

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Homeless Services Task Force (Zoom Meeting)

Wednesday, September 2, 2020

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Meeting Notes *(submitted by Laurie Jacobs)*

Welcome & Introductions

Elected officials/representatives in attendance: Council Member Christian Horvath (Redondo Beach); Council Member Chris Pimentel (El Segundo); Council Member Alex Monteiro (Hawthorne); Council Member George Chen (Torrance); Jacob Haik, Gabriela Medina (Council Member Joe Buscaino, CD15) Janet Turner (Representative Ted Lieu); Cody Bridges (Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi)

Others in attendance: Anastasia Papadakis, Mike Webb (Redondo Beach); Amy King, Patrick Diller (Pallet Shelter) Eunique Day, Raeann Munoz (Carson); Raul Alarcon (Gardena PD); Kimberly Mack, Von Norris (Hawthorne); Cherry Bush, Lori Jones (Inglewood); Cinder Eller (Inglewood PD); Michael Reyes (Lawndale); Daniella Knighton (Lomita); George Gabriel (Manhattan Beach); Wayne Windman (Redondo Beach PD); Aram Chaparyan, Connor Shortland, Zulma Gent (Torrance); Saira Cooper (LAHSA); Courtney Reed (PATH); Breanna Jajairam, Lisa Gray (Harbor Interfaith Services); Jesse Ramirez (St. Margaret's Center/Hawthorne); Teri Neustaedter (League of Women Voters Beach Cities); Nancy Wilcox (South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness); Micah Ezzes (Street Watch LA); Ronald Williams (The Shoftim Group); Lee Phillips, Kiran Magiawala (Community Members); Jacki Bacharach, Grace Farwell, Laurie Jacobs, David Leger (SBCCOG)

Redondo Beach Council Member Christian Horvath opened the meeting.

July 1, 2020 meeting notes – Received and filed

Pallet Shelter Overview– Amy King, CEO and Patrick Diller, Director of Business Development, Pallet Shelter

- Pallet Shelter is a social purpose corporation providing manufactured 64 sq foot and 100 sq foot interim shelter products as temporary housing until permanent housing is available. Units are collapsible and easily transported at reasonable shipping costs.
- 90% of their employees are people exiting the criminal justice system, addiction recovery programs and homelessness in the city of Seattle.
- Answers to questions posed:
 - Typically, they work with non-profits, sometimes directly with cities with majority being placed on public land, faith-based properties or at shelter locations
 - Looking to partner with corporate entities and private property owners willing to let local municipalities and/or service providers use their land for sites like this because they are temporary
 - Pricing varies depending on quantities and options; starting price for the smaller size starts at \$4,900 and the larger one starts at \$7,000. Fully loaded with mattresses and shipping start for the small size at around \$7,000 and large size at \$10,000. Electrical infrastructure will still need to be added,

- It is possible to have a secondary manufacturing plant once the demand is there and LA is top on their list to consider
- Zoning laws, development requirements, and land use all need to be reviewed, In California these fall into the category of emergency temporary sleeping cabins with no bathrooms so can be reimbursable with FEBA funds because these are shelters, not housing.
- Units intentionally do not have bathrooms due to keep cost lower, provide easier to clean units and to prevent clients from isolating in their units. They are encouraged to be more social and engage with the other clients.
- Units are designed to last 10+ years and are bed bug resistant. Important to sterilize between usage.
- Pallet Shelter can do the assembly and installation or provide guidance and training to others to do this work.
- Shelters are very mobile and easy to collapse and move, even with belongings inside.
- Occupancy rate is very high with these shelters with their own space and locking door are very appealing to those on the streets who may have been service/housing resistant in the past
- [Link](#) to handouts provided by Pallet Shelter

Update on Redondo Beach Enhanced Response Pilot Program – Anastasia Papadakis, Deputy City Prosecutor, City of Redondo Beach and Mike Webb, City Attorney, City of Redondo Beach

[Link](#) to presentation:

- Anastasia and Mike provided an update on the status of this innovative program which incorporates an outreach/case manager/housing navigator (Harbor Interfaith and PATH) into the prosecutor's program by attending court hearings. Outreach is conducted at the court, meeting individuals for the first time to begin the process of services and housing connections, as well as assisting with structuring court orders based on individual needs.
- Results of this program, which officially began in July 2019, include a much higher percentage of court appearances by the homeless defendants who previously were unwilling to accept assistance, getting them "housing ready" and addressing underlying causes of their situation such as substance abuse and/or mental health issues.
- Redondo Beach City Council approved the next phase of the program which includes moving the proceedings to an outdoor location:
 - Outdoor court in Redondo Beach location is safer during COVID-19
 - Redondo Beach location is more accessible to defendants than Torrance location
- Next phase also includes preparing an MOU for Clear Recovery Center donation of monthly mental health services (\$5,00 per month) and approval to rent beds within a collaborative housing program in a nearby city within SPA 8. Increased access to mental health is an important part of the program
- Answers to questions posed:
 - Additional codes were not needed for RB police to deal with homeless nuisance issues (i.e. urinating in public) as there is no point in arresting people since that does not provide a solution. This program offers an alternative approach by sending the citation/police report of those experiencing homelessness to the prosecutor to hear at homeless court in coordination with a service provider. There the underlying reasons for homelessness can be identified and solutions suggested with a goal towards assistance and ultimately, housing.

- If the person does not show up in court, a warrant is issued and the local police, who usually know them, then encourages attendance at homeless court.
- At homeless court, they are given option to either accept services, and eventually cases will be dismissed or go through normal track where the court seeks punishment.
- People can't be arrested for living on the streets if shelter is not available, therefore this court is a creative process to help find housing solutions.
- Coordinated efforts with the local faith-based organizations to address neighbor complaints about how providing meals to the homeless was keeping them in the area resulting in some criminal and quality of life activities. Lunch and dinners are now served on the Wednesday homeless court day which is very close to the outdoor homeless court.
- Services to help the homeless are also available to those who do not necessarily have criminal or citation activity.

Legislative Updates - Janet Turner, Representative Ted Lieu

- No updates on homelessness, but the Congressman is quite concerned about the USPS issues and he will become more vocal such as asking the FBI to bring criminal charges against the Postal Inspector of the US. The Congressman is a strong supporter of legislation to provide USPS with more money, but the bills have been getting stuck in the Senate.

Update of PATH Services – Courtney Reed, Associate Regional Director South Bay, PATH

[Link to presentation:](#)

- Reminder to send outreach requests through LA-HOP.org. Requests are routed to the appropriate regional coordinator. It is important to include as much information as possible, especially the specific areas where the individuals hang out in order to help PATH make contact with them.
- Since July, PATH has received 25 LA-HOP requests.
- Lost some of the PATH staff so they are in the process of hiring new people
- Focus switched from outreach to street-based case management, more intensive and spending more quality time with participants
- PATH is excited to get involved with the Redondo Beach Homeless Court starting in September.

Update of CES Activities – Breanna Jaijairam, Regional Coordinator for Adult Coordinated Entry System, SPA 8, Harbor Interfaith Services (HIS)

- Lisa Gray is the new Beach Cities Coordinator.
- HIS recently demobilized the Project Roomkey (PRK) site in Lomita, last day was August 26th, nobody exited to the streets from this PRK site.
- HIS will continue to work at the SPA 8 CES lead to help at other PRK sites as they begin to demobilize to ensure nobody is exited to the streets.
- The Bridge Home sites in San Pedro and Wilmington opened on July 8th, both have 100 beds, San Pedro is at 90 clients. Wilmington is managed by US vets. HIS works to help keep all beds filled at both sites.
- San Pedro Interim housing opened in March in coordination with Supervisor Hahn. Originally had capacity of 40 but due to COVID had to adjust to capacity of 32. It is full.
- COVID-19 has sped up the processes for all programs and created many programs that help with prevention
- **CES Goal Attainment (Individuals) 7/1/2020-8/31/2020**
 - Number of households assessed - 97

- Number of households housed in RRH – 7
- RRH Retention Rate – **87.5% (35/40)**
- Number of chronically homeless single adults placed via HN – 3
- Number of households who have retained housing in Prevention – **100% (27/27)**
- **CES Goal Attainment (TAY) 7/1/2020-8/31/2020**
 - Number of households assessed – 13
 - Number of households housed in RRH - 9
 - RRH Retention Rate – 100%
 - Number of households who have retained housing through Prevention – 0 requests
 - Problem-solving Conversations (outside of RRH and Prevention) – 1 by YCES Staff
- **CES Goal Attainment (Families) 7/1/2020-8/31/2020**
 - Number of households assessed -
 - Number of households housed in RRH -
 - RRH Retention Rate –
 - Number of households who have retained housing through Prevention –

Update of SBCCOG Homeless Services Coordination - Grace Farwell, SBCCOG

- Moving forward with some of our innovation fund programs. The first one is the Home Share South Bay program. A logo has been created and we are working with Silvernest on developing a landing page for our website, with an anticipated soft launch in early October. This is a prevention program with a focus on older adults to connect with other individuals in need of housing.
- We developed an intern job description for a graduate student to help with the Home Share South Bay
- Laurie Jacobs and Nancy Wilcox are working on education and training modules for city staff covering best practices on addressing homelessness with the goal to help prepare our city staff in responding to inquiries regarding homelessness. Laurie is also working on training for our businesses to help keep them well informed on available services and programs as well as how to interact with individuals experiencing homelessness
- Jacki added some general COG updates
 - The COG has officially joined a new LA County program called LA vs Hate whose purpose is to create a community centered campaign to encourage all residents of LA County to unite against hate. Witnessed hate crimes can be reported anonymously to 211. Website is www.lavshate.org to find out more about the program resources.
 - Local artists are making custom signs for this program. Our COG will have a custom “South Bay vs Hate” sign to help promote this project. Information available at the website.
 - As of August 31st, our South Bay fiber network is up and running. We will be working with our cities to make available extra bandwidth into something to allow them to serve their communities more efficiently and effectively.
 - Senior services working group is meeting on September 22nd presenting an overview about the Dept of Aging.
 - Our Board of Directors have had 2 special board meetings for elected officials on the role of public safety.

Next Steps and Follow-up Actions

None at this time

Adjournment – next meeting is scheduled for November 4, 2020