

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Senior Services Working Group Meeting Notes

Tuesday, January 25, 2022 @ 9:30 am, Zoom Meeting

Link to Meeting Video: [Zoom Meeting Video](#)

Elected officials/representatives in attendance:

Councilmember Huff, Chair (Rolling Hills Estates, H.E.L.P); Councilmember Uphoff (Lomita); Janet Turner (Representative Congress Member Ted Lieu); Olina Wibroe (Representative Senator Allen)

Others in attendance: Amy Ford (Silvernest); Emily Brosius (Beach Cities Health District); Catherine Hetzer (Harbor Interfaith); Julie Todd (El Segundo); Diane Brown (Hawthorne); Thomas Uwal (Inglewood); Debbie Reed (Bartlett Senior Center, Torrance); Patti Goldenson (Torrance); Harriet Chase, Teri Neustaedter (League of Women Voters Beach Cities); Marcelle Herrera (Palos Verdes Estates); Monique Sugimoto (Palos Verdes Library District); Fran Wielin (PVP Village); Bea Virobik (Focal Point on Aging Torrance); Ana Abril-Urias, Courtney Reed (PATH); Karen Pryor (Priority Lending); Ronson Chu, Laurie Jacobs, Jacki Bacharach, Steve Lantz (SBCCOG)

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

2. **Previous meeting notes** are posted on SBCCOG Senior Services Working Group webpage

3. **PATH Update – Courtney Reed, Associate Director and Ana Abril-Urias, Program Manager, SPA 8**

PATH was limited this past month on street outreach due to an outbreak of COVID among the staff. They currently have 18 open cases for seniors. 5 of these have housing appointments and the balance are still pending. Courtney outlined the 3-step process to obtaining section 8 vouchers.

Ronson asked PATH to let him know if any landlords are resisting acceptance of vouchers due to low or bad credit scores, or if a large rental deposit is needed so he can source some solutions to these types of scenarios that present huge barriers to using housing vouchers.

4. **Home Sharing and Home Share South Bay Presentation**

Amy Ford, VP of Strategic Partnerships and Business Development, Silvernest

Amy shared a presentation on the benefits of homesharing, the specific Home Share South Bay program, and the challenges of inspiring homeowners to open their home to share. The group discussed some of the barriers to homeowner participation and various actions to help people work through these concerns. The benefits should outweigh any concerns.

Britt Huff added comments about how important this program is for our senior population.

PRESENTATION LINK: [Silvernest Presentation](#)



<https://www.facebook.com/SBCCOG/>



<https://twitter.com/SouthBayCCOG>

Laurie Jacobs added information on the additional outreach for Home Share South Bay which includes a new 30-second PSA running for 3 months on local South Bay television and a new print ad in the Easy Reader publication. We are available to present on zoom.

PSA LINK: [Home Share South Bay PSA](#)

HOME SHARE SOUTH BAY AD : [Easy Reader Home Share South Bay Ad](#)

HOME SHARE SOUTH BAY LANDING PAGE: <https://info.silvernest.com/southbay>

5. Library Learning Platforms Presentation

Monique Sugimoto, Adult Services Librarian, Palos Verdes Library District

Monique first provided some general announcements such as all January and February in-person programs are on hold due to the surge in COVID. Updated information are on the website calendar.

One new program that is scheduled to launch once we are past the surge is called “Tech Knows”, a program designed to help people with technology.

The library also has learning platforms which can be accessed on the site under Research & Learn. There are many programs but the one she wants to point out is the Tutorials and Learning Platforms which is being provided courtesy of the state library except the Brainfuse.com program. Each program is very easy to sign up for and she suggests clicking on each program to learn more about the features. Click on the meeting video for specifics.

WEBSITE LINK: <https://www.pvld.org/>

6. El Segundo update on AARP Friendly City Designation application

Julie Todd, Senior Librarian, Cultural Development & Communications, El Segundo

Julie provided an update on the El Segundo application to be an AARP Friendly City. Their application to the process was accepted just prior to COVID so slowed down an already lengthy process that can take up to 5 years with lots of community engagement and surveys to help determine the community wants and needs to become a more age friendly community. It is a daunting task, so it is suggested to focus on a few elements of the 8 categories at a time. It is a continuing on-going process, always evolving even after achieving the age friendly designation. El Segundo has been conducting digital surveys and will be analyzing the results to determine their priority focus.

Britt added a comment that AARP provides tax assistance for senior. Bea Virobik advises they are working out the details to do this due to the COVID surge. Torrance is doing this by appointments only. Updates can be obtained from Linda Wilson, Supervisor at the Torrance Bartlett Center, at 310.320.1580. Debbie Reed advises this is only currently being done on Wednesdays through their website. People should follow up as the process is evolving due to COVID.

7. Update from Legislative Offices

Janet Turner (Representative Congressmember Lieu)

Janet advises the Congressman re-introduced the Homelessness Act which would provide grants to all the cities with regards to helping people stay in their homes. It is similar to the LA County homelessness prevention programs.

Olina Wibroe (Representative Senator Ben Allen)

Olina Wibroe advises the legislative session just started a few weeks ago in Sacramento. Currently they are working on getting the 2-year bills out of the senate and back over to the assembly. They just moved their plastic responsibility bill SB54 out of the senate yesterday and SB579 which is an extension of hold harmless for our schools to avoid the fiscal cliff due to very high-level drops in enrollment over the past couple of years due to COVID.

Ronson Chu provided legislative updates from LA County

Four project homekey sites are in the works located in San Pedro, Inglewood, Carson, and Redondo Beach.

The county is looking at providing about \$10 million to the COGs for funding interim housing projects.

8. SBCCOG updates, Jacki Bacharach

This Thursdays Board meeting, open to the public via zoom, will include a presentation on the congestion at the ports, how that affects the south bay and what the future looks like. Another presentation will cover climate change, what happened in 2021 and moving forward. There will also be a short presentation on the Inglewood Super Bowl preparations.

There is now a sub-committee of City Managers, Board Members, and legal counsel looking into whether the south bay should have a housing trust fund.

There are two pieces of legislation the board is hoping to get introduced. One deals with neighborhood electric vehicles (NEV) designation which is needed for signage with our local travel network for slow speed vehicles. The second legislation is with the California Air Resources Board to broaden the rebate for electric bikes to include all slow speed vehicles.

We were one of many organizations that sent a letter to disincentivize solar at this point as there was no consensus.

Our regional planner has identified an ADU calculator program that is being used in Northern California. So far, 9 of our cities have signed up to use this program to assist homeowners with development of ADUs on their property. The program is not up and running yet. The participating cities first need to enter their data.

Our General Assembly is scheduled for March 24th. We are still planning to do an in-person event with the title as “Back to the Future? Reimagining the South Bay”. We are working on a strong private sector presence where we will have venture capitalists to talk about how they make their future predictions. The event is free because we have sponsors who get their own table in our exhibit hall for a \$2,500 sponsor fee. A save the date notice will go out soon.

9. Senior Services Updates – Ronson Chu, Senior Project Manager, SBCCOG

- **AARP Community Challenge Grant** program runs from Jan 25th to March 22nd. provides small grants to fund quick-action projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages. This year, applications will be accepted for projects to improve public spaces; housing; transportation; civic engagement; diversity, equity and inclusion; support efforts to build engagement for programs under new federal laws; and other innovative ideas that support people age 50 or older.

PROGRAM LINK: [AARP Community Challenge](#)

- **Homeless Count** – The point in time count has been moved out to February 23rd due to the surge in COVID. We encourage all to consider volunteering by registering at <https://www.theycountwillyou.org/>
- **Hygiene Event** – The SBCCOG collaborated with Securian Financial to assemble and distribute 3,000 hygiene kits to local service providers. Link to Hygiene Kit Video: [Hygiene Kit Video](#)

10. Announcements and Follow-up Actions

- Emily Brosius, Manager, Community Services, Beach Cities Health District announced an upcoming event “A Discussion About Behaviors in Dementia on February 3, 2022, 3 - 4:30pm on Zoom FLYER LINK: [DEC, discussion about behaviors, 2.3.22.pdf](#) Home visits have been on hold for now due to COVID.
- Patti Goldenson, City of Torrance Senior Services Supervisor introduced herself.
- Thomas Uwal from the City of Inglewood provided an update to their senior services programs. Things are a bit crazy due to the upcoming Super Bowl and the senior services center is being used to house security apparatus. Due to COVID, some activities have been on hold. Meal deliveries are still in place to seniors, about 500 per week and continue to offer transportation to seniors for doctor appointments. Seniors who need transportation can call 310.412.4378 for Inglewood Dial-A-Ride. Seniors can sign up for meal delivery by calling 310.412.4380.
- Harriet Chase from League of Women Voters of the Beach Cities, Health and Wellness Committee announced the Master Plan for aging had their first summit. She suggested we have a future presentation from the California Dept of Aging. We can reach out to Susan DeMarois, Harriet will follow up with specific contact information.
- Fran Wielin from the PVP Village announced this is the 20th anniversary of the Senior Village movement. There are over 300 villages across the United States.
- Diane Brown from Hawthorne announced COVID testing has begun again in Hawthorne without having to make a reservation.

2022 Meeting Schedule – January 25, March 22, May 21, July 26, September 9

Notes submitted by Laurie Jacobs