

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

## Homeless Services Task Force (Zoom Meeting)

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Meeting Notes** *(submitted by Laurie Jacobs)*

### **Welcome & Introductions**

**Elected officials/representatives in attendance:** Council Member and Chair Christian Horvath (Redondo Beach); Council Member Alex Monteiro, Council Member/SBCCOG Chair Olivia Valentine (Hawthorne); Council Member Cedric Hicks (Carson); Council Member Paulette Francis (Gardena); Council Members George Chen, Aurelio Mattucci (Torrance); Jacob Haik, Isabella Blue (Council Member Joe Buscaino, CD15) Jeanette Christian (U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein); Janet Turner (Representative Ted Lieu); Cody Bridges (Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi); Moises Aglipay (Assembly Member Mike Gipson)

**Others in attendance:** Keith Bennett, David Roberts (Carson); Marco Lemus (El Segundo PD); Kimberly Mack, Von Norris (Hawthorne); Lori Jones, Roberto Chavez, Tracey Duncan (Inglewood); Cinder Eller (Inglewood PD); Daniella Knighton (Lomita); George Gabriel (Manhattan Beach); John LaRock (Redondo Beach); Jeannie Naughton (Rolling Hills Estates); Connor Shortland, Viet Hoang, (Torrance); Ron Collins (Everyone In); Ashlee Oh, (LACHI); Saira Cooper, Clementina Verjan (LAHSA); Haley Fuselier (PATH); Breanna Jaijairam, Karli Dreizler, (Harbor Interfaith Services); Jesse Ramirez (St. Margaret's Center/Hawthorne); Therese Neustaedter (League of Women Voters Beach Cities); Lee Phillips (Community Member); Patty Okada (Torrance Resident); Jacki Bacharach, Grace Farwell, Laurie Jacobs, David Leger (SBCCOG)

Redondo Beach Council Member Christian Horvath opened the meeting.

**May 6, 2020 meeting notes** – Received and filed

**Measure H Draft Recommendations** – Ashlee Oh, Homeless Initiative, CEO, LA County Office review of just announced new recommendations (included a PowerPoint)

### **Link to presentation**

Highlights of presentation along with questions and answers:

- Homeless Initiative released [draft funding recommendations](#) on June 26<sup>th</sup>
- From June 26<sup>th</sup> to July 15<sup>th</sup>, public comments will be accepted on the HI website at <https://forms.gle/EQMqmv5fJeoakf1a8>
- Community members can read the reports from both the policy summits and community input sessions on the HI website at: <https://homeless.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3-2-20-Public-Engagement-Efforts-for-Measure-H-FundingRecommendations-Process.pdf>
- The Draft Board Letter will be presented at the Homeless Policy Board Deputies Meeting on August 13<sup>th</sup> and the Board of Supervisors will consider recommendations on September 15<sup>th</sup>
- The global pandemic drastically affected the new budget for Measure H with a \$71 million dollar reduction (just under 20%) from original projections
- Each programs FY 20/21 funding recommendations and proposed funding from other sources to supplement Measure H were reviewed.

- An additional curtailment of \$25,200,000 will need to be implemented in November 2020 if sufficient ESG-CV funding is not allocated to offset the reduction in FY 20-21 Measure H funding.

### **Homeless Count in SPA 8 – Clementina Verjan, LAHSA**

#### **[Link to presentation](#)**

- Key takeaways in SPA 8 homeless count: Over past 5 years performance vastly increased but now in response to COVID-19, we have been able to improve by having housed more than 6,000 homeless individuals in just 3 months. [SPA 8 Data Summary](#)
- The set goal to house 15,000 individuals is a big task. Biggest struggle we all have is that even with the great successes, the number of homeless continues to increase each year.
- We need a big change in our housing supply, economy, healthcare and more to advance racial justice to stem the inflow of homeless.
- The count was conducted in January 2020, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic so we must think about where we were then and where we are now. LA County went up 13% to over 66,000 people and in the City of LA it went up over 14% to over 41,000 people.
- Saw a 3% increase of homeless in SPA 8 (Long Beach is not included in this number)
- Changes to some of the homeless count survey questions were modified this year to improve the captured data so some results are not comparable to previous counts.
- District data will be released on July 8<sup>th</sup>. City data breakdown and dashboards expected to be released around July 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Post COVID-19 Recovery Plans (LASHA) – John LaRock, City of Redondo Beach**

#### **[Link to presentation](#)**

- A high-level look at the post Project Roomkey (PRK) effort does not take into account the Governor's Project Homekey just announced with new funding in the state budget
- Send [feedback](#) to this presentation to Grace Farwell and Laurie Jacobs at the COG
- Guiding principles are to prevent PRK residents from returning to the streets, to curb the inflow and prepare the system for future crises
- Goal is to get past the current 4,500 LA County housed to the set goal of 15,000 which is ambitious both from a property acquisition and agreement process but also in terms of finding rapid re-housing eligible clients. Another goal is to ensure a racial equity lens in all efforts which varies by city to city
- Missing from Recovery Command Structure is to see State and County above Cities. The cities roles likely falls with Acquisition and Master Lease, with partnerships with outreach providers, and with research and evaluations. Cities should share best practices with each other and with COG so everyone has the same toolkit available
- Economic recovery is projected to be a 2 – 6 year process.
- Equity should be a short-term action rather than long term as presented
- The re-housing recovery strategy does not take into account PRK. The newly announced state budget has not yet been broken down by County but may offer more funding assistance
- Cities were kept in the dark when PRK properties were being considered. It would be helpful to have cities more involved with the process to help identify properties based on local economic knowledge and to help the social community politicking of communities taking on the role of a PRK.
- City roles are not identified with the shelter and unsheltered short- and medium-term actions, however city involvement and partnership is needed

- Get cities more involved with seeking access to affordable housing within each city
- Strengthening Systems – cities can get involved with short term actions to increase awareness of eviction/tenant protections, income supports for at-risk populations
- Land use and zoning conversations are necessary to discuss housing opportunities through acquisition and conversions
- Long term disaster planning includes racial equity as well as to monitor and train law enforcement, public safety officials, city officials and employees and ultimately the community into not stigmatizing homelessness as a crime or a disadvantage on a human equity level. It is a circumstance.
- Identify our goals for Measure H for next 6 years.

**Update of PATH Services** – Haley Fuselier, Associate Director South Bay, PATH

[Link to presentation](#)

- Reminder to send outreach requests through LA-HOP.org, requests are routed to the appropriate regional coordinator
- PATH will now only be doing CES assessments for brand new individuals so will not reassessing those already in case management
- PATH has been asked by the Supervisors to change their scope and philosophy so effective the date of today's meeting, PATH will no longer be an outreach team. Instead they will be an intensive case management team.
- PATH will curtail canvassing the cities but will answer LA-HOP calls and will continue with those that are already on their caseloads.
- They are looking at a 1 to 25 ratio instead of 1 to 50 ratio, with the primary focus on housing and retaining housing, rather than linkage to supportive services.
- PATH will work with Harbor Interfaith on a new plan.
- PATH will provide wrap around services once housing is retained
- PATH will focus on ready case management from the referrals from LA-HOP, LAHSA and Harbor Interfaith so less time canvassing and more time with housing.
- Our COG will update the cities on these changes.

**Update of CES Activities** – Breanna Jaijairam, Regional Coordinator for Adults, SPA 8, Harbor Interfaith Services (HIS)

- HIS will get together with PATH to coordinate on the outreach changes and HIS will report on the status of implementing these changes during the next COG Homeless Task meeting. Immediate questions can be directed to Breanna or to Jasmine Johnson, the HIS Outreach Coordinator.
- HIS is a PRK Provider at the Lomita site which has been in operation since April 8<sup>th</sup>. Currently 59 enrolled with 2 intakes coming in tomorrow. HIS working with them to provide wrap around services and obtain needed documents. Have had at least 8 people moved to permanent housing from this PRK location and many more matched to housing.
- DMH has been on site at Lomita and their presence has been well received.
- Two Bridge Home sites opening on July 7<sup>th</sup>, one in San Pedro and one in Wilmington with over 100 individuals already on the interest list for each site specific to the geographic region. Goal is to intake about 8 people per day to reach full capacity by the end of July.

- Prevention - Working closely with legal aid to be sure people know their rights as to the eviction moratoriums during COVID-19

**Legislative Updates** - Janet Turner, Representative Ted Lieu

- Congressman Lieu has introduced, supported and sponsored 10 bills that will provide cities various aspects of funding addressing homelessness

**Update of SBCCOG Homeless Services Coordination** - Grace Farwell, SBCCOG

- SBCCOG is in the process of finalizing what we are doing with the Innovation Funds
- We have funding that will be going to the city of Torrance to complete their Homelessness Plan
- We have funding going to the city of Redondo Beach Enhanced Response Pilot Program
- We are reviewing all our city's ordinances related to emergency shelter to see if there is anything we can push forward for our cities
- We are in the process of finalizing our pilot Home-Sharing program with Silvernest as a homeless prevention strategy
- We are reviewing Safe Parking because SPA 8 is the only SPA that does not have a Safe Parking program. We will reach out to our cities as we have funding available for a pilot program
- We are looking at client aid or flex funds; we have reached out to our service providers to determine where they do not have funding such as for 1-3 nights hotel or first/last month's rent or security deposit
- 5 of our cities (Gardena, Hawthorne, Inglewood, Redondo Beach, Torrance) took advantage of additional funding for hygiene services. Hawthorne and Torrance rented hand-washing stations, and the other cities are purchasing hygiene kits
- We are working on a pilot program to help empty RV vehicle waste tanks where we are partnering with a portable services provider who will provide vouchers to be used between July to December

**Next Steps and Follow-up Actions**

- SBCCOG to send out reminders on when and how to comment on the Measure H Draft Funding Recommendations and will send Ashlee's information if anyone has follow up questions
- All presentations are uploaded to the SBCCOG Homelessness Services web page including data put together by the South Bay Coalition which includes specific trends and numbers related to the Homeless Count in our SPA

**Adjournment – next meeting is scheduled for September 2, 2020**