jacki Bacharach, David Leger, Steve Lantz (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, 5/25/21) – posted on SBCCOG Senior Services Working Group webpage

3. **PATH Update - Courtney Reed, Associate Director, SPA 8**

PATH is currently case managing 20 seniors placing some in hotels, some in Project Room Keys, while exploring different pathways to link them to permanent housing resources such as rapid re-housing and recovery re-housing, Emergency Housing Voucher applications have come down so trying to match people up to these with the first step being to fill out the interest form on the LAHSA website. If criteria is met, they are sent an application to be reviewed by the Housing Authority. This will help seniors with housing subsidies for longer term housing.

4. **SPA 8 Cross-Sector Convening Meetings: Older Adults and Homelessness**

Alana Riemermann, Project Manager, Shelter Partnership, Inc.

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Alana works where aging, and homelessness intersects, focusing on programs for supportive housing to bring together the aging and senior services sectors within the homeless services sectors. The group of CSH, Way, Homeless Authority, LAHSA, and St. Barnabus are now going to work with SPA 8. The program is a set group of aging service providers meeting each month to talk about resources and gaps in communication by sharing resources and developing more formalized partnerships. This cohort, which will use case discussions, started in June but is still at beginning stages so interested groups are welcome to participate. The meetings will complete in November and then all 3 SPAs will come together in December to present recommendations. SPA 8 is meeting on the 3rd Thursday of the month



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



<https://twitter.com/SouthBayCCOG>

from 10 – 11:30 over zoom. This is a time limited program with an end the goal to connect with a coalition within the SPA so the cross- sector work can continue. Currently there are 40 participants, and they are looking for more aging providers to participate.

5. SBCCOG Home Share South Bay Program – Laurie Jacobs, SBCCOG

Laurie gave a brief overview of the Home Share South Bay program with an emphasis on helping to build up an inventory of homes with rooms to rent at affordable prices for older adults.

LINK: [MAKE YOUR HOME SHAREABLE](#)

Britt asked about the program providing ongoing assistance to the homeowner if any problems come up. Laurie answered she is available to assist. The private messaging and background checks help homeowners get the most comfortable situation with selecting a renter. This is a standard rental situation with normal mediation resources.

6. SBCCOG Senior Services Working Group Plan Discussion, Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG

The group plan is to identify the most valuable things this committee can do in the coming year by giving this group the opportunity to share what they would like to see brought to the table.

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

- Council Member Huff, Chair (Rolling Hills Estates and H.E.L.P) Healthcare and Elder Programs is an educational and counseling center in Old Torrance that provides assistance to seniors with any issues they may be confronting through community classes that have transitioned to zoom. Sometimes it is easier for seniors to participate through zoom. Classes focused on diseases and illness that impact seniors have been added. They are now more hands on providing services such as Meals on Wheels to pick up where Senior Centers have closed during COVID.
- Diane Brown (Hawthorne) shared their senior center has a computer room open for 2 participants at a time in 55-minute increments. The billiard room is now open to 6 people at a time. There are no exercise classes at this time. Diane continues to help with needed services such as DMV, legal services, social security, etc.
- Thomas Uwal (Inglewood) Inglewood also has limited classes for chair exercise, yoga, the gym, billiards, and the computers on a first come, first serve basis only with social distancing and wearing masks. Max is 10 people at a time. They will continue to evaluate allowable numbers by watching the COVID surge numbers. They also have a meal delivery program to seniors at home on Mondays or Tuesdays with 5 days of meals delivered each week. Meals are cooked on premises. Volunteers also drive people to appointments. The center was open 4 times for about 500 seniors to get vaccinations.
- Anita Chun (Torrance Memorial) Having surge of cases of COVID due to the Delta variant, this is no joke. Everyone needs to be educated on getting vaccines. Torrance Memorial does not currently have a vaccine clinic, so people are referred to other sites. Hospital employees will soon be required to be vaccinated.
- Karen Pryor (Priority Lending) focused on reverse mortgage financing for seniors. She reiterated what Anita Chun shared about the toll COVID is taking on the healthcare

workers. People need to take this seriously and get vaccinated. Karen is also part of the Commission on Aging. The last meeting had a speaker from AARP on age friendly communities.

- Ges Davis (South Bay Village) All their village members have been vaccinated and want only volunteers who have been vaccinated. Staff helped members get vaccination appointments and arranged transportation to the appointments. Just signed up 3 new volunteers and starting to sign up new members. The village is fully opened for volunteers to help members. She also talked about a project a few years ago that focused on age friendly programs but does not want the city to have to pay for a consultant to do the paperwork.
- Marianne Propst (PV Peninsula Village) The village is a social group, so mission has been to stay social during COVID. All members vaccinated except 1. It is very important to keep people connected. They lost many members last year, not due to COVID, but the pandemic has taken a toll. Many members had not gone to doctors so increase in transporting to doctor appointments. She would like to see the COG talk about all south bay cities become age friendly. The Village provided a couple of volunteers who helped 2 homeowners set up their profiles in Home Share South Bay.
- Britt and Jacki talked about seeking grants to get a consultant to follow the age friendly guidelines to become an age friend region. The COG has not had the resources to look for a grant. We want to do this so interested in help in securing a grant for about \$50,000 to pay for a dedicated consultant. The program should beyond parking places, it should include culture, educational, and social programs as well.
- Harriet Chase (League of Women Voters Beach Cities) They are interested in helping cities develop age friendliness working across the borders. Recently had a great meeting on the California master plan for aging of which the age friendly cities is a major part working together with AARP. The League is assisting the Westside Pacific Village.

8. Update from Legislative Offices

Janet Turner (Representative Congressmember Lieu)

Janet asked about the American Rescue Plan vouchers; Hawthorne will get 66 vouchers, Inglewood will get 91, Redondo Beach will get 29, and Torrance will get 33. Every city should get some vouchers. The city of Los Angeles will have their own with a quantity of 3,295 and LA County unincorporated areas will have close to 2,000. She asked if the cities have the housing. The cities need to step up on getting housing. These are long term housing vouchers. She will bring this up at the next Homeless Services Task Force meeting.

9. SBCCOG Updates – Jacki Bacharach

The SBCCOG is looking for applicants to take Grace's position.

We need to find a funding source for the age friendly plans. The COG has reached out to Janice Hahn and to Kaiser. She asked for any contacts to help find funding or grants to help with this unique role to create a regional age friendly plan.

New funding is coming from the County of Los Angeles in which the SBCCOG will receive about \$1.9 million for programs on homelessness between January 2022 through June 2023. From that, the COG has put out a call for projects to our cities to come up with ideas around

interim and permanent housing for those experiencing homelessness as this money is not for the COG, it is for city programs. The deadline to submit innovative proposals is August 10th. There are extra points for multi-jurisdictional ideas.

In response to COVID issues, the COG has decided to focus on understanding SPA 8 health concerns and education needs by creating a SPA 8 Working Group with Beach Cities Health District taking the lead. A framework has been started. So far the group includes City Councilmembers from Inglewood, Torrance, Gardena, Hermosa Beach, and Rancho Palos Verdes. Also included are Supervisor Mitchell and Supervisor Hahn, and a representative from the Beach Cities Health District. The purpose is to develop a relationship and understand SPA 8 concerns and improve communication within the SPA.

10. Announcements and Follow-up Actions

Send topic ideas to David Leger

Next meeting –October 5, 2021

Notes submitted by Laurie Jacobs