

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Homeless Services Task Force (Zoom Meeting)

Wednesday, January 5, 2022 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

MEETING VIDEO LINK: [January 5th Meeting Video](#)

Meeting Notes *(submitted by Laurie Jacobs)*

Welcome and Introductions

Elected officials/representatives in attendance:

Council Member Tanaka (Gardena); Council Member Pimentel (El Segundo); Council Member Monteiro (Hawthorne); Council Member Cuevas (Lawndale); Council Member Uphoff (Lomita); Council Member Obagi (Redondo Beach); Council Member Franklin (Manhattan Beach); Council Member Chen (Torrance); Janet Turner (Congressman Lieu); Alexis Lauro, Gabriela Medina (CD15 Council Member Buscaino)

Others in attendance:

Ashlee Oh (Los Angeles Homeless Initiative); Daniel Jung (Salvation Army); Keith Bennett, Cac Le (Carson); Jackie Arcos, Dianna Espinoza (Gardena); Dulce Medina, Jonathan Said, Kimberly Mack (St. Margaret's Center, Hawthorne); Angela Crespi (Hermosa Beach); Lori Jones (Inglewood); McKenzie Bright (Rancho Palos Verdes); Jeannie Naughton (Rolling Hills Estates); Joy Abaquin, Lila Omura (Redondo Beach); John LaRock, Viet Hoang, Zulma Gent (Torrance); Evonne Biggs (Venice Family Clinic); Courtney Reed, Ana Abril-Urias (PATH); Shari Weaver, Max Estrada, Valerie Hernandez (Harbor Interfaith Services); Carielle Escalante (Rainbow Services); Nancy Wilcox (South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness); Renee El-Hkoury (LA County DHS); Teri Neustaedter (League Women Voters); Roberto Rubalcaba (Caltrans); Lee Phillips (MD stakeholder); Jacki Bacharach, Ronson Chu, Laurie Jacobs (SBCCOG)

November 3, 2021, meeting notes – Received and filed.

Meeting led by Council Member Tanaka from Gardena.
Great attendance, including eight Council Members.

Service Provider Updates

PATH Services

Courtney Reed, Associate Director SPA 8, PATH
Ana Abril-Urias, Program Manager SPA8 Outreach, PATH
PRESENTATION LINK: [PATH January 2022 Presentation](#)

Courtney Reed presented information on the current PATH outreach teams, their schedules of outreach in the south bay along with updates on outreach data results, referral data, and a couple of wonderful success stories. Click on the presentation for details.

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.

Harbor Interfaith CES Update

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

REPORT LINK: [Harbor Interfaith Report](#)

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.

Homeless Count Update for SPA8

Nancy Wilcox, South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness

PRESENTATION LINK: [SPA-8-Homeless-Count Presentation](#)

SIGN UP SITE: <https://www.theycountwillyou.org/>

Nancy is assisting the Homeless Count program in SPA 8, working with the Site Coordinators. She reviewed the changes made to adjust to the pandemic with plans for a Safe Count by using masks, social distancing, minimizing time spent at the deployment sites, and encouraging people to sign up as teams. New process introduced uses a Smart Phone App to record the count instead of the previous method of using a clipboard with handwritten information. There is a 20-minute training video for volunteers.

She discussed why and how the cities should encourage their community members to sign up and be a part of the homelessness solution. Each community is most familiar with their own neighborhoods so are the best people to cover their areas.

Flyers are available to help promote and direct people to the online sign up.

There is a possibility the count may be modified to a two-day process or pushed out to February depending on the surge of COVID.

Click on presentation for details.

Gaps in Housing and Income Programs

Ronson Chu, Senior Project Manager, South Bay Cities Council of Governments

PRESENTATION LINK: [Taskforce 2022 Gaps in Housing and Income Programs](#)

Ronson discussed the role of the Homeless Services Task Force which he sees as a group that can help combat homelessness by evaluating data and the situation on the ground to identify gaps and offer solutions. One example is how we are working with LAHSA to deploy document specialists to help with the paperwork overload suffered by the service providers.

The Task Force is also helping to identify and find new housing and shelter sites. We have a goal to create a subsidy matrix to outline the various programs, demographics to become more knowledgeable and organized in knowing what is in our arsenal to deploy for our clients.

We are revamping the Client Aid program based on actual needs with the ability to provide aid more rapidly. We are working with the County on mental health needs and services such as the mobile mental health units instead of law enforcement as well as other program partnerships and collaborations. Click on presentation for details.

Shallow Subsidy / Street 2 Subsidy program

Daniel Jung, Supportive Housing Supervisor, Salvation Army

EMAIL: S2S@usw.salvationarmy.org

PRESENTATION LINK: [Salvation Army - Street 2 Subsidy](#)

PROGRAM FLYER LINK: [Street 2 Subsidy Flyer](#)

Daniel gave a presentation explaining the Street 2 Subsidy program, who is eligible, who can refer, the referral process, services provided, and the overall process flow. Click on presentation for details.

Blue Ribbon Commission Update & Measure H Funding Innovation Fund Projects

Ronson Chu, Senior Project Manager, South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Ronson is still working on the details of the new revised Client Aid program so details not ready to share currently.

Christian Horvath 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. 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 Ronson.

Tonight's Blue Ribbon Commission meeting will include a discuss on the Housing Authorities and the role they play in our homeless system.

The last meeting had an interesting question as to whether LAHSA is doing too much. The majority of the answers were yes, that LAHSA is stretched.

Update on Measure H Innovation Funds: Ronson is working on the MOUs received from each city and we are looking to execute those shortly however our SOW with the County is being delayed somewhat. The remaining balance of funds from the Client Aid and the Redondo Beach Homeless Court is being carried over so we will rollover these funds into the new programs. The plan is to complete the MOUs in January and the SBCCOG Steering Committee approving in February.

Legislative Updates

Janet Turner, Representative Congressman Lieu

No report given

SBCCOG Updates – Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG

We are planning our General Assembly conference which will be on March 24, 2022 from 8:30 – 1:30 at the Carson Community Center, so save the date. Currently this is scheduled to be in-person, but we will continue to review whether it may change to virtual. The theme will be “Back to the Future? Reimagining the South Bay”. Exciting news for this session is the event Chair, an entrepreneur is inviting other entrepreneurs and investment capitalists to talk about how they look to the future. The topic of climate change will also be included.

The SBCCOG is looking for event sponsors and ask for our help in getting the word out.

Announcements

The Homeless Task Force meeting agenda now includes a list of all the group's 2022 meeting dates.

Adjournment – next meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2022

2022 meetings: January 5, March 2, May 4, July 6, September 7, November 2

