

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Senior Services Working Group Meeting Notes

Tuesday, January 24, 2023 @ 9:30 am, Zoom Meeting

Link to Meeting Video: [January 24th Meeting](#)

Elected officials/representatives in attendance:

Chair and Mayor Huff, Chair (Rolling Hills Estates); Councilmember Uphoff (Lomita); Francis Villanueva (Representative Congressman Lieu); Kasie Hervey (Representative Congressman Barragan)

Others in attendance:; Jeffrey Friedman (MAPS Charities); Yvonne Battiste (WelbeHealth); Shari Farmer LA County District Attorney's Bureau of Victim Services); Diane Brown (Hawthorne); Kambria Vint (Hermosa Beach); Baz Devlia, Thomas Uwal (Inglewood); Harriet Chase (League of Women Voters Beach Cities); Kathy Hilberg (Manhattan Beach); Monique Sugimoto (Palos Verdes Library District); Laura Diepenbrock (Peninsula Village); Margery Beirschmitt (PV Seniors); Frances Wielin (Palos Verdes Village); McKenzie Bright (Rancho Palos Verdes); Mayra Gomez (Redondo Beach); Matt Morrow (Rolling Hills Estates); Anita Chun, Bea Virobik, Zulma Gent (Torrance); Cathy Hetzer (Harbor Interfaith); Connie Hay (H.E.L.P); Marcia Salvary (Westside Pacific Village); Ronson Chu, Laurie Jacobs, Jacki Bacharach, Steve Lantz (SBCCOG)

The following meeting notes are a summary. Please watch the video and/or click on the presentation links for more specific details and information.

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

2. **Previous meeting notes** are posted on SBCCOG Senior Services Working Group webpage LINK: [December 6, 2022 Meeting Notes](#)

3. **PATH Update for SPA 8**

Courtney Reed, Associate Director, 323-449-9074

CourtneyR@epath.org

Presentation Link: [PATH Slides](#)

PATH is a street based intensive engagement outreach team. They are finally fully staffed with 2 people in SD2 and SD4 respectively. The current case load for seniors (adults over 50), is 14 in SD2 and 6 in SD4. Their goal is to connect seniors experiencing homelessness to permanent supportive housing. Currently 2 are awaiting move-in dates for West Haven subsidized housing and 3 are receiving retention services.

The PATH team will be participating in the Homeless Count in the Gardena area.

Ronson added information about Safe Landing, a new drop-in shelter in West Athens that opened last week with 176 total beds. As of this day, we have put in 30+ people which is amazing as this is the most, we have placed in just one week.

Jacki asked if we know how many seniors are in jeopardy being unhoused in this cold weather and are they being identified so we can help during these storms. Ronson advised he reached out to everyone through the SPA 8 Care Coordination meeting. Once identified, they are encouraged to call 211 for a motel voucher or the COG can help put them up in a motel. We were able to get a few seniors into motels of which 2 were in wheelchairs and 1 has now moved into a Pallet Shelter. Another 2 seniors just came out of the hospital, and we were able to put them into motels.

Courtney added that PATH also helps move seniors quickly into motels until they can figure out a plan. She also reviewed the process for getting people into interim housing.

Laurie mentioned concerns about increasing gas bills, especially for low income people and those on fixed income. The County Board of Supervisors are reviewing possible assistance. Courtney added that PATH helps with DWP bills for low income people.

4. **Presentation by MAPS Charities providing short term solutions for seniors in need in Los Angeles County**

Jeff Friedman, Executive Director Email: undefined jfr51661@cs.com
<https://mapscharities.org/>

Jeff reviewed the history and programs of the MAPS Charities program. He identified gaps in services in allowing seniors to fulfill daily living needs such as utility bills, rent payments, health supplies, etc.

The Mission of MAPS Charities is to provide short term solutions for seniors in Los Angeles County through a networking group. This is a charitable 501C non-profit group that gives up to \$750 grant for services and/or products to seniors in need. They did this through local organizations working with seniors. This is a one-time gift to be able to reach as many seniors as possible and turn around time is usually within 48 hours. This is open to all of Los Angeles County. This is staffed by mostly all volunteers except for a grant write and an administrator. They plan to issue about 1,800 awards this year.

Please review the website to learn about this program and find the applications.

5. **Presentation on PACE, All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly**

Yvonne Battiste, Marketing, Outreach & Enrollment Director, WelBeHealth

Presentation Link: [WelbeHealth PACE Slides](#)

Yvonne's Contact Info: Direct: (562) 800-6919, yvonne.battiste@welbehealth.com

Yvonne shared about the core values of WelbeHealth's PACE program which includes "Courage to love", "Pioneering spirit", and "Share information".

Currently the Long Beach WelbeHealth location serves the South Bay. A Carson location will open in the middle of 2024. The program provides all-inclusive medical and social care. Eligibility is for those 55+ that live in their service areas. They will be eligible for nursing facility level care and able to live safely in the community. The

PACE program has been around for over 40 years nationwide. They can provide information on medi-cal and medicare benefits and services.

Bea mentioned that Focal Point in Torrance refers people to this program.

Please click on the presentation link and/or watch the meeting video for program details on how to qualify and use this program.

6. **Presentation on Social Safety Net Policy Ideas and other updates**

Ronson Chu and Laurie Jacobs, SBCCOG

Laurie shared on the California Dept of Aging and Disabilities updates as far as transparency Master Plan of Aging progress report and links to programs of interest.

Presentation Link: [LA County Dept of Aging Updates](#)

Presentation Link: [Master Plan of Aging Initiatives](#)

Laurie shared updates from the California Health and Human Services Agency to be well prepared for emergency situations and wellness checks for older adults. She also shared on her particular health situation to help educate people on recognizing medical emergencies and to be prepared to respond immediately.

Presentation Link: [CalHHS Emergency Resources](#)

Laurie shared how seniors are still being impacted by COVID and to support the community. Stay vigilant on masking, washing hands and staying home when exposed especially around older adults.

Presentation Link: [Seniors Impacted by COVID](#)

Ronson shared on policy issues to explore with our federal elected officials such as improved social security benefits and potential programs like senior vouchers for those with lower and fixed incomes. He also presented information to explore on Medicare such as adding dental care and hearing aids as a benefit to Medicare Advantage HMO.

- Kathy Hilberg shared that the HICAP program can help navigate the different Medicare plans. Website Link: [HiCap](#)
- Anita Chun shared another resource: Center for Health Care Rights - 800-824-0780
- Anyone can call for yourself to talk to a Medicare, Med-Cal or Long Term Care specialist
- Monique Sugimoto added it can be challenging for seniors to have to complete forms online. The digital divide is an important piece we need to consider.
- Brit Huff added that there are pros and cons of the various Medicare programs that people need to be very aware of.

Presentation Link: [Senior Safety Nets Slides](#)

7. **Update from Legislative Offices**

Francis Villanueva from Congressman Lieu's office filled in for Janet Turner. He did not have any updates from their office at this time.

Kasie Hervey, the Harbor Area Field Representative for Congressman Barragan's office provide a couple of updates.

The Congressman is now the Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus so she will be spending more time in DC working with this Caucus. Her district changed: she lost Compton and Watts and added a good portion of the harbor area. Kasie will be leading the Senior Fair this year so we can reach out to her for this event. Contact Info: Kasie.hervey@mail.house.gov Office phone: 310.831.1799

8. **SBCCOG Updates**

Jacki Bacharach, South Bay Cities Council of Governments
The SBCCOG

We are gearing up for our General Assembly ready which will be held on March 23rd at the Carson Community Center. This year the theme will be “The South Bay: Leading the Way in Resilience & Adaptability. We will cover water issues as well as growth and how we can do all of these state goals at the same time. We will also cover the electricity and the grid issue. Gene Rodrigues, Assistant Secretary for Electricity for the Office of Electricity, US Department of Energy will be the keynote speaker. Our speakers will speak on broader issues and our local agencies talk about we are actually doing in the South Bay on these issues.

A new addition to this year’s GA will have high school and college students and post graduate students talk about their future, and what they want their cities to be thinking about.

This is a free event funding by sponsorships so please let us know of any sponsor opportunities. Sponsors at the \$2,500 level will receive a space at our Exhibit Hall. This year we are addressing state goal conflicts. Registration is now open on our website. <https://southbaycities.org/event/23rd-annual-general-assembly-2/>

This week Metro will be releasing their Environmental Impact Report (EIR) draft for the “C” Line (Green Line) extension that would go from where it ends right now into Torrance. We will be looking at this and taking a bus tour. Let Jacki know if you are interested in joining this tour on March 2nd from 1 – 5. The comment period will be through March.

The SBCCOG just won a grant from the Public Utilities Commission to look at broadband and expanding our South Bay Fiber Network, primarily into disadvantaged communities.

We are moving forward on the Local Travel Network (LTN) which was presented at our previous Senior Services meeting.

This week’s SBCCOG Board Meeting and at 4:30 Jacki will be doing an orientation for newly elected city officials on what the COG does, an overview of all our programs. For future meetings, we are interested in inviting Karen Bass, Sheriff Luna, our Supervisors, the Airport Administrator and more. So far, Sheriff Luna has confirmed for our April meeting.

9. **Round-robin member updates and announcements**

- Diane Brown shared updates on the Hawthorne Senior Center. Their hot meal program, provided by the Torrance YMCA, will be starting again next Monday, February 6 and she shared about other classes at this center. A lawyer from BetZekek comes every other month to provide legal advice. Appointments are required.
- Yvonne Battiste extended an invitation for tours of the WelBeHealth Center
- Monique Sugimoto shared the local history center is working on a project called “Doors Open Peninsula” (DOP) to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the modern development of the Palos Verdes Peninsula on Saturday, June 17. <https://palosverdeshistory.org/>
- Laurie mentioned the moratorium on evictions is being reviewed by LA City and LA County. Seniors on fixed incomes are at risk.
- Margery Beirschmitt, Peninsula Seniors, shared they are a membership group in the absence of an actual senior center. They were setback by COVID but reopened about a year ago and are encouraging members and non-members to get back to gather in person. Their tagline is “Have Fun”. They are a social group and one does not have to live there to be a member nor do they have to be a senior. Every Wednesday they present a free lecture series with guest speakers.
- Kathy Hilberg shared updates on the Jocelyn Center in Manhattan Beach. They are ramping up on their programs post COVID with a wide variety of classes and activities such as a trip to the opera. On February 21 from 1 – 2pm at the Jocelyn Center, they are having a Fraud Prevention presentation open to everyone.
- Courtney Reed reminded the group that PATH offers prevention resources addressing people at risk of homelessness. This applies to people who receive 3 day eviction notices.

10. **Adjournment to March 28.**

2023 Meeting Schedule – Jan 24, Mar 28, May 23, Jul 25, Sep 26

Notes submitted by Laurie Jacobs