

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Homeless Services Task Force (Zoom Meeting)

Wednesday, July 6, 2022, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

MEETING VIDEO LINK: [July 6 2022 Homeless Services Task Force 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 Uphoff (Lomita); Jeanette Christian (Senator Feinstein); Ivan Sulic (Supervisor Hahn); Janet Turner (Congressmember Lieu); Aracely Ruvalcaba, Sean Kearns (Congressmember Barragan)

Others in attendance:

Janey Rountree (UCLA California Policy Lab); Victor Hinderliter, Sherri Diaz, Taylor Smith, Elyssa Rosen (LA County DHS); Paul Stansbury (NAMI); Ashlee Oh (Los Angeles Homeless Initiative); Keith Bennett, Cac Le, (Carson); Portland Bates (El Segundo); Dianna Espinoza, Jackie Arcos (Gardena); Mary Agnes Erlandson, Richard Wise (St. Margaret's Center/Hawthorne); Angela Crespi (Hermosa Beach); Michael Reyes (Lawndale); George Gabriel (Manhattan Beach); McKenzie Bright (Rancho Palos Verdes); John LaRock (Torrance); Lila Omura, Margaret Morallo, Wayne Windman (Redondo Beach); JCourtney Reed, Ana Abril-Urias (PATH); Shari Weaver, Bryan Weinberg (Harbor Interfaith Services); Nancy Wilcox (South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness); Evonne Biggs (Venice Family Clinic); Laurie Ramey (MHALA); Craig Townsend (Harbor Mental Health Center); Leah Sahani; Jackie Bacharach, Ronson Chu, Laurie Jacobs, (SBCCOG)

May 4, 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 Intensive Street Case Management, Screening and CES, Housing Location Services, Ongoing Supportive Services, Interim Housing Referrals, and Housing Voucher Assistance.

Ana stressed the use of LA-HOP ([la-hop.org](#)) as submitted requests are routed to their regional coordinators. From May – June, they fielded 22 LA-HOP requests and 134 requests since July 2020. The presentation included a list of the many community connections used to serve their communities including the Redondo Beach Homeless Court, meal programs, police departments, local shelters and joint outreach at encampments. Current efforts data are in the presentation deck.

On May 27th, Path hosted a Housing Resource Fair, and were able to schedule 19 unit viewings for the following week. There was a good turnout to this event.

Ronson asked about the limitations since Rapid Rehousing and EHV are paused, PATH has lost some of the usual tools to use for placements. Ana said the Shared Housing program has subsidies available through their employment programs so that helps. It is unknown when the Rapid Rehousing program will start up again. Courtney advises they are using time limited subsidies instead for interim housing referrals. This is part of the LAHSA revamp.

Challenges include short staffing, COVID restrictions, shelters at their max capacity, lack of interim housing and waiting period for intake, low affordable housing availability – especially for seniors, and LAHSA changes. Street 2 Subsidy is on hold as of 6/01/2022.

Future considerations include city shelters (prior to those experiencing homelessness within the city), motel conversions, empty lots of land for possible shelters and housing, encouraging property owners to work with housing vouchers and senior focused affordable housing.

Harbor Interfaith CES Update

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

Shari gave an update on the opening of the 3290 Temporary Housing Village in Torrance. Last week there was a 3-day community engagement to allow the community to learn about the site and become more comfortable with this in their community. There were close to 200 people in attendance at the ribbon cutting ceremony. Their team took in 16 people on the first day the village opened and had 28 after the third day. There are 40 units available 3 showers and restrooms, onsite laundry facilities, and one dog run. Staffing consists of 1 Program Manager, 2 Case Managers, 5 Resident Aides, 2 Custodians, and 2 Security Guards covering 24 hours. There is a new partnership with Venice Family Clinic with their mobile health van providing everything from health assessments, enrollment in health care benefits, behavioral health services, and provide medications.

1. Interim Housing (Shelter) Updates
 - San Pedro Interim Housing – 3 vacancies / 27 Permanent housing placements
 - San Pedro ABH – This site is under quarantine for the past 3 weeks / 25 Permanent housing placements.
 - Redondo Beach Pallet Shelter – No vacancies / 29 Permanent housing placements
2. CES Goal Attainment (Individuals) 7/1/2021-06/30/2022
 - a. Number of individuals assessed -- 245
 - b. Number of households housed through RRH & Recovery Rehousing-- 45
 - c. Number of chronically homeless single adults placed via HN – 62
 - d. Number of permanent housing placements – Torrance Housing Navigation – 13
 - e. Number of permanent housing placements – Redondo Beach HN - 6
2. CES Goal Attainment (TAY) 7/1/2021-06/30/2022
 - a. Number of households assessed – 57
 - b. Number of households housed in RRH - 13
 - c. Increased Income - 7
4. CES Goal Attainment (Families) 7/1/2021-06/30/2022
 - a. Number of Households assessed: 221
 - b. Number of households housed in RRH: 88
 - c. Number of households who have retained housing through Prevention: 20
 - d. Increased Income - 22

SPA 8 Updates – Ronson Chu, South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Ronson presented data information on California Rent Relief that illustrates the number of the south bay cities that were affected by this program – in a good way.

Presentation DHS Housing for Health Mobile Clinic

Victor Hinderliter, Director of Street Based Engagement and Mobile Clinics, DHS

Presentation Link: [DHS Housing for Health](#)

Contact for Victor Hinderliter: vhinderliter@dhs.lacounty.gov

Victor reviewed the Covid Response Team (CRT) operations which ended on June 27. This 2-year program was designed to bring life saving and necessary resources into areas where the most vulnerable were located. Now they are working to transition to permanently funded programs within County bureaucracy (MDTs, Mobile Clinics, Testing and Vaccination Sites), transition to community partnerships, or terminate entirely. The success of this program is demonstrated in that almost 93% of people experiencing homelessness received at least one vaccination dose and fully vaccinate over 75%.

The Covid City / County Coordination (CCC) Team CCC team goals:

- Identify, plan, and coordinate vaccination efforts throughout LA County
- Develop and deepen relationships across LA County's homeless services networks with HFH
- Track and provide support to the vaccination efforts of our partners
- Act as point of contact for various public agencies, elected officials, and community-based groups

The operations included the following:

- Sheltered CRTs: Surveillance Testing, Vaccination Services, Contact Tracing, OB mitigation, Risk Mitigation Funds
- Unsheltered CRTs: Street Medicine, Food Program, Harm Reduction, Vaccination Services
- Unsheltered Vaccination CRTs: Surveillance Testing, Vaccination Services, Infection Control Supply Distribution, Food Program
- CRT Operations: Pharmacy, Covid Support Line, City/County Coordination, Specialized Teams (CHWs/PAs)

Please review the presentation for more details on health and mortality for people experiencing homelessness (PEH) as well as information on mobile health clinics and how these programs address these issues. Overdoses are the number one cause of death for PEH.

Q: Ronson asked if reservations need to be made or are drop-ins accepted to mobile health clinics

A: Plan is focus on serving a patient load of primary care patients with reservations but will always reserve 30% of appointment slots for walk-ins' services.

Q: Ronson asked if a patient being triaged by the alternative crisis response team could then be brought to the mobile health clinic sites for services.

A: This could be a possibility if there is an urgent care need but doesn't need to go to the emergency department and it fits the schedule and possibly the patient does not have any primary care.

Q: Ronson asked how we can get the drop-in locations, schedule, and if there will be a SPA 8 contact person.

A: Victor indicated they have been doing many presentations with street-based medicine engagement partners. There will be a direct referral system for outreach teams for the roving mobile clinics. Urgent care can be administered without documentation or insurance status.

Q: Dianna Espinoza asked about when a schedule might be available to know where the mobile unit will be

A: Victor said the schedule will be distributed once available, in about one month. Anyone can reach out to Victor or Taylor to discuss scheduling the unit in a specific city to establish as a drop site.

Presentation – Homelessness Predictive Tool

Janey Rountree, Executive Director UCLA, California Policy Lab

Presentation Link: [California Policy Lab](#)

Contact for Janey Rountree: janeyroutree@ucla.edu

Janey's presentation covered two projects the California Policy Lab is currently working on; one focused on prevention and on how to use data to find people who are high risk of becoming homeless and what the county is doing to help those people, and the other is a brief touch on their recent study with the Dept of Mental Health trying to estimate the prevalence of serious mental illness amount the people who are unsheltered.

The California Policy Lab is a research lab with sites at UCLA and Berkely. All research is designed collaboratively, primarily with public agencies focused on urgent, actionable questions. They specialize in doing quantitative research focused to using large data sets that link them together. This is particularly important for homelessness because when people experience homelessness, they tend to be interacting with a lot of different services to look at the whole picture rather than in silos.

They have been working for about 4 years with the County on predicting who may be at risk of homelessness and helping to design a solution to prevent those people from becoming homeless. Targeting prevention is really hard. The vast majority of people who are coming out of jails, who are enrolled in general relief, or might be enrolled in general mental health services may never become homeless. And you want prevention dollars to go to people who are going to become homeless if they don't get that intervention. Of the about 2 million people in LA County receiving some type of service, less than 1% will actually experience homelessness.

Janey reviewed two approaches to addressing preventions; Self identification and screening, and predictive modeling to identify highest risk group (experimental). She expanded on this second approach and the details are in the presentation.

The Board of Supervisors approved a pilot of this program called the Homeless Prevention Unit (HPU). The program partners are DHS, DMH, and the CEO of LA County. They also have a Community Advisory Board which includes 8 individuals with lived experience and 10 homeless prevention service providers. And an independent Technical Advisory Board with 3 leading researchers in homelessness, program evaluation, equity, and predictive modeling.

What makes this program unique from all other programs is that it is a proactive in reaching out to people who are disconnected from services and identified as high risk to becoming homeless. Janey reviewed the process of how HPU works along with results to date.

Janey also covered serious mental illness among the unsheltered providing data on the street outreach participants with a service involved psychotic spectrum disorder with 5 years of street outreach enrollment. Ronson added a comment that the percentage of PEH with mental illness in the SPA8 South Bay is around 8-10% of all of LA County.

Take-Aways from this presentation:

Prevention works, but it is hard to target effectively

Predictive Analytics are experimental but promising

- They can be much more precise at predicting homelessness
- Because they are more precise, they can enable more flexible interventions

Serious mental illness

- At a minimum, the County knows about 4,600 individuals with psychotic spectrum disorder who are living on the street
- This is a "lower bound" estimate
- Systems built to end homelessness for 4,600 could probably be scaled to serve more individuals

Q: Bill Uphoff asked questions regarding where people coming from out of state fits into this data
A: Janey said that data supports that most PEH are very local with about 80% of PEH not being from out of state but rather near where they have been living and working.

Ronson commented on how short we are on beds for people experiencing mental health issues, that we are at a crisis level.

Task Force Project Updates

Ronson Chu and Laurie Jacobs, SBCCOG

Client Aid 2.0 Process - Link to program: [Client Aid 2.0 Process](#)

- 5 Client Aid debit cards have been issued being distributed to Harbor Interfaith, PATH, St. Margaret's Center and 2 for the SBCCOG
- Laurie reviewed the process on how to access these funds with a reminder that this is funding of last resort.

California Mortgage Relief – Link to program: [California Mortgage Relief](#)

- Ronson shared information on this new state mortgage relief program for pandemic related economic challenges

Rent Relief Application information: [Rent Relief Application Status by City](#)

- Ronson reviewed the impact of how the Housing is Key rent relief assisted renters in each of the South Bay cities who may have been facing eviction without this funding.

Torrance Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program Waiting List Opening Online – from July 26 9am to August 9 5 pm. Link to Flyer: [Torrance Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher](#)

Redondo Beach Project Home Key- updates

- Ronson shared on community backlash with the new Project Home Key site in Redondo Beach and how proactive community engagement can be helpful in the future. Shari Weaver will help with this for the new site in Torrance.

Legislative Updates

- Janet Turner, Representative Congressmember Lieu, advises they are not quite ready to announce pending programs and funding. Congressmember Lieu was able to secure \$1 million for the City of Torrance to help with outreach workers and infrastructure for the new shelter village.

SBCCOG Updates – Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG

- The SBCCOG has several bills listed in the matrix, but Congress is currently in recess. These will be monitored.
- Legislation to form a Housing Trust has passed committee and looks like it will go through but there still an issue of having no money to fund this program. A request has been sent to the State Legislature to earmark funding, as well as earmark for other SBCCOG programs such as promoting climate change, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and electric vehicles.
- The SBCCOG election of officers and Rodney Tanaka has been elected second vice chair of the SBCCOG as well as re-elected to his City Council seat.
- We are using SCAAG money to research housing opportunities – the Housing Education Forum with 10 sessions. We ask our cities to help promote this forum to their communities. We are interested in developing a Housing Advisory Board. Let us know if you are interested or know of someone interested. Need to know by August 1st.

SENIOR SERVICES:

- Ronson mentioned we have a new provider in our area that is of interest especially to our seniors as this is one of the fastest growing populations experiencing homelessness. This group is provided shared housing for seniors with low rent of \$780 which is perfect for those on a fixed income. Services are also included. This group will be presenting at the July 26th Senior Services Working Group meeting. We will also have a presentation from SCAN Health.

- Local Travel Network (LTN) – the SBCCOG is receiving very favorable responses as these can provide independence to those with disabilities and older adults.

Announcements

- In person presentation of Home Share South Bay on Saturday August 13 10am at the Palos Verdes Library. Link to Flyer: [Home Share South Bay Presentation August 13](#)
- Rodney will not be able to host the September 7th Taskforce meeting as he will be attending the California League of Cities event.

Adjournment – next meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2022

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

