

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

## Senior Services Working Group Meeting Notes

Tuesday, May 24, 2022 @ 9:30 am, Zoom Meeting

Link to Meeting Video: [May 24th Meeting Video](#)

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

Councilmember Huff, Chair (Rolling Hills Estates, H.E.L.P); Councilmember Valentine (Hawthorne); Councilmember Uphoff (Lomita); Cac Le (Councilmember Hicks (Carson); Janet Turner (Representative Congress Member Lieu); Aracely Ruvalcaba (Representative Congress Member Barragan); Erick Ponce (Representative Assembly Member Muratsuchi)

**Others in attendance:** Dr. Laura Trejo (L; County Dept of Aging); Diana Garcia, Melissa Andrizzi-Sobel (Beach Cities Health District); Diane Brown (Hawthorne); Kambria Vint (Hermosa Beach); Harriet Chase (League of Women Voters Beach Cities); Marcelle Herrera (Palos Verdes Estates); Jacqueline Hernandez (Palos Verdes Library District), Marianne Propst (PVP Village); McKenzie Bright (Rancho Palos Verdes); Julie Dojiri (Torrance Commission on Aging); Anita Chun (Torrance Memorial); Bea Virobik (Focal Point on Aging Torrance); Zulma Gent (Torrance); Karen Pryor (Priority Lending); Ana Abril-Urias, Courtney Reed (PATH);); Kathy Hilberg (Manhattan Beach Jocelyn Center); 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  
LINK: [March 22nd Senior Services Meeting Notes](#)

### 3. **Presentation on local initiatives in development to assist the South Bay cities in becoming more age-friendly**

**Link to:** [Dr. Trejo New Executive Director Announcement](#)

**Dr. Laura Trejo, Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Dept of Aging**

**Email address:** [ltrejo@wdacs.lacounty.gov](mailto:ltrejo@wdacs.lacounty.gov)

This is a summary of the comments from Dr. Trejo. Please listen to the meeting recording to hear all the information presented.

Last year the Board of Supervisors unanimously approved creating a new LA County Department of Aging and Community Services which is scheduled to launch on July 1, 2022. At that time, LA County will also create a new Department dedicated to economic and workforce development. These two new departments will optimize and align services, ensuring the County is well-positioned to address the economic mobility and security of its residents while meeting the needs of rapidly growing populations of older adults and adults with disabilities. The new dept will not only have Adult Protective Services (APS) and the area services on aging, but also 14 community service centers operated in LA County.

There is already action for this new dept such as addressing social isolation. Dr. Trejo is putting together a consortium steering committee of dept heads that will help guide any work around social isolation to collaborate on this and social justice and equity that are experienced across all the program areas. Silos without collaboration often affect the older adults and persons with disabilities the most. Currently there is a lack of understanding on the work of each agency so the steering committee collaboration will serve to address this. There are over 200 independent programs in which she has oversight over. Dr. Trejo will therefore be working with other departments over the next few months around the issue of how to really develop an intentional policy approach to ensuring they are not just solving a social problem but improving the lives and add value to the residents of LA County.

A lot of work will also happen around social inequity to ensure all policies really understand the impact of inequities and disparities that have been sort of built into the systems that we are responsible for. She plans to determine how they/we can become the change agents to make them better and more accessible.

One of the highest rising numbers among the homeless population are those over the age of 50. These are not chronically homeless people; they are people hit by economic impacts. We all have opportunities to re-invent the communities we want to live in by seeking innovative solutions. Dr. Trejo is partnering with Susan DeMario's from the State Dept of Aging to develop the master plan on aging and ensure the needs in LA County are reflected in state level policies.

Dr. Trejo will be working on a regional resource connection with all six of the independent living centers to launch programs hopefully within a year. She is also looking at ways the dept can work with the two area agencies, City and County so they can become seamless. The State Dept of Aging has given permission to develop one single integrated plan for all the County of Los Angeles as opposed to two as done for the past 40 years. There will now be one plan, one set of goals, and one set of priorities for everybody that lives in LA County region. This will fill in the gaps.

#### Q&A

Q: Britt Huff – How do these changes affect existing commissions?

A: Dr. Trejo already handled the commission on aging, now the commission on disabilities was transferred to her last February. She has a working group looking at post COVID interventions for our communities which will include a member from each of these commissions. These commissions have never worked together before in LA County so now will have shared visions on how to improve quality of life for everyone with all at the same table together.

Q: Harriet Chase: How can we get Age-Friendly programs in our south bay cities? And Laurie Jacobs asked about any assistance in resources and funding for Age-Friendly designation status.

A: Dr. Trejo recommended people contact Rafi at AARP for Age-Friendly guidance. She said she had no staff or funding herself so had to work on her own. Dr. Trejo suggested looking at this differently. This is not about budgets funding. Purposeful aging is about strategic planning partnerships, opportunities, and reallocating resources. By doing this work with faith, the funding can come.

Q: Melissa Andritz-Sobel – Who is the best contact?

A: Dr. Trejo suggests contacting her first, and she can direct people to the best contact from there.

Q: Councilmember Valentine asked about people who are socially isolated. Does she have people who can speak on this topic at community meetings?

A: Dr. Trejo said they are usually very topic specific, and anyone can reach out to her to arrange for a presentation on a specific topic.

Currently they are offering a 10-week workshop for communities called the **Age Mastery Program** that is an evidence-based program developed by the National Council on Aging that is sort of an information on everything you were afraid to ask kind of approach. It covers issues on finances, nutrition, sleep problems, health, medication management, life, and retirement planning, etc. Most classes are still being done virtually. Dr. Trejo will keep us informed on next classes and could help arrange for a shared class on this topic.

**LINK: [National Council on Aging "Age Mastery Program"](#)**

Q: Harriet Chase asked about the crisis of caregiving. How soon can we get training and see changes to the caregiving programs?

A: Dr. Trejo suggested we invite Dr. Donna Benton as she is her go-to expert on caregiving. Dr. Benton is the Executive Director of the LA Caregivers Research Centers at USC.

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

PATH currently case managing 22 seniors (10 in SD2 and 9 in SD4). 3 seniors have been successfully enrolled in rapid rehousing, 5 seniors who have been matched to housing vouchers, 3 housing issuances. Seniors continued to be a main priority to get connected to services and housing. They have witnessed an increase on the number of seniors on the streets. There is an encampment in Lennox with about 5 seniors which is an increase from last month with only 2 seniors at this site. There continues to be a lack of affordable housing, senior housing, and supportive care that seniors can afford without a voucher.

All efforts are being made to help seniors get and use housing vouchers. Still hard to find available units and some landlords still find a workaround accepting tenants with vouchers even though that is illegal. They are hosting an event this Friday to help match people with any available housing. Courtney mentioned there are some upcoming changes with LAHSA that involve housing navigation, so PATH is pushing to help people as soon as possible so they do not miss out on any housing opportunities. Seniors and domestic violence victims have priority with the housing voucher match ups. Senior needs include handicap accessible which can be a barrier to finding housing.

#### **5. Updates on Tenant Housing Issues**

Ronson Chu, South Bay Cities Council of Governments

- **Tenant Eviction – Repercussions of the end of the rent moratorium** LINK: [Eviction and Tenant Rights Flyer](#)

**Website Link to Stay Housed LA: [Stay Housed LA](#)**

We are seeing an increase in evictions with the older population. Ronson reviewed the concerns with the possibility of eviction increases when the renter moratorium is lifted soon. People only have 5 days from the date an eviction notice is issued to respond to the courts. Eviction is most often the root cause of homelessness. Predictions of new households falling

into homelessness due to eviction in LA County is 120,000. Tenants need to act as soon as an eviction notice is issued to access legal assistance. The flyer provides information on Stay Housed LA which is the leading agency to connect tenants with different resources. There are key dates tenants need to be aware of to access assistance to navigate through knowing their rights.

Ronson also provided information on the Tenant Power Tool Kit which is another resource for tenants facing eviction or rent debt in California. This will help people file an eviction defense.

Link: [Tenant Power Tool Kit](#)

Q: Councilmember Valentine asked if the flyer would be made available to the public and when will it be available.

A: Laurie answered that this will be sent as soon as approved, most likely within a few days.

Q: Bea asked if she could refer people to the Stenhouse phone number now?

A: Laurie responded the answer is yes.

Q: Janet Turner asked if there any agencies that are keeping track of how many seniors are being evicted as data is important when applying for funding.

A: Ronson replied that is a good point and we will look into this.

## **Update from Legislative Offices**

### **Janet Turner (Representative Congressmember Lieu)**

Janet said there is a lot in the works but nothing concrete to report this month.

### **Erick Ponce (Representative Assemblymember Muratsuchi)**

Erick provided updates on AB1502, the Nursing Home Ownership and Management Reform Act. This act would require owners to obtain prior approval from the California Dept of Public Health before acquiring or operating a senior nursing facility. This bill is still going through the legislative process. Erick was asked when support letters could be sent on this bill. He said he will follow up on this and advise.

Link: [AB1502 Bill](#)

**Laurie Jacobs reported on** Mobile Home Park Rent Stabilization AB1482 which is 2019 Tenant Protection Act that was designed to control the amount rents could be increased. However, the bill failed to include mobile home parks. The Skyline Mobile Home Park in Torrance is a senior park that contacted us seeking assistance as the new owners were instituting rent increases that were presenting great financial hardships on the seniors with fixed incomes. Torrance City Council and Torrance Community Development are looking into this.

Link: [Torrance Rent Stabilization Options for Mobile Home Park Tenants](#)

Zulma Gent added some comments on this topic advising this item will be on the City Council calendar in an upcoming meeting.

## **6. Review of Senior Services on the South Bay Cities Council of Government website**

Laurie walked through a demonstration of the Senior Services in the South Bay pages on the SBCCOG website. The website was completed redesigned and launched early in 2022. The senior page includes Purposeful Aging Action Plan, South Bay Senior Demographics, AARP

Livability, Helping the Elderly Live Productively, Aging Preparedness, Senior Scam Resources, and more. The Senior Services Working Group link connects to past meeting agendas, minutes, and supporting documents. The page also includes sections on Transportation, Housing, and Wellness.

Link: [Senior Services in the South Bay](#)

#### 7. **SBCCOG updates, Jacki Bacharach, Executive Director of the SBCCOG**

Jacki provided information on SBCCOG actions. Jacki discussed the Alert South Bay program which people can subscribe to receive notices on alerts such as traffic accidents and similar alerts to let people know when to stay out of an area. The SBCCOG will soon be taking over the oversight of that organization.

This week's Board meeting on Thursday night is virtual so all can join to listen to two speakers talking about the drought. One is from Metropolitan Water District and the other is the new General Manager from West Basin Municipal Water District. We will also have someone from Public Health to provide a COVID update and other issues that are important in our Service Planning Area SPA 8.

We are working on a SCAAG study on how Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) are being used in the South Bay, what the rents are and are they reasonable affordable housing substitutes. We also have an ADU calculator which will be a useful tool to provide specific information for your city regarding costs your city might be charging, any constraints, any issues so you can actually figure out approximate costs to build an ADU.

The SBCCOG is more active than ever on the legislative front thanks to our incredible legislators, primarily Senator Ben-Allen, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi and Assemblymember Mike Gipson.

We have three pieces of legislation that we are promoting in Sacramento and look for your support. Links to the bills are provided to help you write letters of support.

- **AB2074** which promotes micro mobility which are slow speed vehicles such as scooters, Segway's, and neighborhood electric vehicles (street worthy golf carts). These are great for local errands and for seniors. This bill would create a rebate. There are firms creating these types of vehicles for physically disadvantaged people such as wheelchair accessible vehicles that would qualify for this rebate. This bill is sponsored by Assemblymember Gipson. This will fit with our local travel network servicing the south bay to safely use these vehicles to travel from one city to another for local trips. **Link: [AB2074](#)**
- **AB2432**, sponsored by Assemblymember Muratsuchi, is a proforma bill needed in order for us to have neighborhood electric vehicles, we need designations on our local travel network with a plan. **Link: [AB2432](#)**
- **SB1444**, sponsored by Senator Ben-Allen to create a South Bay Regional Housing Trust which would have money to provide subsidies for affordable housing developments that are being planned in cities. We are also asking our legislators to put about \$50 million in the budget to seed our Trust Fund. The SBCCOG has asked the cities if they are interested in participating. So far most of our cities have indicated they are interested in becoming charter members. **Link: [SB1444](#)**

Britt mentioned that the Public Utility Commission is bringing back the Solar funding. They previously tabled this and now are bringing this back. She suggested it might be helpful to get support from the SBCCOG and the cities. Jacki advised the SBCCOG is monitoring but for now there is nothing to react to. Britt added they are now accepting public comments.

#### **8. Senior Services Updates – Discussion: round-robin member updates**

- Kathy Hilberg from the Manhattan Beach Jocelyn Older Adult Center announced they just had a health fair last Friday. They have over 200 attendees which was a great turnout for a comeback event. Ronson added that the SBCCOG staffed a booth at this event to promote Home Share South Bay and Energy Efficiency programs. The event got rave reviews.
- Laurie mentioned the SBCCOG hosted a booth at the Gardena Senior Fun in the Sun event which was very well attended.
- Laurie also mentioned the LA County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved designating May as Older Americans Month designed to provide appropriate resources for our vulnerable seniors.
- Laurie announced two matches on the Home Share South Bay program. One of the older adults found the program from the PVE Police newsletter. The second match is me. I will be home sharing with an 83-year-old man who was lonely, looking for extra income, and had the desire to offer more affordable rent. Laurie is journaling the experience.

Bea asked how many properties are currently available on the Home Share South Bay program. Laurie advised, not enough, so we continue to push for more homeowners to participate. We have about 20 active listings.

Diane Brown mentioned Hathorne senior programs opened two weeks ago for in person. They have more people coming to play billiards however attendance is still low possibly because they are not going to start serving hot meals again for a couple of months. They are getting ready to start up bingo again and should start next week as a weekly program. They had a trip last week to the Getty and a trip next week will be to the County Fair. The city of Hathorne pays for a 55-seat bus.

Bea mentioned Focal Point in Torrance is only open in the mornings and appointments are required. They have had many cases of elder abuse which has been challenging. Tenants are experiencing challenges finding local housing. Their group has guest speakers each month. A new directory is being printed now.

Laurie mentioned this Thursday H.E.L.P. will present at the Assistance League South Bay/San Pedro to discuss senior services with an emphasis on caregiving.

Ronson announced we will have a presentation at the July Senior Services Working Group by SCAN Health to talk about free services available to seniors. We welcome requests from this group to present at future meetings. Just email Laurie and Ronson.

**2022 Meeting Schedule – January 25, March 22, May 24, July 26, September 27**

*Notes submitted by Laurie Jacobs*