

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Homeless Services Task Force (Zoom Meeting)

Wednesday, March 1, 2023, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

MEETING VIDEO LINK: [March 1 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); Mayor Pro Tem Uphoff (Lomita); Councilmember Monteiro (Hawthorne); Janet Turner (Representative for Congressman Lieu); Erik Ponce (Assemblymember Muratsuchi); Amanda Enriquez (Representative for CD15)

Others in attendance:

Kelly Bruno-Nelson (CalOptima); Kent Wallace-Meggs, Pastor Lisa Williams (Harbor Connects); Erik Vargas, Nakia Brazier (LAHSA SPA8); Onnie Williams (LA County Homeless Initiative); Deterious Frierson, Fariba Moghadam, Keith Bennett, Joe Vargas, Raeann Munoz (Carson); Dianna Espinoza (Gardena); Kimberly Mack (Hawthorne); Lori Jones, Roberto Chavez, Tracey Duncan (Inglewood); Zulma Gent (Torrance); Kimberly Damico, Ana Abril-Urias, Courtney Reed (PATH); Shari Weaver, Max Estrada, Cathy Hetzer (Harbor Interfaith Services); Paul Stansbury (NAMI); Mary Agnes Erlandson, Jonathan Said (St. Margaret's Center); Carielle Escalante (Rainbow Services); Shannon Murray (WLCAC); Robert Chavez (SBWIB); Garrett Dunbar; (Sheikh Impact); Lee Phillips (MB Safe); Jackie Bacharach, Ronson Chu, Laurie Jacobs (SBCCOG)

January 4, 2023, meeting notes – Received and filed.

Service Provider Updates

PATH Services

Ana Abril-Urias, Program Manager SPA8 Outreach, anaau@epath.org
Courtney Reed, Associate Director SPA 8, PATH, courtneyr@epath.org
Also in attendance: Kimberly Damico, Director of Programs, SPA 5 & 8
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. They now have a full staff of 4 outreach workers and will be alternating between cities and locations. [Click on the presentation for the outreach schedule details.](#)

Their challenges include:

- Rain and extreme cold weather
- 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

Harbor Interfaith CES Update

Shari Weaver, SPA8 Director Coordinated Entry System (Families, Adults & Youth) Harbor Interfaith sweaver@harborinterfaith.org

Presentation Link: [Harbor Interfaith Report](#)

Shari shared the status of vacancies and housing placements which are listed in the linked report. She said there are some problems with the referral system in getting people into the interim housing beds

because DHS system requires an 8-page referral that then needs to be entered in their data base while LAHSA is much easier by clicking in HMIS. Shari is having conversations with DHS to improve the process.

Shari met this week with Beacon Landing, a new 88-unit permanent supportive housing facility in San Pedro across the street from the A Bridge Home San Pedro. Abode Home modular constructed units have allowed quick construction. 45 units will be for chronically homeless single adults and 43 are being funded by the department of mental health which means these units will be for people already connected to mental health and/or already have a mental health diagnosis. Goal was to open in July but due to the rain, the new timeline is to open in late October and beginning matching process in September. LA Family Housing will be the Service Provider and the Housing Authority will be involved.

Interim Housing (Shelter) Updates 7/1/2022-06/30/2023

- i. San Pedro Interim Housing – 14 vacancies / 12 Permanent housing placements
- ii. San Pedro ABH –3 vacancies / 14 Permanent housing placements.
- iii. Redondo Beach Pallet Shelter – No vacancies / 9 Permanent housing placements
- iv. Torrance Pallet Shelter – No vacancies / 7 Permanent Housing Placements / 1 to medical higher level of care

Presentation on Harbor Connects

Kent Wallace-Meggs, Executive Director, Harbor Connects, kent@harborconnects.org

Pastor Lisa Williams, San Pedro United Methodist Church, pastorlisa.sanpedroumc@gmail.com

Presentation Link: [Introducing Harbor Connects](#)

The organization's mission is to support neighbors and service providers in the fight against poverty in CD15. Pastor Lisa acknowledged and thanked the amazing work all of us are doing to help those in need. The organization began as the Neighborhood Relief Fund helping people at the beginning of the pandemic who were at risk of becoming homelessness. As we approach what we hope is the end of the pandemic and have now pivoted to the new Harbor Connects, a 501C non-profit to help those that are falling through the cracks. The concept is to connect folks needing assistance with the service providers and organizations that can provide help. The vision is "Harbor Area neighbors ending poverty through meaningful and intentional connections".

The VALUES

1. People-centered, process-oriented, and solution-focused.
2. Tangible, compassionate, and flexible care for those in need
3. Spirit of collaboration and welcome of diverse perspectives

Kent Wallace-Meggs, the new Executive Director of the organization. He introduced the 3 Pillars:

1. Relief Fund
2. Client Advocates
3. Partner Network

He explained that the concept of Harbor Connects is as an incubator for something that will grow and then be replicated in other areas. Their geographic footprint is currently limited to CD15. The goal is to provide funding assistance within 24 hours to help providers whose hands are tied, especially during after-hours. The ability to come together to network offers opportunities to best understand the programs that are offered and how they can be linked.

[Please watch the video to hear the entire presentation.](#)

Laurie mentioned that this type of program while not available outside of CD15, our South Bay cities can use this type of model to have south bay businesses be part of solutions helping those in need.

Shari mentioned that Kent has been in homelessness services for many years. He is very familiar with these issues, and we appreciate having Kent be part of this effort.

Ronson asked about a chat question on how the program is being funded. Kent advised that the original Relief Fund program started with community folks making donations in addition to some city and county money. They received a seed grant from CD15 in July 2022 that will run for 2 ½ years.

Presentation on Dept of Health Care Services CalOptima

Tap into Cal Aim for Housing Navigation Services, Housing Deposits, Recuperative Care

Kelly Bruno-Nelson, MSW, Executive Director Medi-Cal / CalAIM, kelly.bruno-nelson@caloptima.org

Website: <https://www.caloptima.org/>

Presentation Link: [CalAIM Presentation](#)

Please click on the presentation link and/or listen to the video for program details as this was a comprehensive presentation.

Kelly was hired to implement the CalAIM program and has experience working with community-based organizations.

MISSION: To serve member health with excellence and dignity, respecting the value and needs of each person.

VISION

By 2027, remove barriers to health care access for our members, implement same-day treatment authorizations and real-time claims payments for our providers, and annually assess members' social determinants of health.

WHAT IS CALAIM?

- CalAIM establishes the framework to address the social determinants of health and improve health equity statewide.
- CalAIM is moving Medi-Cal toward a population health approach that prioritizes prevention and whole person care.
- To extend supports and services beyond hospitals and health care settings directly into California communities.
 - Enhanced Care Management (ECM)
 - Community Supports

The services are available to Medi-Cal members. Kelly reviewed the Enhanced Care Management (ECM) program which is a whole-person interdisciplinary approach to care that addresses the clinical and non-clinical needs of members with the most complex medical and social needs through systematic coordination of services.

Kelly also reviewed the Community Supports Programs in great detail which includes recuperative care and housing supports. Cal Optima health launched 14 Community Supports which Kelly touched on briefly. The health plan in LA has not launched all 14. Community Supports is a new funding source for organizations serving people experiencing homelessness who have physical and/or behavioral health needs. For example, an organization with a housing navigator can seek reimbursement from a clients Medi-Cal Insurance provider for up to \$495/client/month.

Kelly's role is to help make this process working with the various health plans as easy as possible. The reimbursement is substantial to non-profits, is cost effective, so well worth learning and working together. Kelly is available to answer questions.

Los Angeles County Local Solution Funds – Ronson Chu, SBCCOG

Presentation Link: [Local Solutions Fund](#)

We are in the middle of getting the Local Solution Funds SOW drafted and processed. This program is essentially Innovation Funds 3.0, an extension of the LA County CEO office and their recognition that cities and COGs play a huge role in the rehousing efforts so are providing more funding for our programs. January 26, County CEO HI Office awarded SBCCOG \$2.074 million for FY 23-2. Ronson shared the programs we are looking to fund in this next go around. He reviewed current programs we plan to extend along with new programs for cities to opt-in to, based on feedback from the cities and recognized gaps in services.

See presentation link and watch video for details.

Legislative Updates

Janet Turner, Representative Congressmember Lieu

HUD put out a press release on February 27th that they are giving \$5.6 billion in funding for homeless housing nationwide. Approximately \$20m is coming to Los Angeles County for community development block grants, \$9.4m in HOME investment partnerships, and \$1.7m in emergency solution grants. Their office has been able to breakdown a couple of cities. Redondo Beach will be receiving \$268k in community

development block grants and Hawthorne will be receiving approximately \$1.2m in community block grants and \$635k in HOME investment partnerships. The city of Los Angeles is receiving \$50m in community block grants, \$29m in HOME investment partnerships and \$4.4m in emergency solution grants.

The Congressman's office will be putting out new guidelines for community project funding.

Erik Ponce, Representative Assemblymember Muratsuchi

Erik provided an update on two bills:

AB67, the Homeless Court Pilot program which has passed the first committee and is now with the Judiciary Committee with no hearing date set yet.

AB1035, the Mobile Home Affordable Housing act action after the meetings with Skyline Mobile Homes Park in Torrance who saw a huge rent increase.

Laurie asked if the mobile home parks qualify for any subsidized funding such as Section 8.

Erik made a chat note: We have not heard from residents regarding them applying for Section 8 or housing vouchers. Many of the residents own their homes, just not the land. Our bill would put a limit on space rent increase.

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

GENERAL ASSEMBLY: Our big event of the year is the General Assembly on March 23rd from 9 – 3 at the Carson Community Center. The event is free because we have so, please let Jacki know of any potential sponsors. We provide continental breakfast and lunch to those who RSVP'd.

This year's title is The South Bay: Leading the Way on Resilience and Adaptability. Our first panel will talk about water issues, how we can possibly grow with the impact of water, etc. Following the expert panelists, we will have local agencies to talk about how the South Bay is leading the way. We are very excited about our keynote speaker, Gene Rodriguez, who was recently appointed as assistant secretary for electricity within the United States Department of Energy by President Joe Biden. He will address energy reliability, resilience and climate change. After him, we will have a panel on innovations. We will have AltaSea, the Hydrogen Council and more. We are ending the day with something new, a youth panel with people from 11th grade to recently graduated who will discuss if the things they heard during this day are preparing for the future that they want.

LINK: [General Assembly Registration](#)

Ronson added updates on how we opened 5 motel rooms using a quick budget modification to allow client aid funds to be used for this purpose during the severe winter conditions. These were opened to the most vulnerable and frail unhoused adults. One of the people put in a hotel decided to reunify with her family and we were able to use client aid to purchase a bus ticket. Onnie thanked Ronson for his work using client aid funds but did mention that these are normally to be used for emergency situations as a last resort. He acknowledged that the winter shelter 211 delays are concerning.

Courtney Reed announced that PATH has a motel available to use during severe weather situations and PATH can even arrange for the person to have transportation to the motel. Reach out to Courtney or Ana anytime.

Councilmember Monteiro announced the Hawthorne Tiny Home project will probably have about a 45-day delay due to the rain. Grand opening will probably be closer to May.

Ronson announced a March 15th virtual briefing on the LA County Emergency Homelessness Response at 9:30am. You need to RSVP by March 10th. Flyer link: [Let's Talk](#)

Announcements

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

Adjournment – next meeting is scheduled for May 3, 2023