

# **South Bay Cities Council of Governments**

## **Homeless Services Task Force (Zoom Meeting)**

**Wednesday, September 1, 2021 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

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

### **Welcome and Introductions**

#### **Elected officials/representatives in attendance:**

Council Member Chen (Torrance); Council Member Uphoff (Lomita); Council Member Obagi (Redondo Beach); Jeanette Christian (Senator Feinstein); Janet Turner (Congressman Lieu); Lily Sofiani (Supervisor Mitchell, District 2); Gabriela Medina, Alexis Lauro (CD15 Council Member Buscaino)

#### **Others in attendance:**

Ashlee Oh (Los Angeles Homeless Initiative); Amy Perkins, Ivet Samvetyan (LAHSA) Keith Bennett, Cac Le (Carson); Stephany Santin, Jackie Arcos, Dianna Espinoza (Gardena); Jesse Ramirez, Mary Agnes Erlandson, Kimberly Mack (St. Margaret's Center/Hawthorne); Angela Crespi (Hermosa Beach); Lt. Landon Phillips (Hermosa Beach PD); Roberto Chavez, Lori Jones (Inglewood); George Gabriel (Manhattan Beach); McKenzie Bright (Rancho Palos Verdes); Jeannie Naughton (Rolling Hills Estates); Wayne Windman, Anastasia Papadakis, Joy Abaquin Michael Webb, (Redondo Beach); Aram Chaparyan, John LaRock, Julia Smith, Zulma Gent (Torrance); Roberto Rubalcaba (Caltrans); Haley Fuselier, Ana Abril-Urias (PATH); Shari Weaver, Ari Hamilton (Harbor Interfaith Services); Carielle Escalante (Rainbow Services); Cameron Vallone (1736); Nancy Wilcox (South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness); Susan Wiley (Stakeholder) Jacki Bacharach, Ronson Chu, Laurie Jacobs, David Leger (SBCCOG)

**July 7, 2021, meeting notes** – Received and filed.

Jacki announced the appointment of Ronson Chu as the new Senior Project Manager replacing Grace Farwell for senior services and homelessness services.

#### **Update on EHV Emergency Housing Voucher program**

Ivet Samyelyan, Director of Permanent Housing, LAHSA

Amy Perkins, Consultant, LAHSA

Link: [EHV Emergency Housing Vouchers](#)

Link: [LAHSA EVS through CES website link](#)

An overview of the program was presented, review the link for specific details.

Funding was received through the American Rescue Plan for Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV). LA County has received about 6,800 vouchers. LAHSA is the only referring agency for these vouchers which are provided directly to the housing authorities. The EHV do not come with services, very similar to the section 8 program. They do require direct referrals from the Coordinated Entry System (CES).

EHV direct allocations were outlined with HACLA (3,295) and LACDA (1,964) receiving the largest allocations. South Bay Housing Authorities allocations are Hawthorne (66), Inglewood (91), Redondo Beach (29) and Torrance (33). Amy has worked with all the housing authorities and executed MOUs with respect to the process with referrals for the EHV's.

Ivet reviewed the implementation process and eligible target population. The first priority group includes people fleeing or attempting to flee from domestic violence. The second priority group includes recently homeless and those for whom providing rental assistance with prevent homelessness. The next group includes those at risk of becoming homeless.

Questions:

Q: Jacki Bacharach asked if it is just a staffing issue that hundreds of referrals have been submitted but only 44 vouchers have been issued. She also asked how long it takes after a voucher has been issued for someone to get housed.

A: Ivet advises that assessments were originally were handled manually until they were able to implement the HMIS assessment in the system. 14 temps were hired to help with this process to help expedite the vouchers issuance process.

Amy advises HACLA hired 30 new staff just to support EHV to help streamline the process. The Universal Housing Application will be launching hopefully this month in coordination with EHV which will mitigate a lot of the current challenges of illegible applications by having online forms.

Q: Nancy Wilcox asked about how the referrals are getting to the 4 South Bay housing authorities.

A: Amy does not have specific numbers on the South Bay, but they are working with the entities to ensure they are getting referrals to appropriate PHA by building logic into the process to trigger the correct referral locations. The process is still being streamlined.

Q: Shari Weaver mentioned that HACLA and LACLA, who entered an inter-agency agreement, are being cross referenced to make sure providers have the information. Shari also asked about "justice involved".

A: Amy is unaware of justice involved outreach which may be the reference to the (ODR) Office of Diversion and Re-entry who work with those formerly incarcerated, or justice involved who are very active with referrals. There is a helpful FAQ on the LAHSA website for the EHV information.

### **PATH Services Update**

Haley Fuselier, Senior Director, Greater Los Angeles Programs

Ana Abril-Urias, Program Manager SPA8 Outreach, PATH

Link: [PATH Updates](#)

Ana presented information on the current PATH outreach teams, their schedules of outreach in the south bay along with updates on outreach data results. She continued to encourage the use LA-HOP.org.

Haley advises that this year instead of referrals being monitored, the outcome focus would be on actions that were attained. COVID affected the reported outcome numbers. Haley presented a year overview which have increased results due to the available interim housing since COVID. Haley mentioned that the Project Home Key location in the south bay is scheduled to open in mid-late November.

Future considerations include more affordable permanent resources in each city and consideration of utilizing COG funds for interim housing solutions.

Q: Councilmember Chen had questions about what "city jumping" means.

A: Haley answered that this has to do with cities that are in close proximity to each other being considered in determining suggested housing. The goal is to place people in the community where they work or are closely connected to.

Q: Councilmember Uphoff asked about the current location of the Lomita McCoy encampment. He also asked if the outreach is on Tuesdays for Lomita.

A: Haley advises it has switched locations but is now located elsewhere. This is a tentative schedule, COVID permitting.

### **CES Update**

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

Link: [Harbor Interfaith Report](#)

Shari reviewed updates on all programs which are outlined in the link.

## **LA-HOP.org Referral Processes**

Ari Hamilton, Coordinated Entry System (CES) Regional Outreach, Harbor Interfaith

Link: [LA-HOP Presentation](#)

LA-HOP.org is a County-wide, web-based portal designed by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) in close collaboration with the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative, and the broader outreach family to:

1. Ensure constituents can easily submit request for homeless outreach
2. Educate our community about what outreach teams can and can't do
3. Support the unique needs of outreach teams to respond to these requests

This presentation reviewed the process to make a request on the LA-HOP.org portal, outreach team procedures, and related information.

There are currently 25 Teams with 115 Staff as part of SPA 8 outreach.

- Generalist teams deal with a special population (e.g. youth, veterans) and some have a geographic focus (specific city, Supervisor Districts, etc.)
- Mental health focused teams work with Dept of Mental Health.
- Multi-disciplinary teams focus on health, mental health, substance abuse, case management, peer.

Outreach teams do not respond to crime or provide primary health care. They are not always able to respond immediately as teams have existing schedules. Ari reviewed the information to have ready to include in a LA-HOP request and the timeline when to expect outreach actions.

## **Client Aid Fund Updates**

Laurie Jacobs, Analyst, South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Link: [Client Aid Presentation](#)

Laurie reviewed a simpler, more user-friendly process and form to apply for Client Aid funds.

- The deadline to email requests for approval is December 23, 2021.
- The deadline to submit reimbursement request forms is December 31, 2021.

The request for client aid funds must come from the cities directly in the form of an email to Laurie. The request should identify which service provider is involved to ensure case management is involved with the request. Approval or non-approval will be emailed back quickly.

This is a reimbursement program to the participating city. Once the services have been used, the city contact will complete and email the Client Aid Reimbursement form. A final form will be sent to the city to confirm the reimbursement is in process.

Laurie also mentioned the new Home Share South Bay media kit to promote the program. 8 south bay cities have already posted on their social media pages so thank you. Let us know if you need this kit.

## **Updates from the Homeless Initiative: Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness and 2022-2023 Funding and Re-evaluation of HI Strategies**

Ashlee Oh, Principal Analyst, Homeless Initiative, LA County

The Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness, established in July, to review the existing JPAs as well as to produce recommendations on governance structure as it relates to the continuum of care. The Commissioners were approved on August 10<sup>th</sup> with one representative from each Supervisorial District, an appointee representing Contract Cities Association, two Council of Government representatives for a total of 8 Commissioners. She is awaiting 3 nominees from city of LA. Mary Wickham will serve as the Executive Director of the Commission. A public interfacing website will be set up shortly.

Jacki Bacharach added comments about the extensive involvement from the COGs. Information will be shared with all COGS, including Ronson Chu. This needs to be a share and collaborative process.

#### 2022-2023 Funding and Re-evaluation of HI Strategies

Pursuant to board directives, the executive office will be conducting another public process to re-access County's homeless strategies. Dates have been set to add to calendars. At these meetings, they would have created a draft set of recommendations for revising and refining to have a starting point at these public meetings. The meetings will have breakout sessions to allow for a deeper dive on certain components. The two relevant dates are:

- October 20 for the cities and COGs virtual session from 9:30 – 11:30.
- September 22 SPA8 virtual session from 10:00 – 12:00

There will be a total of 8 sessions. There will be a session for homelessness service providers as well as a separate session for people with lived experience.

#### **Measure H Funding “Call for Projects” update**

Jacki Bacharach, CEO South Bay Cities Council of Governments

LA County is granting \$1.9M dollars between Jan 2022 to June 2023. \$3.6M dollars in project submissions were received. This is an embarrassment of riches. Nine cities submitted plus the SBCCOG has continuing projects. We learned that we are not experts on this, and we want Ronson to be part of the decisions so we are postponing announcing the recommended projects for a month, hoping to go to our board in October with the final project recommendations. We also learned that our application process didn't seem to be that good because we had more questions than answers. We would now like to set up meetings with the proposers for the projects to drill a bit deeper and take our time to be a bit surgical in the decisions. We should have this done by the next Homeless Services Task Force meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. We will send this Task Force distribution a copy of the recommendations being forwarded to our board which allows any of you to comment about your projects at the board meeting.

Ronson Chu added that proposers should be prepared when we reach out by segmenting the projects if possible so we know that we may be able to fund partial sections of projects if need be.

#### **Legislative Updates**

##### **Jeanette Christian, Representative Senator Feinstein**

The Senate is still in recess, will be back next week. The big news in DC is the bipartisan infrastructure plan and upcoming budget reconciliation. There are housing and homelessness issues in both. She will provide an update as soon as there is an update.

##### **Janet Turner, Representative Congressman Lieu**

Congressman Lieu is working with Senator Feinstein on a homelessness bill to try to be included in the infrastructure reconciliation bill. This could offer many grants to various cities to improve their homeless services. They are watching the rollout of American Rescue Plan money as \$4.75 million in section 8 vouchers to help house the homeless. Each of your cities has received their allotment so hoping they will be used quickly and efficiently. \$26 billion went to rental assistance to prevent homelessness. Cities should be contacting the state to determine if people qualify for that assistance. Contact the California Rent Relief Center at 833-430-2122.

Laurie Jacobs asked people to contact the California Governors office to reconsider the passing of SB9 and SB10 which passed the state senate. These bills are not doing anything to get us more affordable housing.

#### **SBCCOG Updates – Jacki Bacharach, Grace Farwell, SBCCOG**

Jacki Bacharach

The South Bay Board of Directors is very interested in defeating SB9 and SB10. We hired a firm to work on SCAG projects to look at ADUs and other opportunities to build affordable housing in

the south bay so we can help our cities address some of the requirements. That person started today. As we learn about more south bay opportunities, Jacki will bring back that information.

We are also beginning planning for our General Assembly conference which will be on March 17, 2022, so save the date.

We have hooked up about 20 sites in the south bay (all the city halls and several agencies) with our fiber project. Now we are working to find opportunities to bring the fiber network to neighborhoods and businesses. We are working with SD2 and also in Wilmington to have a center that would help delete the digital divide. And we are working with the LA County initiative so we can take this fiber network and make it work for our cities, our businesses, and our constituents.

We are working on hard on the local travel network for slow speed vehicles to encourage them for people who do not have a lot of money and don't want to buy a car. If we can find safe spaces, people could get rid of a car.

We are planning to continue with virtual meetings as we are getting great participation. We welcome your input.

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

None at this time

#### **Adjournment – next meeting is scheduled for November 3rd, 2021**

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

