

# **South Bay Coalition for the Homeless (SBCH)**

## General Meeting Minutes

April 9, 2014

10 am – 12 pm

Wayside United Methodist Church

25904 Cayuga Ave., Lomita

***Attendees:** Josie Hernandez, Czarina Barrios, Elaine Ruggerio, Roy Currence, Angela Rosales, Kathleen Clarke, Julie Jacks, Nancy Wilcox, Karen Ceaser, Louis Mena, Sue Castillo, Cliff Gardner, Kessara Kieng, Elizabeth Eastlund, Sothy Chim, Mary Agnes Erlandson, Paul Lange, Christin Doyle, Zhena McCullom, Paul Stansbury, Janet Mercer, Megan Robertson, Johan Dodge, Jimmie Simpson, Misty Jesse, Sabrina Porras, Robin Fitzgerald Krutz, Alma Ramos, Veronica Turner, Katie Hill, Maria Salas, Theresa Porterfield, Bill Roberson, Jeremy Sidell, Emma Ogleby-Oliver.*

### **1. Welcome & Introductions**

Nancy Wilcox opened the meeting at 10:07 am by thanking Wayside United Methodist Church for hosting the General Meeting.

### **2. Review and Approval of Minutes**

There were no corrections to the March 2014 Minutes.

### **3. Hosting Agency Overview**

Janet Mercer of Wayside United Methodist Church welcomed the group. The church has just celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and has a new pastor. Ministries include a grocery distribution to about 80 families on Saturdays, and a Thanksgiving distribution.

### **4. Featured Speaker: Transitional Age Youth (TAY)**

Nancy introduced Angela Rosales of Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) as an expert on TAY. Angela said that she would talk about the work that CSH is doing with TAY in Los Angeles, and what is happening on a national level.

Overall, CSH provides capital development for supportive housing and grants for capacity building. The agency is a national organization that focuses on capacity building and advocacy in 33 states and Washington D.C. Nationally there are about ½ million unaccompanied youth (under 18) and TAY youth (18-24 year olds) who experience at least one week of homelessness each year. Seventy-five percent of the youth eventually go home—the period of homelessness is sometimes relatively short. But it's not known if youth are in and out of homelessness. It's important to note for policy development that 50% of chronically homeless adults experienced homelessness as TAYs, which is a key reason CSH is focused on this demographic now to take strides to end the next wave of homelessness among adults. One in six of those emancipated from foster care become homeless. (Foster care is now provided until 21, not 18, in recognition of this fact).

In the last Homeless Count, there were 846 total youth identified in SPA 8 (ages 0-24, sheltered and unsheltered), which is a mid-range for total L.A. count. There is undoubtedly an undercount, as couch-surfing goes on more often with this demographic—they haven't burned as many bridges as adults. There are some homeless students at community colleges. The Homeless Count is a good start, but doesn't capture the full picture. Nationally, recommendations for

youth include finding more creative ways to reach out to them, such as magnet events at churches. Locally, LAHSA doesn't have a survey for youth because of the highly personal nature of the questions. Those under 18 would need parental permission to answer. LAHSA will look into developing a survey for those 18-24.

There are limitations of HUD data because it doesn't recognize couch-surfing. Angela is the co-chair with Arlene Schneir for the Los Angeles Coalition to End Youth Homelessness. Hollywood group members used a different methodology that captures a truer picture, developed by Dr. Eric Rice from the USC School of Social Work. Dr. Rice and CSH developed an assessment tool with six questions that are predictive for assessing those at highest risk on the streets. They surveyed 646 youth in the LA/Hollywood area. The risk was greatest---sometimes doubled---for those who were homeless for five or more years. Youth who scored 4+ on this triage tool should be prioritized for supportive housing (there was a case study of one on the card that was distributed). If the six questions are asked, instead of a slew of questions, it can be determined who is most at risk.

CSH is trying to have a coordinated system for assessing youth. They are currently evaluating a supportive housing model for TAY (Stable Homes, Brighter Futures hand-out). The grantees (another hand-out) are all involved in the 3-year evaluation project, which is currently halfway through. They utilize a harm reduction model, and none require sobriety (housing first). The service providers work with property managers, because youth can put themselves at risk of eviction with certain behaviors. Angela will send a map of TAY housing throughout the county. The CES program can help to identify homeless youth, and focus groups with providers and youth can help plan a CES youth system.

Incarceration is also an issue for youth, who are frequently in and out of the system. The Juvenile Re-Entry Council looks at this issue. There needs to be a plan when they are released. Probation doesn't provide much after-care.

Nancy mentioned that the VI-SPDAT has questions that aren't appropriate for youth, such as chronic health conditions. It's difficult to have a tool that's accurate, without being too intrusive. CSH will share the results of the pilot youth survey, and said that in general the system is becoming more coordinated across different spectrums, between different departments.

There will be a west coast convening regarding youth on June 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup>. The California Youth Homeless Project provides technical assistance throughout the state to improve youth count core data sets. The LA Coalition to End Youth Homelessness is in the forefront of the statewide work, and provides tools and support to the CA Coalition. Nancy will send out the youth coalition's meeting notes to SBHC members.

## **5. Report Back: LA Continuum of Care (LACoC) Coordinating Council**

- a) Katie Hill of PATH, along with Jessy Needham, is the SBHC representative on the LAHSA LACoC. The Coordinating Council was reinvigorated by LAHSA a few years ago, and initially elections were "sprung" on people. Now there is a better election process, and currently nominations are due at the end of May. The election will be in June. Katie and Jessy won't run in the next round, but said there is a transition process for the new members. It's important for SPA 8 to have representatives, because the policy implications are significant. Commission members helped rank and preserve programs for high risk populations. The HEARTH Act dictates that there be a joint commission with elected

representatives along with staff. Representatives don't have to be service providers, although the nomination form seems to indicate that, and can be daunting. Forms are due May 1<sup>st</sup>.

- b) There is a HUD requirement that there be a Continuum of Care evaluation, and a work group has been convened to work out kinks in the tool. The process will improve over the next year. Nancy mentioned that the LAHSA quarterly meeting will align with our June meeting. There was a suggestion that time be set aside during the next meeting to hear from the council nominees. Nancy encouraged those interested to run even if not familiar with LAHSA. She herself didn't know much about homelessness 18 months ago, and anyone can get up to speed on the issues fairly quickly.

## **6. Community Fair Participation**

- a) Maria Salas talked about the San Pedro Department of Mental Health Center's Community Health Resource Fair & Art Expo on May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9 am to 1 pm. She distributed a flyer and is looking for agencies and volunteers who will participate. The contact info is on the flyer and there is an exhibitor form available. May is Mental Health awareness month---mental health issues impact one in four families.
- b) AMVETS will sponsor a Community Fair, tentatively scheduled for May 31<sup>st</sup>. The focus will be on veterans. They are also looking for agencies and volunteers to participate.
- c) U.S. Vets will sponsor a "Stand Down" on December 20-22 at the L.A. Convention Center, and will also need many volunteers. The event is scheduled during the holidays because it's a particularly difficult time for Vets. The event goes on for 24 hours each of the three days. Felecia will provide more information at future meetings.

## **7. Coalition Projects Review and Discussion**

Nancy said that Dr. Denise McCain-Tharnstrom, the speaker from the last meeting who is compiling info for an updated youth directory, needs our information as soon as possible. Please send to [denmct@aol.com](mailto:denmct@aol.com)

- a) Communications: Sue will work on the website, but needs help. Johan said that he could assist her.
- b) SBCH Retreat: will take place on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup>. It should be a four or five hour event. Please save the date. There will be more details in the future. Nancy asked for input on what should be addressed, beyond next year's goals. Please contact her with any ideas.

## **8. Report Back: Central SP Neighborhood Council Homelessness Forum**

Sue Castillo reported on the Forum that took place on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were over 125 attendees. There will be a review meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm, to discuss next steps. Please let Sue know if you'd like to participate. Rainbow Services, on 8<sup>th</sup> Street, may be able to help by providing meeting space for this gathering. Emma Ogleby-Oliver of Marymount College and her students, who have been instrumental in the start-up of the Council, and supportive of the Coalition, helped with the Forum. The students developed and distributed surveys, and will analyze the data by April 30<sup>th</sup>. Emma said that Marymount psychology students that are available for internships, if any agencies are interested. Internships provide experience that could develop into careers.

## 9. Member Agency Announcements

- Nancy announced that she has a new email address, [nwilcox.sbch@gmail.com](mailto:nwilcox.sbch@gmail.com).
- Paul said that the San Pedro Chief of Police was very appreciative of the homeless resource card. (Nancy said there was a packet available for the San Pedro region with coalition info). All the resources—1-pagers and resource cards will eventually be on the website.
- Cliff from 1736 Family Crisis Center announced the Dane Williams Memorial Foundation is having a fundraiser on May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm: “A Night of Comedy to Save Children” with Jason Alexander. Dane Williams was the murder victim of a sexual predator. 1736’s services include a 24-hour crisis hotline and domestic violence programs, among others.
- Elaine announced two events: on April 25<sup>th</sup> an “I Love Wilmington” event from 5-9 pm, and an April 26<sup>th</sup> YMCA Healthy Kids Day at a park in Long Beach. (Nancy said that we would include more Long Beach info in the future because of the coordinated entry projects in SPA 8.)

**The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.**

Respectfully submitted by Mary Agnes Erlandson

## Upcoming Meeting Dates & Locations

<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays: 10 am-12 pm</b>	<b>Host Name</b>	<b>Host Address</b>
5/14/14	St. Joseph Catholic Church (Mary Agnes Erlandson)	11901 Acacia Ave., Hawthorne
6/11/14	<b><i>Combined with LAHSA Quarterly Meeting</i></b> LAPD Harbor Community Police Station	2175 John S. Gibson Blvd., San Pedro
7/09/14	San Pedro United Methodist Church (Rev. Johan Dodge)	580 W. 6 <sup>th</sup> St., San Pedro
7/19/14	<b><i>SBCH Retreat</i></b> St. Peter’s By the Sea Presbyterian (Nancy Wilcox)	6410 Palos Verdes Dr. South Rancho Palos Verdes

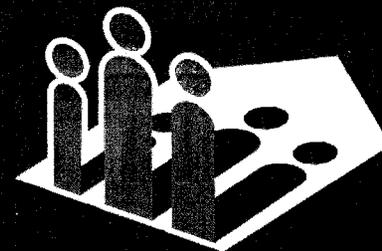
# 2013 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count

*Key Findings for Homeless Youth*

Published by:

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

December 30, 2013



**LAHSA**

**LOS ANGELES**

**HOMELESS**

**SERVICES**

**AUTHORITY**

# 2013 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Key Findings - Los Angeles County

Youth Homelessness in America



LAHSA

- Nationally, approximately 550,000 Unaccompanied Youth (Under Age 18) and Transitional Age Youth (TAY) 18-24 experience at least one week of homelessness every year
- 1 in 6 youth experience homelessness after emancipation from the Foster Care system
- 20 – 40% of homeless Youth (Under 24) identify as LGBTQ
- 25 % of homeless Families are young parents
- 50% of Chronically Homeless Adults experienced homelessness as Transitional Age Youth (TAY) 18-24

# 2013 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Key Findings – Los Angeles Continuum



**LAHSA**

## Youth Population Totals by Service Planning Area

	2013								
	LA CoC Overall	SPA 1 Antelope Valley	SPA 2 San Fernando Valley	SPA 3 San Gabriel Valley	SPA 4 Metro LA	SPA 5 West LA	SPA 6 South LA	SPA 7 East LA County	SPA 8 South Bay
Youth Under 18 in Families	3,850	231	566	286	904	355	926	275	307
Unaccompanied Youth Under 18	817	25	58	22	300	84	283	30	15
<b>Total Youth Under 18</b>	<b>4,667</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>308</b>	<b>1,204</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>1,209</b>	<b>305</b>	<b>322</b>
Transitional Age Youth (TAY) 18 – 24	5,737	602	802	485	1,347	541	1,130	306	524
<b>Total Youth</b>	<b>10,404</b>	<b>858</b>	<b>1,426</b>	<b>793</b>	<b>2,551</b>	<b>980</b>	<b>2,339</b>	<b>611</b>	<b>846</b>

Additionally, LAUSD identified 57,611 students eligible for homeless assistance over the course of one school year

# 2013 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Key Findings – Los Angeles Continuum

## Subpopulation Comparisons



Comparison of Homeless Subpopulations, 2013

Subpopulation	Prevalence Rates			Comparisons	
	Sheltered Youth Under 18*	Transitional Age Youth (18-24)	Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LA CoC)	Sheltered Youth Under 18* vs. LA CoC	Transitional Age Youth (18-24) vs. LA CoC
Chronically Homeless Individual	1%	10%	25%	Lower	Lower
Substance Abuse	4%	36%	31%	Lower	Higher
Mentally Ill	4%	23%	30%	Lower	Lower
People with HIV/AIDS	0%	<1%	1%	Lower	Lower
Survivors of Domestic Violence	6%	7%	9%	Lower	Lower
Physical Disability	2%	6%	18%	Lower	Lower

- Subpopulation prevalence rates are generally lower among youth populations than within the Los Angeles Continuum of Care as a whole
- Notably, prevalence of Substance Abuse is higher among Transitional Age Youth (18-24) than within the overall Continuum



## THE TAY TRIAGE TOOL

### A Tool to Identify Homeless Transition Age Youth Most in Need of Permanent Supportive Housing

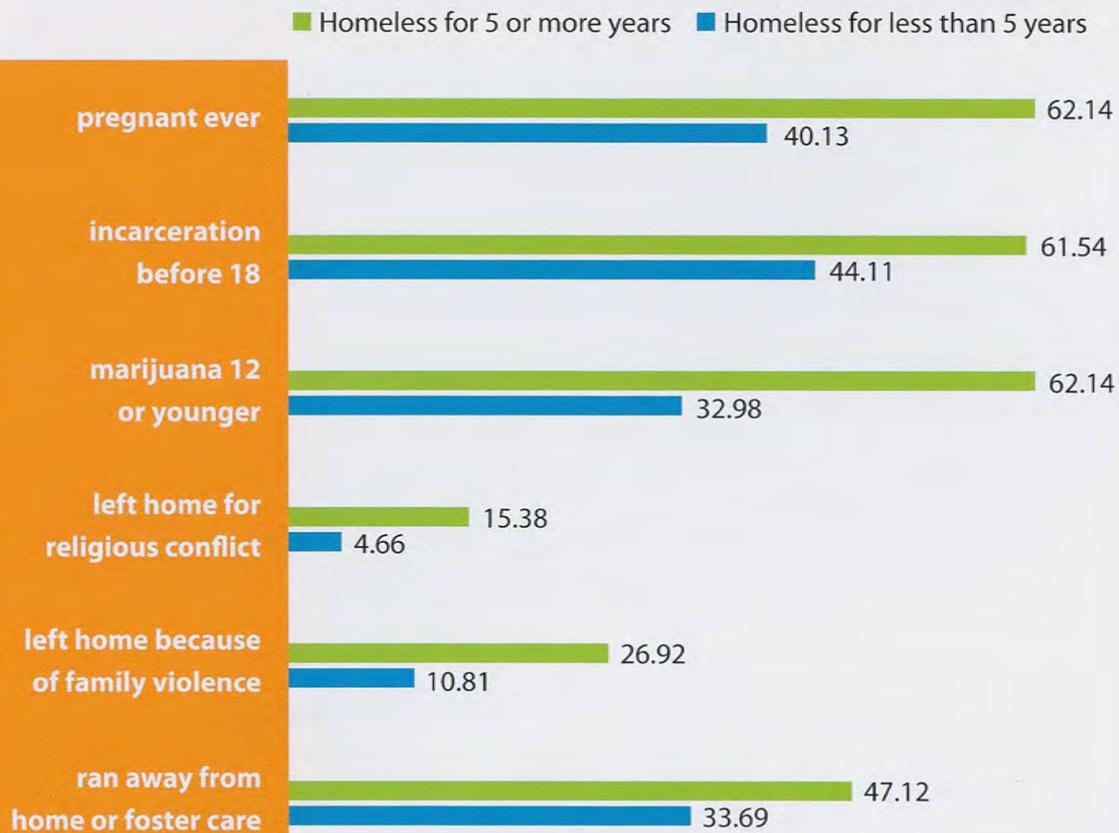
Supportive housing for transition aged youth (TAY) is an important intervention, helping to break the cycle of homelessness and providing the most vulnerable youth access to stable housing and the supportive services they need.

One of the great benefits of the TAY Triage Tool is its ability to quickly and easily identify the most vulnerable youth. With only these 6 items (see chart on back), which are relatively non-invasive, the tool identifies youth who are vulnerable to many problems, suffering from a great many issues and for whom supportive housing is the solution.

Download the full report at [csh.org](http://csh.org)



## Percentage of homeless TAY who experienced these issues



## CASE STUDY OF A TAY TRIAGE TOOL RESPONDENT

“Jane” is a 23 year old Latina with two children, neither of which are in her custody. She dropped out of high school and has a job that is “under the table”. She was first involved in the Foster Care system at age 11 and reported 5 to 9 total placements. She is currently living in a car and has been homeless for more than 10 years. She is a daily intravenous methamphetamine user, suffers from depression and has experienced several traumatic events. Jane’s responses to the TAY Triage Tool give her a score of 5 out of 6, which indicates that she should be prioritized for permanent supportive housing.

# Stable Homes, Brighter Futures

## Year 1 Evaluation Highlights

### About Stable Homes, Brighter Futures

With support from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the W. M. Keck Foundation, and the California Wellness Foundation in the summer of 2012, the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) launched the *Stable Homes, Brighter Futures* initiative, a three year demonstration project that provides supportive housing and services to young adults, 18-24 years old that are homeless or at risk. Through this initiative, CSH provides support to five grantees and their partners to serve up to 191 young adults (also referred to as TAY, transition age youth) residing in 17 housing developments located throughout Los Angeles County. In addition the initiative contributes to a broader systems-level effort to:

- Increase the capacity of organizations in Los Angeles County to develop and operate high-quality supportive housing for TAY in areas of high need.
- Create a safety net of housing and services for TAY that includes health, mental health, education, and employment.
- Collaborate with government agencies and partner organizations to secure adequate and coordinated public funding mechanisms.

### About the Evaluation

CSH partnered with Harder+Company Community Research (Harder+Company) to document the experiences and outcomes of young adults in supportive housing as well as the unique challenges, strategies, and promising practices employed by service providers and property managers. The evaluation seeks to generate and share lessons and findings that can inform program improvement, systems change efforts, and the broader field.

### Year 1 Evaluation Highlights

This brief highlights some key findings collected from the beginning of the initiative to January 2014.

**As of January 2014, a total of 160 TAY were housed and provided supportive services.**

Preliminary baseline data (N=116) show that:

- 55% were male.
- 22 was the average age at enrollment.
- 51% identified as being homeless prior to moving into supportive housing.
- 74% reported challenges with mental health
- 40% were former foster youth.
- 80% were unemployed prior to supportive housing.

**TAY experienced an improved sense of well-being and stability.** For most TAY, their primary goal was to obtain housing, and reaching this goal provided them with an immediate sense of security. One TAY noted that this housing opportunity helped him *“not worry about where I’m going to lay/rest my head at night”*, and another TAY added, *“I have my own place for the first time and I do not have to worry about being homeless.”*

- 95% felt that their current housing contributed to their well-being.
- 71% stated that their mental health symptoms were not bothering them as much.
- 75% reported that their physical health has improved.



**It takes time for TAY to engage in supportive services and build trusting relationships with providers.**

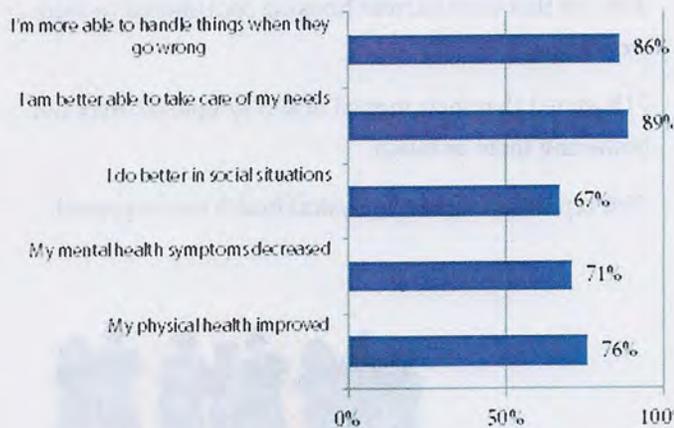
Providers expressed concern that TAY may not be taking full advantage of available services and seemed to lack interest or motivation in supportive services. This initial lack of motivation or interest can be explained by what some providers call a “stabilization” period. Providers have appreciated that this process is normal, and expressed the importance of giving TAY the room to breathe by providing them with the choices to willingly accept the support offered to them when they are ready.

*“[I want] my support service worker to always be there for me even when I’m not ready, but just staying available for me” (TAY Participant)*

**TAY have gained confidence in their ability to live independently but still struggle with finances:** Several TAY mentioned that what they like best about living in supportive housing was that they have the “freedom” to live independently and have responsibilities. When asked about attending to basic living needs, 90% of TAY agreed feeling more capable of taking care of their daily needs. However, given that nearly 80% of participants were unemployed at the time of enrollment, challenges making ends meet comes as no surprise. TAY seemed to prioritize paying rent and made sacrifices when it came to other essential needs. Some of the **top challenges** for TAY identified by service providers were **money management** (e.g., moving in/out costs), **basic life skills** (e.g., setting up utilities, hygiene), and **finding employment**.

**TAY Gain Confidence & Independent Living Skills**

(N=46 TAY)



**There is need for provider training and capacity building.** Many providers identified organizational challenges they face in serving TAY, such as the lack of capacity and training. One provider noted, “*Our challenges are mainly in the area of capacity. The housing retention work is more crisis-oriented than we expected as well.*” Not all providers were prepared to deal with some of the challenges presented by TAY (e.g., physical aggression between tenants, acute mental instability). Lack of preparedness had more to do with lack of training and understanding the needs of TAY population. Limited funding to staff the appropriate number of case managers was another noted issue among providers.

**Providers refined practices and implemented new strategies.** Overall, providers felt their agencies made several programmatic changes, including using new assessment tools, implementing new strategies and modifying program structures. For example some have incorporated the use of new assessment tools after learning what other agencies have been using. Providers have also developed creative ways to keep TAY engaged.

Changes in Policy & Practice (N=16 providers)	
Program Changes	Percent Endorsed
Modified program practices	56%
Implemented new strategies to work with TAY	56%
Incorporate new tools (e.g., assessment)	44%
Modified structure of PSH program	44%
Changed program policies	25%
Changed agency policies	19%

**Funding TAY in supportive housing has not been a priority.** Although there has been limited funding and resources for supportive housing across all populations (adults, families, youth), stakeholder interviews suggest that there has not been a priority placed on how to allocate state or local dollars to housing TAY in supportive housing in particular. According to stakeholder interviews, without the pressure to appropriately allocate and leverage existing resources, there will continue to be limited units available for TAY and even fewer service dollars to match.

# Stable Homes, Brighter Futures Grantees



Developer/Provider	Housing Model(s)	TAY units available	TAY units in operation
Coalition for Responsible Community Development (CRCDC)	Single-Site All TAY (with MH) Mixed Population Scattered Site	75	75
Jovenes, Inc.	Single-Site All TAY (with MH) Mixed Population Scattered Site, Shared Homes	39	25?
Little Tokyo Service Center KYCC/ PWC & APCTC/ KIWA	Mixed Population	24	14
Step Up On Second My Friend's Place	Single-Site All TAY (with MH) Mixed Population Scattered Site	33	26
Women Organizing Resources, Knowledge, and Services (WORKS) /Housing WORKS	Single-Site, All TAY (with MH)	20	20
Totals		191	160