

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Homeless Services Task Force (Zoom Meeting)

Wednesday, May 5, 2021 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Meeting Notes *(submitted by Laurie Jacobs)*

Welcome and Introductions

Elected officials/representatives in attendance:

Council Member Christian Horvath (Redondo Beach); Council Member Alex Monteiro (Hawthorne); Council Member Bill Uphoff (Lomita); Council Member George Chen (Torrance); Lily Sofiani (Supervisor Holly Mitchell, District 2); Jennifer LaMarque (Supervisor Janice Hahn, District 4); Moises Aglipay (Assembly Member Mike Gipson); Janet Turner (Representative Ted Lieu)

Others in attendance:

Marco Lemus (El Segundo); Jackie Arcos (Gardena); Raul Alcaron (Gardena PD); Kimberly Mack, Von Norris (Hawthorne); Dulce Medina (St. Margaret's Center/Hawthorne); Lt. Landon Phillips (Hermosa Beach PD); Roberto Chavez (Inglewood); George Gabriel (Manhattan Beach); McKenzie Bright (Rancho Palos Verdes); Wayne Windman (Redondo Beach PD); Jeannie Naughton (Rolling Hills Estates); Viet Hoang, Zulma Gent, John LaRock (Torrance); Elizabeth Ben-Ishai, Ashlee Oh, Jeremy Rodriguez (Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative); Anna Laven (Bakersfield Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative); Jeff Newman (Caltrans District 7); Brittany Jones, (LAHSA); Courtney Reed (PATH); Laurie Ramey (Mental Health America Los Angeles); Shari Weaver, Breanna Jajairam (Harbor Interfaith Services); Nancy Wilcox (South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness); Lee Phillips (South Bay Resident); Ronald Williams (Shoftim Consulting); Jacki Bacharach, Grace Farwell, Laurie Jacobs, David Leger (SBCCOG)

March 3, 2021 meeting notes – Received and filed

Achieving Functional Zero in LA County: Inflow/Outflow Model Timeline Projections Too

Elizabeth Ben-Ishai, PhD, Principal Analyst, Homeless Initiative, LA County

Link: [Functional Zero Presentation](#)

Elizabeth suggests reviewing the information on their website: <https://homeless.lacounty.gov/functional-zero/>

Elizabeth gave a presentation on a new tool developed by the Homeless Initiative in partnership with the United Way of Greater Los Angeles. Functional Zero is that point when a community's homeless services system is able to prevent homelessness whenever possible and ensure that when homelessness does occur, it is rare, brief, and one-time. Achieving and sustaining functional zero necessitates having adequate housing and support services for everyone who needs it.

The presentation covers the impact of increasing exits and decreasing inflow, and what impacts the ability to achieve functional zero. This tool can be used to determine which/how much of resources are needed as well as what policies are needed.

Elizabeth shared explanations of inflow/outflow models along with how the tools look, and how to use data to analyze how long it could take to achieve functional zero looking at sample projections of timelines. The is most powerful as an advocacy tool to understand that the system needs to make meaningful progress towards functional zero.

Q: Council Member Horvath asked if the rollout for this is already happening, and the date of the planned timeline.

A: This is already up on their website for municipalities to use as an initial tool. They are looking for feedback from those who use this tool. Hopefully this will be a tool to conceptualize and advocate for the needed resources.

Q: Grace Farwell asked if our cities can enter their homeless count numbers to figure out the inflow vs outflow to come up with their own scenarios to achieve functional zero.

A: Yes, absolutely, a great use of this program to identify the resources needed.

Q: Jeff Newman asked about the percentages provided in the presentation.

A: The breakdown is only about those who exit homelessness and does not include those still on the streets.

Q: Janet Turner asked if the county has any rapid re-housing resources.

A: Yes, there is a significant amount of Measure H funding as well funding related to COVID that is invested in rapid re-housing. There is also Recovery Re-housing subsidies that we need to get landlords to accept.

Q: Council Member Horvath asked about cities doing their own homeless census numbers because there was no homeless count this year to provide true metrics.

A: This is a challenging issue because LAHSA must follow HUD guidelines, but nothing prevents cities doing their own census. Only LAHSA homeless count numbers can be submitted to the federal government. For the purpose of Measure H funding, they do use administrative data to allocate some funding. Some counts include information that HUD does not allow, such as people who couch surf. There are always discussions of different methodology of collecting data.

Achieving Functional Zero: A Case Study – Bakersfield

Anna Laven, Ph.D., Executive Director, Bakersfield Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative

Website: <https://bkrhc.org/>

The Bakersfield Kern Regional Homeless Collaborative, commonly referred to as BKRHC or “the collaborative,” is an independent 501(C)3 nonprofit organization that works to reduce the impacts of homelessness in Kern County through collaborative planning and action that expands access to permanent affordable housing and supportive services.

Anna did not have a formal presentation but instead walked through an informal review of information that is available on their website. She noted case study data on the site. Functional zero does not mean there is never inflow but rather this is a system that is highly responsive to inflow. She defined chronically homeless and explained why they focused on this group for the functional zero program study.

Created “by name” lists of various categories such as youth, veterans, etc. and now adding families. Goal is to reach a complete “by name list” of those experiencing homelessness. Landlord summits proved to be successful in gaining landlord trust with the result of more available units. COVID has slowed down the progress. Current focus is on using available funding to secure more housing.

Q: Janet Turner asked if data was available on the percentage of the homeless that are mentally ill.

A: Yes, their group was one of few CoCs that did do a PIT count this year. They do have this data in the HMIS as self-reported. In past years, the count averaged about 25% identified as mentally ill. This year it was considerably higher at around 65% which Anna states is probably a bit more accurate. She believes this may be due to the self-affirmation reporting process.

Q: Jeff Newman asked about the value added by the community solutions.

A: Community solutions was very important to the work as part cheerleaders and with help crafting the program to look at case conferencing in different ways.. Also they were able to fund participation in national conferences for amazing brainstorming.

Elizabeth Ben-Ishai added that LA County has a “5% List” of heaviest users of homelessness county services dealing with the most vulnerable on the street who are represent the heaviest burden on county services. Also using the data, DHS has a new prevention unit that is focused on using predictive analytic tools to identify folks who have touched the county system.

PATH Services Update

Courtney Reed, Associate Director, South Bay SPA 8

Link: [PATH May 2021 Update](#)

Courtney reviewed the efforts of the PATH outreach team since last meeting in March.

Sadly, John and Jasmine are both leaving having accepted new positions out of state.

PATH will continue outreach in teams of 3 instead of 4 so response times may be a bit slower until staff is ramped back up. Courtney mentioned that Pallet Shelters are an effective interim housing program. See the report for details on LA-HOP requests.

Q: Janet Turner asked about the number of veterans experiencing homeless,

A: Courtney advised not that many veterans are observed on the streets but when they do, the veterans are referred to the appropriate team.

CES Update

Breanna Jaijairam, SPA 8 Regional Coordinator for Adults, Harbor Interfaith Services

Shari Weaver, SPA8 Director Coordinated Entry System (Families, Adults & Youth)

[Harbor Interfaith Services May 2021 Report](#)

Breanna reviewed recovery re-housing and bridge housing. She reviewed the effectiveness of the collaborative efforts with the PATH Lease-Up program to move folks into housing.

For prevention, they continue to refer folks for eviction prevention to legal services. Torrance housing navigator in place since February has had success coordinating with the PATH Lease-Up program. She also works with the Beach Cities Outreach contract that includes Manhattan, Hermosa and Redondo Beach cities. Breanna will be conducting a 101 training tomorrow that is modeled after the 101 training provided by the SBCCOG. She is now working more closely with the DMH home teams and collaboration with local police department. Breanna stressed using LA-HOP as an important resource as it is working very well to track cases and do follow up. She reviewed program details which can be viewed on the presentation link.

Shari Weaver reviewed the interim housing sites data and the Redondo Beach pallet shelter. Interim housing has almost an 11% increase which is great but does create some issues with being able to fill them. Strategic procedures need to be re-evaluated to find best process to cast the net a little wider in catchment areas.

Q; Laurie Jacobs asked about why there are vacancies at the bridge home but a waiting list at the pallet shelters. She also asked about the catchment area for the 75 new pallet tiny homes in Wilmington by Harbor College.

A: This is due more to the catchment area. The remaining people require a deeper dive engagement, but Shari's team does not give up. For the new tiny homes, 50 are for Lomita McCoy and 25 for college students but if not enough college students, that may shift.

LAHSA Update

Brittany Jones, Associate Director of Government and Community Relations, LAHSA

Brittany advises there are no major updates other than they are looking to hire more people in each SPA.

Q: Grace Farwell asked about Brittany's role and how looking for additional people in each SPA changes from the previous engagement along with other changes LAHSA has been doing. Who are the new contact people, etc.

A: The role will be similar with the addition of dealing with more stakeholders, directly with faith leaders, and other community partners. There will be one person in each SPA. She is interviewing now. Brittany will also work with Clementina for lived experience and homeless counts. Brittany will advise when the SPA 8 person is hired.

LAHSA RHAC Update

Lt. Wayne Windman, Redondo Beach PD and SBCCOG Representative to RHAC

The RHAC has not been meeting so there is no report.

Legislative Updates

Janet Turner, Representative Congressman Ted Lieu

Nothing major to report but received many interesting community project funding requests such as from the Torrance Homeless Response Team for encampment infrastructure assistance. They will go to bat for as many projects as they can get.

SBCCOG Updates – Jacki Bacharach, Grace Farwell, SBCCOG

Jacki Bacharach advised the SBCCOG has been busy visiting legislators to talk about some of the legislation going through Sacramento, how some might hurt cities, and not get what is needed to address the homeless crisis. The SBCCOG is getting ready for May and June board meetings. The presentation in May will be on the West Harbor project redevelopment in San Pedro harbor area. The presentation in June, not yet confirmed, will focus on policing and police reform in Sacramento.

Grace Farwell advised the Board of Supervisors will be voting in July on the next round of funding for COGs. Overall, the COGS in LA County will be receiving a portion of \$15 million.

The SBCCOG is scheduled to potentially receive \$1.9 million. Once passed, a call for projects will be put out in priority areas of 1 and 2; 1 is looking at increasing the housing supply and 2 is to enhance the LA County services. Cities should start thinking about projects.

The beach cities, Hawthorne and Inglewood should have received an email from the Homeless Initiative regarding bridge funding for their implementation funds to carry them through the end of the calendar year. Tomorrow is a public hearing for the Measure H funding and tomorrow is the last day comments can be submitted.

Grace announced a reminder that Client Aid is available, as so far, she has only received a couple of verbal inquiries. Please reach out if you have potential clients that are in need of the client aid funding.

George Gabriel brought up the concerns about Mike Bonin's City Council motion proposal to house individuals at Dockweiler Beach. He is receiving a lot of community inquiries so wanted to bring this to the attention of the COG.

Ashlee Oh

Reiterated information Grace shared about the public hearing tomorrow. Comments can be submitted via the web or send comments via email. The meeting is by telephone, not a web meeting. Also in regard to the \$15 million the CEO is recommending for the 18 month period that will begin in January 2022, CEOHI had engaged the COG leaders to discuss what has worked well as part of the regional coordination innovation funding and city's implementation funding so those lessons can be applied to develop the funding framework for the second round of funding. That information will be shared with the Homeless Board Deputies, then they will work with the COGS in early July to develop the planning process, how the cities will be engaged and ultimately to finalize a statement of work.

Next Steps and Follow-up Actions

None at this time

Adjournment – next meeting is scheduled for July 7, 2021

2021 meetings: January 6th, May 5th; July 7th; September 1st; November 3rd