

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Homeless Services Task Force (Zoom Meeting)

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

LINK: [Homeless Services Task Force meeting recording](#)

LINK: [Nov 3 Homeless Services Task Force on SBCCOG website](#)

Meeting Notes *(submitted by Laurie Jacobs)*

Welcome and Introductions

Elected officials/representatives in attendance:

Council Member Tanaka (Gardena); Council Member Horvath (Redondo Beach); Jeanette Christian (Senator Feinstein); Janet Turner (Congressman Lieu); Gabriela Medina (CD15 Council Member Buscaino)

Others in attendance:

Ashlee Oh (Los Angeles Homeless Initiative); Brad Fieldhouse, Matt Bates (City Net); Patricia St. Clair, Jessica Bruce, Stephanie Kwack (USC); Clementina Verjan (LAHSA); Keith Bennett, Cac Le (Carson); Jackie Arcos, Dianna Espinoza (Gardena); Officer Chad Amerine (Gardena PD); Mary Agnes Erlandson, Jonathan Said, Kimberly Mack (St. Margaret's Center, Hawthorne); Angela Crespi (Hermosa Beach); Lori Jones (Inglewood); George Gabriel (Manhattan Beach); David Matthews (North Harbor Gateway Chamber of Commerce); McKenzie Bright (Rancho Palos Verdes); Jeannie Naughton (Rolling Hills Estates); Joy Abaquin (Redondo Beach); Jessica Slawson (Rolling Hills Estates); John LaRock, Viet Hoang, Zulma Gent (Torrance); Evonne Biggs (Venice Family Clinic); Haley Fuselier, Ana Abril-Urias (PATH); Shari Weaver (Harbor Interfaith Services); Carielle Escalante, Elizabeth Eastlund, Andrea Barahona (Rainbow Services); Nancy Wilcox (South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness); Teri Neustaedter (League Women Voters); Jacki Bacharach, Ronson Chu, Laurie Jacobs (SBCCOG)

September 1, 2021, meeting notes – Received and filed.

Update

Christian introduced Ronson Chu who gave a quick overview of his past career experience.

Introduction to the 2022 Homeless Point in Time Count

Ronson Chu, SBCCOG and Clementina Verjan, LAHSA

Ronson Chu shared a flyer identifying the SPA 8 Homeless Count locations. This document will be emailed to meeting attendees and posted on the SBCCOG website.

LINK: [Homeless Count Deployment Sites Flyer](#)

Clementina Verjan announced two enhancements for the 2022 Homeless Count.

1. An app that can be downloaded to volunteer's phones will replace the previous manual paper process.
2. COVID safety precautions are being implemented to protect volunteers and people experiencing homelessness.

Pilot programs are in process to address any needed tweaks to this new app. The SPA 8 site coordinators are participating in a pilot test. Thank you to Nancy Wilcox for her coordination.

Ronson wanted to do a deep dive into the homeless count numbers to help all better understand and have confidence in the count numbers.

LINK: [Homeless Count Analysis](#)

Homeless Count 2022! Discussion on Methodology (statistical)

USC: Patricia St. Clair, Statistical Lead, Stephanie Kwack, Senior Research Programmer
City Net: Brad Fieldhouse, Executive Director, Matt Bates, Vice President, Jessica Bruce, Chief Program Officer

Ronson explained the goal is not to say which methodology is better but rather to compare the different methods used by LAHSA and City Net. Redondo Beach is the only South Bay city that has also conducted a county by City Net, so this is the city being used for today's presentation. The two types of counts serve different purposes.

The LAHSA count is mandated by HUD as a Coc count to receive federal funding.
The City Net count was a contracted count by Redondo Beach to serve their purposes.

LINK: [Homeless Counts Comparison Analysis](#)

Patricia presented first on the general LASHA count methodology.

LINK: [LAHSA Homeless Count Methodology Presentation](#)

Brad and Matt presented the City Net count methodology.

LINK: [City Net Presentation](#)

Questions:

Q: to City Net: How long does it take to get the data out?

A: Two-page data summary completed within 30 days as a minimalist excel sheet. The final more detailed report is delivered within 100 days. The report does not include recommendations but does highlight data that stands out as significant.

Q: to City Net: Can the data be used for grant funding in the same way as the LAHSA count?

A: Yes, this is accepted for use in grant fund requests.

Ronson added that funding is based on the homeless counts, so this is very important.

Data Reset (South Bay Count, Outreach, Subsidies, and Housing Inventory)

Ronson Chu gave an overview on why the homeless count data is so important. The flow of people going in and out of homelessness, so the breakdown of the inflow needs to be better understood.

The end of the Eviction Moratorium might cause a substantial increase in homelessness. Therefore, Housing is Key State program is important, as well as Stay Housed LA, a program for free tenant legal services

How the Housing Crisis Affect Victims of Domestic Violence – Rainbow Services

Elizabeth Eastlund, LCSW, Executive Director

Andrea Barahona, Community Engagement Coordinator

Carielle Escalante, Domestic Violence Regional Coordinator, and Subcontractor with Harbor Interfaith

LINK: [Los Angeles' New Survivors First Funding](#)

LINK: [Permanent Housing Program for Victims of Domestic Violence](#)

Elizabeth reviewed the link between domestic violence (DV) and homelessness with 39% of those experiencing homelessness have identified as having experienced domestic violence. There is a need for domestic violence staff to partner more with homeless services to ensure that survivors are not falling through the cracks. There are issues with placing DV survivors in shelter if the abuse was not recent. Rainbow Services is addressing and seeking solutions to these issues. They are working to breakdown existing barriers that survivors face with getting housed by educating the housing advocates about how to effectively work with survivors from a trauma informed approach.

Ronson inquired about the number of domestic shelters available in the South Bay. Elizabeth replied Rainbow Services has an emergency shelter and an interim housing program as well as rental support for DV survivors. There is also the "1736" which offers emergency shelter and transitional housing. There is CPAF which is a center for Pacific Asian families. Rainbow Services is one of the largest area DV organizations administering rental support to DV survivors. Rainbow Services is being recommended for the DV funding through LASHA part of the DV First Housing model.

Elizabeth discussed the need to build permanent supportive housing that is affordable to survivors. Project Safe Haven helped housing survivors. More funding would help serve more people. Possibly the Project Room Key program would be an option for those who no longer need confidential housing locations as they are no longer fleeing. She also discussed issues with securing more funding for domestic violence programs and housing.

PATH Services Update

Haley Fuselier, Senior Director, Greater Los Angeles Programs
Ana Abril-Urias, Program Manager SPA8 Outreach, PATH
LINK: [PATH Presentation](#)

Ana presented information on the current PATH outreach teams, their schedules of outreach in the south bay along with updates on outreach data results and a couple of wonderful success stories. They are experiencing a staffing shortage. She continued to encourage the use LA-HOP.org.

Future considerations include more affordable permanent resources in each city by referring property owners to work with Lease Up and consideration of utilizing COG funds for interim housing solutions.

CES Update

Shari Weaver, SPA8 Director Coordinated Entry System (Families, Adults & Youth)
Shari gave an update on the Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHV) with about 6,800 LA County Vouchers available. They are seeing more applications coming through. Service Providers are doing extensive assessments to get as many people connected as possible. The south bay city housing authorities are also starting to see some of the matches coming through.

There are owner incentives attached to these vouchers for HACLA and LACLA offering \$2,500 to any owner signing a new lease utilizing the EHV. Shari reviewed the available shelter vacancies and placements. Prevention programs are continuing to be utilized.

The catchment area around the San Pedro A Bridge Home has been expanded to include any location within CD15.

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.

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

Christian Horvath and Ronson Chu

Christian is currently co-chairing 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. There are no representatives from the City of LA on this commission. The goal is to come up with an action-oriented re-design or re-thinking of

how LAHSA may function and their entire governance structure. Communicate any feedback with concerns to Christian and Ronson.

Measure H Funding “Call for Projects” update

Ronson Chu currently in the process of negotiating the SOWs between the COG and the County. Next the SOWs will be shared with each city in the step to create the MOUs. We are hoping to complete by the end of the year. One hiccup is we are now being told to create 6-month SOWs even though the funding is for 18 months.

Legislative Updates

Janet Turner, Representative Congressman Lieu

Congressman Lieu has had great success with the Vicente encampment now completely gone with all but one veteran having been housed. 20 of the veterans have moved on to the W. LA Veteran campus that now has 20 tiny shelters as well as tents. Finding permanent supportive housing for the veterans is now a top priority.

SBCCOG Updates – Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG

We are beginning planning for our General Assembly conference which will be on March 24, 2022, so save the date. The theme will be “Back to the Future? Reimagining the South Bay”. The SBCCOG is looking for event sponsors and ask for help in getting the word out.

Announcements

Christian announced this was his last Homeless Services Task Force meeting as he has taken on a new position that will cut down on his ability to have the flexible time to run these meetings. Christian will be greatly missed. Rodney Tanaka will take over the role starting with the January 2022 meeting.

Ronson announced we are looking for winter shelters in the south bay. Send information directly to Ronson if you find a potential location.

As part of the Innovation Fund Projects, Hermosa Beach had submitted a proposal for a mobile mental health response team. LA County is expanding their program, so we are looking at a possible collaboration with Hermosa Beach and the County.

Project Home Key deadlines coming up as we look for partner locations.

LINK: [Project Homekey Program Update](#)

Next Steps and Follow-up Actions

None at this time

Adjournment – next meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2022

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

