

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Homeless Services Task Force (Zoom Meeting)

Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

MEETING VIDEO LINK: [May 4th 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 Uphoff (Lomita); Council Member Chen (Torrance); Janet Turner (Congressmember Lieu); Sean Kearns (Congressmember Barragan); Erick Ponce (Assembly Muratsuchi)

Others in attendance:

Andrew Nishimoto (Family Promise); Paul Stansbury (NAMI); Ashlee Oh (Los Angeles Homeless Initiative); Vanessa Gutierrez (LAHSA); Keith Bennett, Debra Scott, Robin Wilson (Carson); (Gardena); Dulce Medina, Robert Wise, Von Norri (St. Margaret's Center, Hawthorne); Angela Crespi (Hermosa Beach); Roberto Chavez, Tracey Duncan (Inglewood); Michael Reyes (Lawndale); George Gabriel (Manhattan Beach); McKenzie Bright (Rancho Palos Verdes); Lila Omura (Redondo Beach); Courtney Reed, Ana Abril-Urias (PATH); Shari Weaver, Max Estrada (Harbor Interfaith Services); Carielle Escalante (Rainbow Services); Nancy Wilcox (South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness); Julia Smith (Torrance Housing Authority); Melanie Aites (VA Care Giver); Evonne Biggs (Venice Family Clinic); Laurie Ramey (MHALA); Craig Townsend (Harbor Mental Health Center); Garrett Dunbar (Homelessness Advocate); Helen Li (Stakeholder); Ronson Chu, Laurie Jacobs, (SBCCOG)

March 2, 2022, meeting notes – Received and filed.

Meeting led by Council Member Tanaka from Gardena.

Service Provider Updates

PATH Services

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

Ana Bril-Urias 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, community connections, and a couple of wonderful success stories. Ana stressed the use of LA-HOP (la-hop.org) as submitted requests are routed to their regional coordinators. Ronson asked for future reports to include data on total referrals for each city so we can determine where beds are most needed. Click on the presentation for details.

Challenges include short staffing, COVID restrictions, shelters at their max capacity, low affordable housing availability and waiting period for voucher matches and issuance.

Future considerations are more affordable housing including senior housing with the South Bay Cities and continued exposure of LA-Hop usage within each city.

Ronson added some comments about the staffing shortage with ideas of job fairs and all of us doing what we can to get more people licensed in social work and recruit people into this field. Garrett Dunbar added statistics on the high turnover of staff in this work due to low compensation and secondary trauma.

LINK TO ARTICLE: [Homeless Services Worker Retention Strategies](#)

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 3 interim housing sites. She just got word that the sites will be able to back to pre-decompression numbers and currently is going through a COVID assessment to ensure it is being done safely. Once that is completed, they will make gradual steps to increase from the 75% to 80% to 90% and then 100% occupancy with two week increments in between each of these steps.

1. Interim Housing (Shelter) Updates
 - i. San Pedro Interim Housing – 3 vacancies / 25 Permanent housing placements
 - ii. San Pedro ABH – 0 Vacancies / 22 Permanent housing placements. We are currently at 75 bed occupancy and will be gradually recompressing the site to 100 bed occupancy
 - iii. Redondo Beach Pallet Shelter – No vacancies / 25 Permanent housing placements
2. CES Goal Attainment (Individuals) 7/1/2021-06/30/2022
 - a. Number of individuals assessed -- 209
 - b. Number of households housed through RRH & Recovery Rehousing– 45
 - c. Number of chronically homeless single adults placed via HN – 50
 - d. Number of permanent housing placements – Torrance Housing Navigation – 13
 - e. Number of permanent housing placements – Redondo Beach HN - 6
3. CES Goal Attainment (TAY) 7/1/2021-06/30/2022
 - a. Number of households assessed – 36
 - b. Number of households housed in RRH - 12
 - c. Increased Income - 3
4. CES Goal Attainment (Families) 7/1/2021-06/30/2022
 - a. Number of Households assessed: 179
 - b. Number of households housed in RRH: 77
 - c. Number of households who have retained housing through Prevention: 17
 - d. Increased Income – 13

3 Weeks ago, began the posting and beginning of enforcement of LA Municipal Code 41.18 “Anti-Camping” ordinance at an encampment in San Pedro (Gulch Road). This is last of the nearly 200 + tents that had been in and around the San Pedro Post Office area. Outreach teams worked in advance with the encampment residents to be sure they all were aware of the available shelter and services.

OUTREACH COVERAGE: Ronson shared an “Outreach Coverage Map” he created reflecting dedicated funded positions throughout SPA 8. You can listen to the meeting video for more detailed information.

LINK TO MAP: [SOUTH BAY HOMELESS COVERAGE MAP](#)

Presentation by Family Promise of the South Bay, partnering with faith-based organizations

Andrew Nishimoto, Executive Director, Family Promise

LINK TO WEBSITE: [Family Promise South Bay](#)

Andrew Nishimoto contact information: Email andrew@familypromiseosb.org, 310.782.8196

Family Promise of the South Bay works with families experiencing housing insecurity offering services ranging from prevention all the way through stabilization. They are very intentional partnering with several faith communities throughout the South Bay providing shelter for 4 families at a time each week in facilities provided by these faith-based communities. The families move from one facility to the next to keep overhead down but still provide safe spaces for families in need. During COVID the program was altered to have families stay in one spot.

Recently in February they opened a respite center in San Pedro partnering with the United Methodist Church with space for 4 families. Case management is provided onsite as well as laundry, kitchen, and a little bit of storage space.

They also have transitional housing in Wilmington and Long Beach with plans to open another in Hawthorne in a couple of months. They keep the number of families low to be sure they receive a full complement of resources, support, and training as they work towards their own stability and self-reliance. Several families did find permanent supportive housing during the pandemic and 100% of these families have been able to stay in this housing.

Andrew advised that if any of the service providers are encountering issues with families, Family Promise may be a good resource to contact. In addition to the faith community partnerships, they have built relationships with the city of Carson and the city of Hawthorne.

Another new opportunity is their first social enterprise in Long Beach that serves all of the South Bay, a coffee shop called Wrigley Coffee. This is an opportunity to provide workforce development and are looking to expand this model.

Ronson mentioned that he invited Andrew to share about his program to provide more resources for families experiencing homelessness. Family Promise can be a great partner to our cities if cities are interested in jumping in on these funding opportunities to help their families.

Update on CARE Court and SB1416 Conservatorship

Paul Stansbury, President, National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) South Bay Chapter

WEBSITE LINK: <https://namisouthbay.com/>

Paul Stansbury contact information: Email pstans5@aol.com, Phone 310.892.8046

NAMI is an all-volunteer non-profit organization whose mission is to support, educate, and advocate for persons with mental health in families. NAMI is the largest grass roots organization in the nation dealing with mental illness. Paul is also working on starting an association for licensed Board to Cares, to help address the decrease of this type of facility in LA County.

Paul discussed the CARE Court (Community Assistance Recovery and Empowerment) proposed by the Governor for about \$2 billion. This is a framework to deliver mental health and substance abuse help to the most severely people who may languish in homelessness and/or incarceration related to mental illness. Paul acknowledged there are concerns for people to have the right to make their own decisions about medical treatment however there is an awareness that people with severe mental illnesses may lack the insight or good judgement about their need for medical treatment. In cases like this, a high level of care may be necessary, but must be the last resort. NAMI is supportive of the CARE Court although there are some issues related to the civil rights issue that must be considered. There are also concerns about the infrastructure to support this proposed CARE Court such as there must be a workforce in place and supportive housing in place to ensure the program is implemented well.

See the proposal for program details. CARE COURT LINK: [CARE Court Proposal](#)

Ronson mentioned there will be some pushback as this is polarizing issue due to the concerns of civil rights.

Garret Dunbar added comments that this is a necessary addition to the infrastructure but how will

the complex need of mental illness be met as well as restorative justice. There is a need for an integrated service provider. He expressed concerns on the time limited services of 12 – 24 months as recovery can take longer.

Paul explained that after the 12 – 24 months, there would still be a program of help. The proposed licensed Board and Cares could address this need to continue the care to help people maintain stability.

Paul mentioned Senate Bill SB 1416 to redefine the “gravely disabled” which offers support to the CARE Court proposal. This bill would include under the definition of "gravely disabled" a condition in which a person, as a result of a mental health disorder, is unable to provide for the basic personal needs of medical care or self-protection and safety, as specified. By increasing the level of service required of county mental health departments, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

LINK: [SENATE BILL SB1416](#)

Innovation Fund Projects, Housing, and other Updates

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

CLIENT AIR: Ronson shared the SBCCOG has now opened a bank account for Client Aid so that funding can be more readily available for immediate needs. Client aid is similar to problem solving funding and it is important for all interested in using Client Aid funds to be trained in problem solving funds process. Free training is available through the LAHSA Centralized Training Academy. LINK: [LAHSA CENTRALIZED TRAINING ACADEMY](#)

Client Aid is the funding of “Last Resort” once you are out of options for funding needs. Payments will be issued either with a debit card (less than \$500) or a check with a maximum of \$5,000.

The process is to send Ronson and Laurie an email with a description of the client request. Ronson explained the type of requests we could consider. This is open to service providers in SPA8. Once the request is approved, the requestor submits the official request through the new google drive form: LINK: [CLIENT AID REQUEST APPLICATION](#)

Blue Ribbon Commission Final Report Summary

Ronson shared that the Board of Supervisors approved the Blue-Ribbon Commission final report which outlines a new governance structure for the people and by the people that takes into account all the feedback the commission received. LAHSA began in 1993 before homelessness was not the number one issue so now 30 years later, we have a new governance structure to meet the current needs. Ronson thanked all the cities that provided messages and meeting comments of support to the Board of Supervisors.

LINK: [BLUE-RIBBON COMMISSION WEBSITE](#)

Legislative Updates

SB914 HELP ACT – Laurie outlined that SB 914 will improve California’s response to homelessness by requiring cities, counties, and continuums of care that receive state funding to address homelessness to include domestic violence survivors and unaccompanied women within the vulnerable populations for whom specific system supports are developed. Ronson has submitted a letter of support to the SBCCOG Board.

LINK: [SB914](#)

EVICCTIONS

Ronson shared a timeline in relation to the changes in the eviction moratorium, tenant protections, and legal services. The eviction moratorium ends on June 30th. He mentioned that UCLA is projecting the ending of the eviction moratorium to cause 100,000+ people to become homeless.

69% of all homeless starts with some type of eviction. See Tenant Protections for details to understand who is protected and who is not protected.

Courtney Reed mentioned that PATH can help with eviction protections.

Courtney's contact information: courtneyr@epath.org

LINK: [TENANT PROTECTIONS](#)

BACKGROUND AND CREDIT CHECKS – by landlords

Ronson shared we are monitoring an LA City Council motion that would prevent background and credit checks by landlords. This is a racial equity issue. The secretary of HUD is also looking into this. We want to advocate at least on the voucher side, that credit checks should not be run. It is unlawful to not rent to someone with a criminal record.

EHV – EMERGENCY HOUSING VOUCHERS

We are still seeing a slow uptake of these vouchers and he shared the current EHV Dashboard data. There is a sunset date for EHV of September 2023.

LINK: [MAY 3RD EHV DASHBOARD UPDATE](#)

Erick Ponce, Representative Assemblymember Muratsuchi

Eric provided an update on AB2220 which is Assemblymember Muratsuchi's Homeless Court Grant bill that establishes homeless court funding across the state. The bill passed the Assembly and is now pending in the Appropriations Committee.

LINK: [AB2220 HOMELESS COURTS PILOT PROGRAM](#)

Janet Turner, Representative Congressmember Lieu

Janet advises that Congressmember Lieu came to Torrance City Hall last week to present a gigantic \$1,000,000 check which will go towards supporting their Tiny Home Village. This will support staffing and other needs to make it happen.

SBCCOG Updates – Ronson Chu, SBCCOG

- Ronson announced we are moving forward with the housing trust fund.
- Laurie announced Carson is having a virtual Mental Health Resource Forum on May 7TH.
- Ronson shared the May tour of the Back Home Initiative tour of ADU (Accessory Dwelling Units) on May 17th at noon in Downey. Provides free of charge to homeowners; ADU construction and maintenance, support services, and a \$1,000 stipend.

Announcements

Laurie asked the cities to help promote the Home Share South Bay program, especially finding homeowners to participate in the program. Laurie can do in-person presentations.

LINK: [HOME SHARE SOUTH BAY FLYER](#)

Ronson announced a special meeting of the Homeless Services Task Force on May 25th at 2pm in regard to funding for homelessness programs for cities and COGs.

Bill Uphoff, Lomita Councilmember asked when the new 988 help line will be active. Ronson explained you can call the number now, but it sends you to the suicide hot line. It still needs to be developed as it needs a lot of coordination with the police departments. The idea is to divert non law enforcement type calls, but the question remains on knowing if the situation is not going to turn into a violent situation.

Adjournment – next meeting is scheduled for July 6, 2022

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