

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Homeless Services Task Force (Zoom Meeting)

Wednesday, November 2, 2022, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

MEETING VIDEO LINK: [11.2.22 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:

Councilmember Tanaka (Gardena); Councilmember Monteiro (Hawthorne); Councilmember Uphoff (Lomita); Mia Elliott (Representative for Congressman Lieu); Vanessa Cruz, Kasie Hervey (Representatives for Congressman Barragan)

Others in attendance:

Erik Vargas (LAHSA SPA8); Raeann Munoz (Carson), Joe Vargas, Deterius Terry Frierson (Carson); Dianna Espinoza (Gardena); Angela Crespi, Dave Wilson (Hermosa Beach); Lori Jones, Roberto Chavez, Cinder Eller (Inglewood); George Gabriel (Manhattan Beach); Aram Chaparyan, John LaRock, Zulma Gent (Torrance); Lila Omura, Joy Ford (Redondo Beach); McKenzie Bright (Rancho Palos Verdes); Carielle Escalante (Rainbow Services); Kimberly Damico, Haley Fuselier, Ana Abril-Urias (PATH); Max Estrada, Cathy Hetzer (Harbor Interfaith Services); Laurie Ramey (MHALA); Paul Stansbury (NAMI); Mary Agnes Erlandson (St. Margaret's Center); Garrett Dunbar; (Mental Health Specialist); Lee Phillips (Constituent); Jackie Bacharach, Ronson Chu, Laurie Jacobs, Gillian Stucki, Jonathan Pacheco Bell (SBCCOG)

September 7, 2022, meeting notes – Received and filed.

Service Provider Updates

PATH Services

Ana Abril-Urias, Program Manager SPA8 Outreach, PATH

Also in attendance: 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. Currently they are short handed with only 2 outreach workers so the schedule is based on case management appointments and can be adjusted to best serve participants. Click on the presentation for details.

Their challenges include:

- Shelters at their max capacity and/or covid lock-down/quarantine
- Lack of interim housing availability
- Low affordable housing availability, especially for seniors
- Street 2 Subsidy has no more availability
- Emergency Housing Vouchers have been paused indefinitely

Harbor Interfaith CES Update

Max Estrada, Regional Coordinator for Adults, SPA8 (filling in for Shari Weaver)

PRESENTATION LINK: [Harbor Interfaith Report](#)

Max shared current program updates and some success stories, including how SBCCOG client aid funding helped with an immediate security deposit to expedite the process. Ronson added that due to the huge successes with client aid, he is requesting additional funding for the program.

1. Interim Housing (Shelter) Updates 7/1/2022-06/30/2023
 - San Pedro Interim Housing – 14 vacancies / 5 Permanent housing placements
 - San Pedro ABH – 14 vacancies / 9 Permanent housing placements.
 - Redondo Beach Pallet Shelter – No vacancies / 6 Permanent housing placements
 - Torrance Pallet Shelter – 1 vacancy / 1 permanent housing placement
2. CES Goal Attainment (Individuals) 7/1/2022-06/30/2023
 - a. Number of individuals housed through Time Limited Subsidies– 8
 - b. Number of chronically homeless single adults placed via HN & Outreach – 12
 - c. Number of permanent housing placements – Redondo Beach HN – 10
 - d. Number of permanent housing placements – Beach Cities HN – 12
 - e. Number of permanent housing placements – Manhattan Beach HN – 6
3. CES Goal Attainment (TAY) 7/1/2022-06/30/2023
 - a. Number of households assessed – 8
 - b. Number of households housed through Time Limited Subsidies - 9
4. CES Goal Attainment (Families) 7/1/2022-06/30/2023
 - a. Number of Households assessed: 14
 - b. Number of households housed through Time Limited Subsidies: 29
 - c. Number of households who have retained housing through Prevention: 15

Discussion on Service Hesitancy and Refusal of Services

Ronson Chu led a discussion on the challenges of helping people experiencing homelessness who refuse to accept offered services, shelter, and/or housing. He presented information on who are affected by this such as service providers, constituents, city staff, elected officials, and our unhoused neighbors. Reasons why some individuals may not accept services were reviewed as well as the challenges of building trusting relationships that are needed to get acceptance of services.

While service resistance is exhibited by a minority of the overall homeless population, they are often the most visible to the public resulting in frustration and complaints by the community. Triage and outreach teams may be visiting people on the streets, but this is not visible or known to the public.

This led to a discussion on experiences, concerns, and potential actions generating strategies on how cities can respond to their constituents and how we can all help these individuals. Law enforcement is generally considered a last resort and is not the preferred action because when someone is cited and/or arrested, this will show up on their background report creating another barrier to housing and services. Homeless Court offers the opportunity for records to be expunged if the individual accepts the court ordered plan. And this can be more cost effective than to send out the police and fire department.

Continual engagement and engagement with larger teams can be effective however the timing of the visits can determine the outcome. It can and often will take many outreach efforts over time to catch an individual at a lucid moment when they are more open to having a conversation and ultimately accepting services. Meanwhile those not ready to engage remain in front of businesses and on the streets. This is very frustrating, but we just don't give up on anyone.

Here is a link to the power point presentation [Strategies to Address Service Resistance](#). We suggest you watch the meeting video to learn about the different approaches and suggestions addressing this issue. This presentation and discussion are the first step in our goal towards developing viable options to motivate and/or push individuals into understanding and ultimately accepting available programs.

Review of recently Signed and Rejected Legislation related to Homelessness

Ronson Chu, Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG

Jacki shared about **SB1444** which is sponsored by the SBCCOG creating a South Bay Housing Trust fund. The law becomes effective on January 1, 2023. We also asked for a funding allocation which we did not get so the Board has agreed to is to look at the money coming from SCAAG to look at housing issues. This fund is eligible to help prepare for the housing trust. We are looking at hiring a consultant who will review the potential for projects in the South Bay. Once we have an idea how much money will be needed, we can ask the state for the funding in the subsequent year. We will also look for other funding sources.

Jacki also shared about **SB679** which created a housing trust for all LA County that will also become effective on January 1, 2023. The Council of Governments will have a seat at the new Board of Directors. This bill has taxing authority. It has been thought that maybe they will put a measure on the November 2024 ballot and the sub-regions would get money back based on their number of homeless. In the South Bay that comes to about 7% of the proceeds if there is a tax and it does pass.

Ronson shared about **AB1991** which removes the issue of having to move people in and out of motels to avoid the 30-day residency issue. Now people can stay in motels until they get the resolution that they need.

SB914 helps the domestic violence population which had been left out.

SB1338 CARE Court law will be a two-step process to get up and running. Seven counties will be the guinea pigs for the first round and LA County is not one of these. The earliest our County will probably see this program is 2024 at best. In the meantime we will be doing what is necessary to ensure we have the infrastructure in place to take on the CARE Court.

Ronson shared on **SB1416** to redefine conservatorship to make it easier to conserve people. The bill is on hold and will be looked at again at the next legislative session.

Gillian shared on **SB1396** which allows a landlord who receives government assistance and has 15+ units, they are required to allow renters the option of having their rental payment history reported to a credit bureau. This is applicable to all leases after July 1, 2021. Having the history of timely rent payments as part of the credit reporting could help increase credit scores.

SB1421 creates a new council on homelessness which will help establish a sense of accountability. This committee will need to meet with an advisory committee will include a formerly homeless person who lives in California, a formerly homeless youth who lives in California and a person with a current or former mental health disability to help those people have a voice. This committee will set up a statewide data system which will be known as the homeless data integration system that will collect local data through HMIS.

Ronson shared on two bills that did not pass or get signed by the Governor.

One is **AB1685** which deals with parking violations. The idea was to allow people to waive up to \$1,500 in parking ticket fines annually to help avoid piling up tickets for people forced to live in their cars. The cities depend on citation revenue so this did not pass.

The other bill that was not signed is **SB57** for safe injection sites. This was not passed because the Governor was concerned there was not enough structure to prevent illegal activities.

Here is a document with a link to all of these bills: LINK: [Legislation List](#)

- AB1991 Motels and Hotels; Publicly Funded Shelter Programs
- SB679 LA County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency
- SB914 HELP Homeless Equity for Left Behind Populations
- SB1338 Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment CARE Court
- SB1396 Tenancy: credit reporting: lower income households: evaluation
- SB1416 Mental Health: Gravely Disabled Persons

- SB1421 California Interagency Council on Homelessness
- SB1444 Joint Powers Authority South Bay Housing Trust
- AB1685 Vehicles Parking Violations (Rejected)
- SB57 Controlled Substances; Overdose Prevention Program (Rejected)

Winter Shelter program for the South Bay is now essentially a motel voucher program. LAHSA Homeless Engagement Teams (HET) can reserve a bed at a Winter Shelter site for clients they encounter through outreach. During inclement weather, clients can also call 2-1-1 directly to be connected to a Winter Shelter site or be placed in a motel. The motel option is only activated during inclement weather. Link: [Winter Shelter Program](#)

Provider	Address	Number of Beds	Region	Population Served
Volunteers of America LA	45150 60th St. W. Lancaster; 93536	25	Antelope Valley	Co-Ed
Home at Last	8311 S. Western Ave; Los Angeles, 90047	60	South Los Angeles	Co-Ed
Whittier First Day	12426 Whittier Blvd; Whittier, 90602	8	East Los Angeles	Co-Ed
Abundant Blessings	222 E. 25th St.; Los Angeles, 90011	36	Central Los Angeles	Co-Ed
Abundant Blessings	2155 S. West View St.; Los Angeles, 90016	14	South Los Angeles	Male

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

Jacki announced all are invited to attend the November 17th SBCCOG Open House to see our offices and meet the rest of our staff. The event will run from 4:30 – 6:00 pm at which time the SBCCOG Board meeting will begin. Light refreshments will be provided.

Announcements

- Councilmember Monteiro announced that Hawthorne City Council has approved the development of a 15-unit tiny home shelter village at a property belonging to the city. The project has been approved so now just have to build it.
- Ronson shared about the launch of the 2023 Homeless Count. LAHSA is reaching out to COGS and cities to identify regional homeless hot spots. The Point in Time count will be on January 25, 2023, for the South Bay.
- Ronson shared about the new **Safe Landing**, a Walk-In Interim Housing and Triage Facility for Unhoused People located at Normandie and Imperial Hwy. This will be a 24/7 drop in shelter for singles, couples, and pets. Program Link: [Safe Landing](#).

Safe Landing is a 5-building campus built on County-owned property near the corner of Normandie Avenue and Imperial Highway in the West Athens neighborhood. It is a first-of-its-kind, walk-in facility that provides individuals with medical and mental health care, a clean and safe sleeping environment, three nutritious meals per day and daily activities. The center also provides help with budgeting, applying for public benefits and securing permanent housing.

Outreach teams, emergency responders and law enforcement officers also will bring people to the center as an alternative to jail. Safe Landing is scheduled to begin accepting people, including those under the influence, this month.

Mark your calendars: 2023 future meetings: Jan 4, Mar 1, May 3, Jul 5, Sep 6, Nov 1

Adjournment – next meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2023