

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Homeless Services Task Force (Zoom Meeting)

Wednesday, September 7, 2022, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

MEETING VIDEO LINK: [9/7/22 Task Force Meeting Video](#)

Meeting Notes *(submitted by Laurie Jacobs)*

These meeting notes are an overview of the meeting content. We suggest watching the meeting video and/or opening the supporting document links for more comprehensive information.

Welcome and Introductions

Elected officials/representatives in attendance:

Assemblymember Muratsuchi; Councilmember Monteiro, Erick Ponce-Furlos (Hawthorne); Ivan Sulic, Jennifer LaMarque (Supervisor Hahn); Janet Turner, Mia Elliott (Congressmember Lieu)

Others in attendance:

Jonna Lewis (LACSSD); Paul Stansbury (NAMI); Onnie Williams (Los Angeles Homeless Initiative); Keith Bennett (Carson); Kimberly Mack (Hawthorne); Isabel Soto, Lori Jones, Roberto Chavez (Inglewood); John LaRock, Zulma Gent (Torrance); Lila Omura (Redondo Beach); Carielle Escalante (Rainbow Services); Kimberly Damico, Haley Fuselier, Courtney Reed, Ana Abril-Urias (PATH); Max Estrada, Shari Weaver (Harbor Interfaith Services); Laurie Ramey (MHALA); Garrett Dunbar; (Mental Health Specialist); Jackie Bacharach, Ronson Chu, Laurie Jacobs, (SBCCOG)

July 6, 2022, meeting notes – Received and filed.

Meeting led by Ronson Chu, SBCCOG

Ronson read a farewell speech to all the City Partners from Nancy Wilcox who is retiring from the South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness.

Service Provider Updates

PATH Services

Courtney Reed, Associate Director SPA 8, PATH

Ana Abril-Urias, Program Manager SPA8 Outreach, PATH

Also in attendance were Kim Damico, the new PATH Director and Haley Fuselier, Regional Director

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.

Ronson Chu mentioned that with the close of some COVID emergency funding programs, we are seeing an uptick with homelessness for seniors on fixed incomes and other vulnerable people.

Courtney spoke on future considerations. Ana & Courtney contact information are in the slide deck.

Roberto Chavez mentioned the new [HUD Stability Voucher Program](#)

HUD is awarding up to \$43,439,000 to support approximately 4,000 new incremental vouchers. This funding opportunity is designed to encourage a community-wide commitment to the goal of ending homelessness. Application deadline is October 20th. This is similar to the EHV program.

LINK: [HUD Stability Voucher Program](#)

Assemblymember Muratsuchi inquired if more money should be invested in shelters and tiny home type program as a priority over actual permanent housing. Haley from PATH responded that permanent housing ends homelessness so that is the solution. What our cities are willing to do along the way to that

solution has to be individualized by each city. Shari chimed in we are at a point that it is taking 3-5 years for housing projects to come to fruition due to such issues as prevailing wage and all the permitting processes. The interim shelters provide an inherent support to keep people from falling out of housing while awaiting permanent supportive housing.

Legislative Briefing from Assemblymember Muratsuchi

The Assemblymember mentioned the recent passage of the CARE Court proposal has been somewhat controversial by the civil liberty activists in relation to mental health treatment plans. The Assemblymember supports this program's concept and mentioned sufficient funding must be available to be successful. This is directed to people who are in such bad shape that they cannot help themselves.

Locally he is supportive of the tiny home projects such as the new Temporary Village in Torrance to provide interim housing. He was able to deliver \$1.5 million in state funding for a Torrance community support center. He is also a supporter of the Redondo Beach Pallet Shelter, Homeless Court, and was able to secure some additional funding for these programs. He is open to all ideas on how to streamline the process of building more affordable housing and interim shelters.

Robert Chavez mentioned land use legislation and restrictions such as layered projects that don't pencil out to build new affordable housing. Housing trust funds can offer a more local control for funding. He said he would appreciate any help in moving legislation. SB1444 to establish a South Bay housing trust is a tool that is being considered to provide participating south bay cities to provide more state funding to help pencil out these projects.

Paul Stansbury voiced his appreciation of the Assemblymember's support of the CARE Court. Paul added that more support is needed with workforce development to ensure there is sufficient workforce to support the mental health workers.

Harbor Interfaith CES Update

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

PRESENTATION LINK: [Harbor Interfaith Presentation](#)

Shari mentioned the development of workforce training is very needed. Offering training to shelter residents can help create jobs where they can give back to their communities.

She has seen a lot of movement from the Long Beach Holiday Inn where they are demobilizing their Project Home Key so she has been accepting referrals from that location. She reviewed current statistics which can be viewed in the link.

Shari announced they have been working to match individuals to Westhaven PSH in the city of Athens across from Southwest College. This 57-unit site with units funded by both DMH and DHS will be opening in October 2022.

She also shared some great stories about workforce development including a former resident getting his guard card and now working at the interim shelter.

Presentation Child Support Restitution for Parents Experiencing Homelessness

Jonna Lewis, Special Assistant to the Director, County of Los Angeles Child Support Services

PRESENTATION LINK: [LA County Child Support Services](#)

WEBSITE LINK: <https://cssd.lacounty.gov/>, Live Chat is available on this site

PHONE: 866.901.3212 M-F 7am – 5pm

Jonna contact info: Jonna.Lewis@cssd.lacounty.gov, 323.889.2976

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EMAIL: Outreach@cssd.lacounty.gov, The engagement team offers to meet people at events, and local sites.

The south bay office is located in Torrance open M-F.

Jonna shared the history of child services in LA County along with services they provide. This is a federal and state funded department. The presentation included information on how to request services either online or via a paper application along with specifics on how the program functions. They offer a [Debt Reduction Program](#). This type of debt can show up on a credit report so important to apply for this assistance. There is also a [Homeless Services Referral process](#) which includes a form being sent to a CES Provider who will follow up from there. [Please click on the presentation link for specific details.](#)

Presentation – Client Aid Making a Difference

Ronson Chu, South Bay Cities Council of Governments

PRESENTATION LINK: [Client Aid Next Steps](#)

Ronson shared successes of this Measure H funded program, how it has helped people, and next steps on the futures plans for client aid. Outreach teams were reaching out for more immediate assistance to provide same day funding for various needs to expedite getting clients off the streets.

One critical need is providing immediate security deposits through client aid because housing vouchers do not include this funding. Additional types of aid include moving assistance, rental application fees, auto repairs, etc. \$500 debit cards are available to service providers for same day funding opportunities.

After 13 months, \$30,500 have been disbursed to 27 clients. Of these 27, 19 have been permanently housed, 4 have progressed on their housing plan, and 4 have not progressed.

We believe this program may be ready to graduate from the Measure H funding program and become an established sustained program moving forward as this is cost effective as it more rapidly houses people when compared to similar programs.

Presentation – Innovation Funds Project Updates

Ronson Chu and Laurie Jacobs, South Bay Cities Council of Governments

PRESENTATION LINK: [Innovation Fund Updates](#)

Laurie shared updates on the following:

- Home sharing program along with another resource for more hands-on home sharing through the Affordable Living for the Aging which focuses on older adults living on fixed incomes.
- Homeless courts statistics and how the program has now expanded to Hermosa Beach in addition to Redondo Beach.
- Statistics on the successful launch of the Torrance Temporary Village.

Ronson provided updates on other Measure H Innovation Fund projects which includes:

- Hawthorne LACADA which has 2 outreach workers dedicated to Hawthorne; they have 190 active clients currently and YTD 40+ clients have moved to interim or permanent housing. More housing options are needed in Hawthorne.
- Gardena is working with Focus Strategies to help develop a homeless plan
- The Beach Cities has 2 Case Managers who YTD have helped 64 clients with 5 going to interim shelter and 9 have been placed into permanent housing.
- Rancho Palos Verdes is contracting with a consultant on their homeless plan which will cover the entire peninsula
- Inglewood is contracting for a Homeless Coordinator

Ronson shared on some of the roadblocks and next steps. Credit scores continue to be a problem barrier, so we are looking to reach out to the Apartment Owners Association to address this issue.

LAHSA is reprioritizing their housing navigation.

We continue to work on identifying the mental health gaps and how can we fill them. We are looking into a field trip to learn more about existing facilities.

Data – we hired a Data Intern to help create custom tailoring solutions for our cities. We are still hampered by the lack of HMIS access.

Legislative Updates

- Janet Turner, Representative Congressmember Lieu, advises nothing on her end as everyone is on Congressional Recess.
- Ivan Sulic, Homeless Deputy for Janice Hahn shared updates on various programs. He mentioned the Homeless Count numbers will be announced the following day.

He stressed the importance of Project Home Key 2.0 in the South Bay which includes acquiring the Best Western in San Pedro being developed for homeless veterans in partnership with the Long Beach VA and operated by the Volunteers of America. Renovations should start soon with a goal to have the first residents move in this year by Christmas time. In addition, Supervisor District 4 has the most Project Home Key projects with a total of 7 properties.

Decompression at the Long Beach Project Home Key as stopped and this program has been extended as they now have new developers to renovate.

There will be a motion at the Board of Supervisors 9/13 agenda regarding RVs to establish a county wide RV encampment pilot program looking at different hot spots to develop protocol for each Supervisorial District.

Ivan also highlighted they are looking at the 7 directives from the Blue-Ribbon Commission recommendations.

- Laurie Jacobs mentioned that people experiencing homelessness can register to vote which is a great way for them to have a voice and advocate for themselves. Ivan mentioned that the LA County Registrar can go to service provider sites to help people vote.
- Jackie Bacharach mentioned legislation, that Assemblymember Muratsuchi mentioned, to create neighborhood electric vehicle plans in the South Bay. This has to do with creating a Local Travel Network (LTN) that will promote local travel.

Another bill that Assemblymember Muratsuchi mentioned is SB1444 which is on the Governor's desk to create a South Bay Regional Housing Trust. Once that bill is signed, the SBCCOG will come out with next steps which is to form this housing trust.

There is also SB679, which if signed by the Governor, the COG will have a seat at the table on the formation of that housing agency.

South Bay Cities Council of Governments Updates - Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG

The September 22nd SBCCOG Board meeting will have a brief discussion on some ballot measures. We will also have our quarterly report from the Dept of Public Health in SPA 8, and a report from the Beach Cities Health District regarding the opening of a Youth Wellness Center to serve youth throughout the South Bay scheduled to open in October.

For the Fiber Network, the SBCCOG just applied to the Public Utilities Commission for a grant to help plan for disadvantaged communities and neighborhood digital centers.

Jacki also shared that Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) has given the COG funding for the Regional Early Action Plan (REAP) to do 4 projects to promote housing:

1. SB330 (now completed) forms to preserve properties. We were able to help our cities by creating a universal form all to use consolidate the process into a single form.
2. Accessory Dwelling Units (ADU's) – 8 south bay cities have agreed to be part of this ADU study using a survey to gather data on how people are using ADU's to determine if this is really a low-income housing solution.

3. Working with a consultant team looking at commercial development in the South Bay that is not performing so could possibly be used for housing.
4. We are setting up a Housing Education Advisory to develop about 10 workshops to educate and assist our cities in developing housing. One aspect is to help them work on projects that don't seem to be penciling out. SCAG provided funding to provide speakers for these workshops.

Announcements

Paul Stansbury, NAMI – announced two programs related to suicide as September is Suicide Prevention month. We have seen an increase in suicides, especially among youth during COVID. We encourage all to consider attending to learn how they can help say something when they recognize some concerns. The September 27th meeting will be recorded.

Sept 9 – Making Meaning of Suicide Loss: [Event Flyer](#)

Sept 27- QPR Suicide Prevention Training: [Event Flyer](#)

Ronson mentioned the 988 hotline is open to help in crisis situations.

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Carielle Escalante from Rainbow Services mentioned SB914 addressing domestic violence has passed both houses and is not on the Governor's desk to be signed. She asked for attendees to submit letters of support. She has templates for such support letters.

Councilmember Monteiro thanked everyone for helping our neighbors experiencing housing, especially during this heat wave.

Adjournment – next meeting is scheduled for November 2, 2022