

# **South Bay Cities Council of Governments**

## **Homeless Services Committee**

**Thursday, May 25, 2017**

### **Meeting Notes**

**By Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque**

#### **Welcome & Introductions**

Elected officials in attendance: Rolling Hills Estates Councilmember Britt Huff; Redondo Beach Councilmember Christian Horvath

Others in attendance: Redondo Beach City Manager Joe Hoefgen; City of Torrance, Domenica Megerdichian; Torrance Police Department Officers Kim & Wessels; City of Lawndale, Deborah Holland; Redondo Beach Police Department, Lt. Wayne Windman; City of Carson, Keith Bennet; City of Rancho Palos Verdes, Jackie Ruiz; City of Hermosa Beach, Hayley Falk; City of Los Angeles-CD 15, Nicole Deering; Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn, Erika Velazquez; LA County Department of Health Services, Josh Legere; LA County Homeless Initiative, Ashlee Oh; South Bay Workforce Investment Board, Chris Cagle & Jan Vogel; Harbor Interfaith Services, Shari Weaver; LAHSA, Saba Tekle & Victor Hinderliter; PATH, Meredith Berkson & Lao Moua; Kiran Magiawala; SBCCOG, Jacki Bacharach, Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque & Cierra Washington

Rolling Hills Estates Councilmember Britt Huff gave opening remarks and announced that she would chair the meeting in Councilmember Buscaino's absence.

#### **South Bay Workforce Investment Board presentation on job placement services-Chris Cagle, Regional Affairs Manager, SBWIB**

Mr. Cagle gave an overview of the SBWIB's services to help businesses find employees and help people find jobs. He noted that the service territory is from Inglewood to Lomita. The SBWIB helps people experiencing homelessness through a program for low-income adults. He discussed the enhanced transitional subsidized employment program whereby the SBWIB pays 8 months of the employee's pay for a private company and up to 10 months for a non-profit or public agency. From 2016 to present, 261 people have been placed at work sites. He displayed an example of a webpage and business card sized handout that provides information on employment and homeless services. He gave success stories and discussed a training program the SBWIB administers with local businesses and non-profits to help people bolster their resumes.

#### **Presentation on Measure H Revenue Planning Work Group actions-Joe Hoefgen, Redondo Beach City Manager**

Mr. Hoefgen reported that he represented the South Bay Cities Council of Governments on the 50-member Measure H Revenue Planning Work Group. Five meetings were held regarding 21 strategies which were grouped into 6 categories. He explained the process in which the work group members did not vote but rather reached consensus on most of funding proposals. Revenue is estimated at \$355 million a year. He spoke about a proposal to allocate funds to Councils of Governments for coordination services. There was no consensus reached on this item so it will go before the Board of Supervisors. The other item on which the group did not reach consensus was a proposal to allocate \$1 million to the Sheriff's Department. A draft report will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on May 30 and they will vote on the funding recommendations on June 13.

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

Meredith Berkson of PATH gave a Powerpoint presentation and answered questions from attendees. The presentation covered an overview of activities since March and what is happening in the field, statistics, success stories, LA Regional Homeless Advisory Council update, barriers/obstacles, and Measure H funding update. The presentation is available at [www.southbaycities.org](http://www.southbaycities.org)

Key points covered:

- Review of contract deliverables and updates.
- 241 Coordinated Entry System packets have been completed. 91 people have been placed into permanent housing with an additional 231 referred. 50 people have been placed in shared housing.
- Housing success story of Chisom A.
- Hotline has had an increase in calls; 6.5 calls per day on average.
- Ms. Berkson discussed partnering with the City of Carson on the Laundry of Love program whereby people are able to do laundry for free at laundromats while completing CES packets. She also discussed the second meeting of the faith-based community in Redondo Beach. Lt. Windman of Redondo Beach Police Department explained that the group will be developing short and long-term strategic plans.
- Review of Landlord Workshop with Supervisor Ridley-Thomas in Carson- 100 landlords attended the event and 22 people signed up to participate in the program. 19 units have been made available. A similar workshop will be planned in the 4<sup>th</sup> District with Supervisor Hahn.

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

Ms. Weaver stated that Harbor Interfaith Services (HIS) has started a new partnership with Mental Health America to develop a Multi-Disciplinary Outreach Team. There will be 2 new SPA 8 teams that will include a health outreach worker, mental health worker, case manager and substance abuse provider. These teams will work closely with current street based outreach to connect or reconnect people to interim and/or permanent housing and supportive services. The teams are funded through Measure H/E6 strategy.

HIS has expanded its benefits advocacy to provide assistance with SSI/SSDI applications. HIS currently has 1 Benefits Advocate that visits each of their 4 hub locations to screen and submit applications. The team will be expanded to 10 benefits advocates in SPA 8. The lead organization is Lutheran Social Services and they will partner with the current provider, Help Me Help You. This is also being funded through Measure H funds /C4 strategy. Help Me Help You is also developing a Representative Payee Program. These services are for clients who have been assessed as needing support managing their SSI/SSDI funds. Referrals can be at the request of an organization, SSA, or by client choice.

### CES (Year 3)- Goal Attainment (Individuals & Youth) 10/1/16 to 6/30/17

123 (single adults) moved into permanent housing / Goal is 115

Placements obtained through Rapid Rehousing & Housing Navigation

84 (single adults) Safe & Stable – connected to interim housing or another community-based organization that provides housing navigation/location / Goal is 52

22 (Youth) moved into permanent housing / Goal is 5

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

### CES (Year 3)- Goal Attainment (Families) 10/1/16 to 6/30/17

610 families assessed / Goal is 450

128 permanent housing placements / Goal is 100

99% housing retention / Goal is 95%

**LA County Homeless Initiative: Discussion of Strategy B3-Subsidize Housing: Partner with Cities to Expand Rapid Re-Housing Program- Ashlee Oh, Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative and Josh Legere, LA County Dept. of Health Services.**

Ms. Oh gave an overview of County Homeless Initiative, Measure H, and the Measure H Revenue Planning Work Group process. She noted the proposal to provide funding for Councils of Governments for coordination and that the Homeless Initiative staff met with the COG Executive Directors. Mr. Legere of the Department of Health Services gave a presentation on the Rapid Rehousing program which provides time-limited financial assistance, housing location, and case management. Cities can partner to expand this program by providing \$500/month rental subsidy for 9 months. The County would provide the remaining rent, financial assistance, and case management. The target population is people who are likely to be re-employed quickly.

**Other Business-** The issue of senior homelessness was raised. Councilmember Huff referenced a presentation at the last Senior Services Working Group by a representative of Affordable Living for the Aging which is a home sharing program. She gave an example of a situation in which a person's spouse passes away and they are unable to keep their home due to a reduction in Social Security.

**Next Steps and Follow-up Actions-**Jacki Bacharach and Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque to plan for another Homeless Initiative Strategy to be discussed at the next meeting. Ms. LaMarque to contact Affordable Living for the Aging.

**Adjournment -4:37 p.m.**