

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

## **Homeless Services Committee**

**November 9, 2016**

### **Minutes**

**by Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque**

#### **Welcome & Introductions- Councilman Joe Buscaino, Chair**

Elected officials in attendance: Los Angeles Councilmember Joe Buscaino; Rolling Hills Estates Councilmember Britt Huff; Redondo Beach Councilmember Christian Horvath; Hermosa Beach Mayor Hany Fangary.

Others in attendance: LAPD, Captain Mike Oreb; Harbor Interfaith Services, Shari Weaver; South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness, Nancy Wilcox; PATH, Meredith Berkson & Lao Moua; City of Inglewood, Cinder Eller-Kimbell & Tracey Duncan; Redondo Beach Police Department, Wayne Windman; City of Lawndale, Steve Mandoki; City of Hawthorne, Larry Grajeda; Hawthorne Police Department, Alex Khan; City of Palos Verdes Estates, Jacqueline Wu; City of Carson, Keith Bennett & Cecil Rhambo; City of Lomita, Daniella Ward; City of Hermosa Beach, Nico De Anda-Scaia; City of Rolling Hills Estates, Greg Grammer; LAHSA, Kelli Pezzelle, Lyndi Bell & Paul Lange; City of LA CD 15, Jacob Haik & Nicole Deering; SBCCOG Jacki Bacharach, Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque & Cierra Washington.

Chair Buscaino gave opening remarks and acknowledged that the LA City Measure HHH passed and stated that he hopes other cities will follow and pass similar measures. He referenced a LAHSA report published a year ago that looked at comprehensive solutions. He said that one recommendation that came out of the report was to identify responses to court decisions (that have impacted the city's approach to homelessness policy, etc.) He acknowledged LAPD Captain Mike Oreb, noting his previous work in Skid Row.

#### **Approval of minutes from September 14 meeting (approved)**

#### **Overview presentation on Homeless Navigation Centers- Kelli Pezzelle, Senior Project Manager, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority.**

Ms. Pezzelle gave a briefing on the Homeless Navigation Center program funded by LAHSA and operated by Chrysalis. The program is loosely based on a San Francisco model. That program features a storage, laundry and shower facility. LAHSA currently funds the operation of The Bin, a facility in Skid Row where people can store their personal items in a 60-gallon trash can. There are 1,400 bins currently being stored and it is the only program of its kind in Los Angeles.

She explained the process by which clients visit the counter at the navigation center to get a new bin, re-register or request access to their bin. A staff person then goes into the warehouse to retrieve the bin and bring it into a queuing area. Clients cannot access the warehouse area. When they are finished using it, they bring it back to the return area. The staff does not look in the bins. Clients must re-register the bin every 7 days. If they do not, the items are packed and held for 90 days or thrown away if the client does not return. She addressed a concern that such facilities

would serve as a magnet and that the areas in which they are located would look like Skid Row. She said that the data does not show that it has been magnet. New sites will have restrooms, access to services and housing navigation.

Chair Buscaino referenced LA City Ordinance 56.11 which limits the storage of personal property on sidewalks. He said that if there is a navigation center in a community within a certain radius (3-5 miles) then people can only have one backpack of personal items. He said this policy was enacted in response to quality of life concerns. He mentioned opposition to a location proposed by his Homeless Task Force at 227 N. Pacific Avenue in San Pedro which is close to an elementary school. He acknowledged the concern that it would attract more people but said that he believes that if given an opportunity to store their items, it might motivate people to get help. Cinder Eller-Kimbell of the City of Inglewood asked who provides the employees and Ms. Pezzelle stated that Chrysalis provides the employees, who were formerly homeless themselves. She stated that the hours are Monday through Friday from 8am-5pm and Saturdays from 8am-1pm. She said they will work with the neighborhoods of the proposed sites to determine the best hours for that neighborhood.

Captain Oreb discussed his experience working in Skid Row. He said that the population rose from 600-700 people to 2,000 after changes in drug laws. With drug offenders no longer being housed in jail, many fall into their previous behavior. He said that most of the people he interacts with have mental health and substance abuse issues. (Not people who lost their jobs and subsequently, their homes.) He said there is a subculture that exists within encampments and that drug dealing and prostitution are common. He noted an abundance of Sober Living Homes in Harbor Division (18) and said they have become a destination for people coming in from other areas. He talked about the 3 court rulings which led to injunctions in the City of LA: Jones (deals with sleeping on the sidewalk from 9 pm to 6 am), Lavan (deals with storage on sidewalks) and Mitchell (deals with moving personal property) decisions.

Chair Buscaino said he wants neighboring cities to be able to learn from the City of LA's experience as they address the issue. He noted that some agencies have been known to drop people off in neighboring communities (homeless dumping). He said that there is a line item in the City of LA budget for navigation centers and that other councilmembers are proposing locations in their districts.

### **Overview of PATH services-Meredith Berkson, PATH**

- a. Activities since September - what's happening in the field**
- b. Statistics/Success Stories**
- c. Agency coordination**
- d. Barriers/Obstacles**
- e. Status of landlord workshop**

Meredith Berkson of PATH gave a Powerpoint presentation and answered questions from attendees. The presentation covered an overview of activities since September and what is happening in the field, statistics, success stories, agency coordination, barriers/obstacles and status of workshop for landlords. The presentation is available at [www.southbaycities.org](http://www.southbaycities.org).

### **Key points covered:**

- 53 people have been placed in permanent housing and 163 have been referred. (Goal is 58.) 193 Coordinated Entry System packets have been completed. Meredith said much of the housing identified has been shared housing (living with

roommates) and said that there is a special rental subsidy for people linked to mental health services.

- Meredith noted the low availability of treatment beds for mental health services stating that people are frequently being referred to outpatient services. She stated that it often takes time for the client to share that they have mental health issues and that these issues are better addressed when someone is housed.
- Successful targeted outreach events were recently held in Carson and Torrance. PATH staff is continuing to meet with and engage cities with trainings to help cities build capacity to address homelessness.
- October had the most permanent housing placements yet with 39 people obtaining permanent housing. The hotline has picked up since the last meeting with an average of 6.4 calls a day and a response time of 52.8 business hours.

### **Update from SPA 8 – Shari Weaver, Harbor Interfaith**

The next 2-day outreach event will be in Lawndale. November 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> (8 am to 12 pm.)

- Ms. Weaver thanked Deborah Holland of the City of Lawndale for arranging a location for the outreach team to initially meet and coordinate teams to connect with people experiencing homelessness in the area. They will be meeting at Lawndale Community Services Department Bldg.
- Outreach staff from St. Margaret Center that work in the North Hub of SPA 8 have been working with Lawndale Sheriff's station. They have been working with Sgt. Nitz and Lt. Hocking to identify hot spots and have participated in ride alongs during their transient sweeps.
- They will have maps with pre-identified hot spots to target areas of concern.

### **Homeless Youth Services** (targeting individuals ages 16 to 24)

- In October, they permanently housed 4 youth. They have another 3 that will be entering housing in November. They have been funded to house a total of 10 youth during this grant which began in September.
- Opened a new 3-bedroom single family home in Torrance. 3 of the placements in October were a result of this new owner partnership.
- They are seeing more homeless youth than what was identified in the last Homeless Count. They are working closely with LAHSA to work on strategies to intensify efforts to count Youth in SPA 8 experiencing homelessness.

### **Rapid Rehousing**

- 8 individuals housed in October.
- One was a Casual Longshoreman who was sleeping in her car at the dispatch hall. As a fellow casual longshoreman herself, Ms. Weaver stated that she understands the importance of safety on the job. Not having the proper rest puts this worker and other workers at risk. She is now living in Lakewood in her own 1-bedroom apartment.

New resources added this year: Contract Term: October 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017

- CES (TAY) Hathaway Sycamore - Contract Term (TAY) Sept. 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017 – Serving Youth ages 16 to 24.
  - Completing applications for SSI & SSDI.
- PATH (Alliance for Housing & Healing) - Rapid Rehousing

- 1736 FCC - Crisis Housing (20 Beds – for victims of Domestic Violence and/or human trafficking) and Rapid Rehousing
- US Vets (Inglewood) - Crisis Housing (20 Beds for Veterans and 10 beds for single adults) Both of the Crisis Housing programs will offer a 24-hour service / 7 days a week. Crisis housing is offered for an initial 30 days and can be extended (Bridge Housing) for an additional 90 days.

### **Status of Funding Renewal**

Jacki Bacharach stated that both County Supervisors (Districts 2 and 4) will have to agree to extend the contract through June 30. She said she will figure out if letters of support are needed and report back.

### **Other Business**

Jacki Bacharach stated that Councils of Governments are being asked to appoint a staff person (not elected official) to serve as a representative on the Regional Homeless Advisory Council being established by LAHSA. Tracey Duncan from the City of Inglewood volunteered and was confirmed via a motion. Lt. Windman also said that he would serve.

Chair Buscaino discussed an ordinance that had passed in the City of LA which allows people to sleep in vehicles between 9 pm and 6 am in commercial and industrial zones. He stated that he wants to hear how other cities are handling this issue.

### **Next Steps and Follow-up Actions**

For the next agenda: Info on City of LA Measure HHH and county sales tax proposal, 2017 Homeless Count, discussion of how cities are approaching dealing with people sleeping in vehicles.

Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.