

**South Bay Coalition for the Homeless (SBCH)
General Meeting Minutes**

February 12, 2014 at 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Kaiser Permanente,
25825 Vermont Ave., Conf. Rm A-1, Harbor City

Attendees: Hosting agency (Kaiser): Dr. Mark Song, Janice Oliver, Monica Moore, Clarice Crossley, Serena Josel, Karen Savoni, Melanie Dulce. Others: Co-Chair Nancy Wilcox (SBCH/St. Peter's By The Sea Presbyterian), Mary Agnes Erlandson (St. Margaret's Center), Dulce Vargas (Rainbow Svcs), Carrie Bach (LACo Dept of Public Health CHSA) Cliff Gardner (1736), Bruce Rogers (1736), Jessy Needham (Center for Pacific Asian Families), Dora Quach (Center for Pacific Asian Families), Ana Reoyo (Dept of Public Social Services (DPSS)), Yolanda Pelony (DPSS), Paul Stansbury (NAMI), Joyce Neu (Volunteer), Heather Hocking (Beach Cities Health District), Irma Valdez (Community's Child), Veronica Turner (Harbor/UCLA Hospital), Michael Gray (Community Mbr), Bill Roberson (SP UMC), Joseph Nuy de Sparza (Self), Louis Mena (School on Wheels), Julie Jacks (Family Promise), Misty Jesse (St. John Fisher), Elaine Ruggiero (Harbor Community Clinic), Rev. Johan Dodge (SP United Meth. Church), Mary Bartel (Project: Needs), Maureen O'Crean (A Bed of My Own), Holly Richards (Gals Starting Over), Emma Ogley-Oliver (Marymount CA Univ), Shari Weaver (Harbor Interfaith Services), Sue Castillo (Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council), Jennifer Bellucci (Kaiser), Dolores "DeDe" Ornelas (Community's Child), Joyce Ismail (DPSS).

1. Welcome & Introductions: Nancy Wilcox opened the meeting at 10:03 am by thanking Kaiser for hosting this month's General Meeting.
2. Reflections: Shari Weaver spoke movingly of two chronically homeless men she's worked with who have died recently. Ronnie, a former longshoreman, was homeless for about five years and had a heart condition. He was often seen at Carrow's and Coco restaurants in San Pedro. Mark was homeless for many years, along with his twin brother Richard. Mark passed away from cirrhosis, and both he and his brother battled alcoholism and substance abuse. Mark didn't want to leave the streets as long as his brother was still there. On the good news front, Thomas, another client who was chronically homeless, now has permanent housing. He was a Vietnam War vet who was owed \$125,000 in Social Security payments. Councilman Buscaino's office also helped to get him off the streets.
3. Hosting Agency Overview: Clarice Crossley, Chief Nurse Executive for Kaiser, gave an overview on this Kaiser Permanente facility where our meeting took place. It is no longer known as "Harbor City Kaiser" and instead is called "South Bay Kaiser" to reflect the broader area it serves in this 230 licensed bed facility. Its programs are growing--the newest acquisition is a facility in Carson. Other improvements include a new ICU, ER, and oncology center.
4. Featured Speakers: Dr. Mark Song, a Kaiser physician who volunteers with the Harbor/UCLA (HUCLA) Family Medicine Free Homeless Clinic (FMFHC), was today's featured speaker. He believes it is their duty to serve the community by partnering with organizations such as SBCH. FMFHC started while he was a resident at HUCLA. It is located on Lomita Blvd. between Western and Normandy, at the old Bay Harbor Hospital on the second floor.

Dr. Song, through his outreach at the (former) Church of the Brethren Thursday "hot meal" dinner program, assists the homeless connect with a primary doctor at HUCLA's Free Clinic. Free transportation to this Clinic is provided along with a "warm handoff." The clinic provides free bus

tickets/vouchers for patients at the HUCLA Free Clinic to encourage their return for primary care. Pick-up starts at 5:00 pm to allow time for clients to participate in dinner. The clinic start time is 6:30 pm -7:00 pm in order to return them back to by 9:00 pm. Residents examine them on a first come, first served basis. The clinic pharmacist is a per diem Kaiser employee, but he pays for the medications out of his own pocket. They will be getting a Kaiser grant in order to increase clinic services. They have teamed with Beach Cities Health District who offers case management. They are looking for more volunteers (physicians, etc).

The following come up during the pursuing discussion:

- Torrance Memorial Medical Center also has a Community Benefit Program.
- Nancy asked if all the area hospitals can email their referral clinics and SBCH will include them in its resource directory.
- Mary Agnes Erlandson suggested the regional service providers could develop and share information on individuals who use their services to coordinate care with those that use multiple healthcare providers. Kaiser is currently working with BCHD on such a document, pointing out the need to comply with HIPAA privacy regulations. Nancy mentioned such agreements are being worked between county agencies through the Coordinated Entry System (CES).
- A suggestion was made to get name/photo/other information of the homeless we are all serving.

Karen Savoni, Director of Social Work, then lead the conversation. South Bay Kaiser is committed to treating the homeless when they present at its Emergency Department (ED). Her team meets monthly to review every homeless person they comes through their door. It has witnessed a steady increase in the numbers they see: six years ago, about 15-20 per month would be seen; today that number has grown to 70-80 per month. These individuals have the following characteristics:

- 30% have been seen two or more times in 90 days, some several times a week.
- 5% are Kaiser Members.
- Their top diagnoses are: behavioral health, alcoholism or substance abuse, pain, and chronic diseases.

Additionally, the South Bay Kaiser staff has formal training to work with this population that goes beyond just a clinical response to effectively work the social engagement side as well. It has a robust policy: each homeless patient gets a cognitive intactness assessment to determine if he or she can negotiate his or her own health needs. Kaiser staff respects their belongings and provides them with one set of brand new clothing. It has a medical/financial assistance program, and patients get enough medications for the next few days upon exit. Homeless patients are also assessed for appropriate follow-up care: 8% go to other acute in-patient care; 3% go to shelter or recuperative care; 1% is placed into board & care. For this last option, some steady income source is required. Finally, Kaiser has a dental referral program.

One of the biggest issues is the homeless patients use the ED as their primary care provider. It also does not have specialized case management for this population and is looking at future options on this front. Another large challenge is the lack of shelter beds in the area and the patients' limited access to medications on an ongoing basis.

5. Partnership Opportunities Discussion: Nancy announced the Family Solutions Center (FSC) and Coordinated Entry System (CES) Request for Proposals (RFP) would be released soon. Both provide funding for a “1-Stop Shop” coordinated entry system to streamline the process of providing targeted services for their unique needs to homeless families and individuals.
 - a. FSC: An information meeting called by the Coalition is being held 2/19/2014, 3:30-4:30 pm at San Pedro United Methodist Church, 580 W. 6th St., San Pedro. SPA 8 and SPA 7 do not currently have an FSC.
 - b. CES: We currently have two targeted areas, one in the north/LAX and other in the south/Harbor Area. A SPA 8 lead agency has not yet been determined; SPBC cannot head up this funded effort since it is not a 501(c)(3). United Way, the funder for this initiative, is asking each SPA for one collaborative proposal rather than having competing bids. Outreach will be a key component in this effort, recognizing the most acute individuals may not find their way to a CES on their own.
6. Coalition Projects
 - a. Resource Guides. Misty Jesse reported there would be the “pocket guide” designed for the homeless for three regional areas of our Service Planning Area (SPA): Harbor (South) Area, LAX (North), and Central/Beach Cities. Maureen O’Crean is the keeper of the common template used. The Harbor Area guide by distributed and comments from those in attendance were received.
 - b. Marymount California University Partnership. Emma Ogleby-Oliver stated her students are working on the Central/Beach Cities one-page resource guide, and are developing an evaluation for the upcoming April 2 homelessness forum (clinical psych dept). Students will develop “Partner Profiles” to showcase the work of the membership partners; Emma is looking for agencies in which her students can engage. Nancy added these can be a wide range of organizations including our public sector and faith partners, and not be limited to just provider agencies. Emma has already partnered with Holly Richards and her “Gals Starting Over” agency. She is looking to identify internship relationships for the summer or fall.
 - c. Outreach and Advocacy. Mary Bartel gave the report for Elaine Ruggiero. This committee met at the end of January and decided they will meet quarterly in the future. She discussed enhancing a PowerPoint presentation that Nancy has that has an introduction to the Coalition and area homelessness, fine tuning it according to the venue/audience.
7. LA CoC Coordinating Council Report Back. Jessy Needham, the alterative member representing SPA 8 on the Los Angeles Homeless Services Agency (LAHSA) Continuum of Care Coordinating Council, gave this report. Part of her job is to be liaison between South Bay providers/coalition and LAHSA. There are some funding cuts anticipated at the federal level that translates into less resources flowing down to our area. Priorities on the spending had to be established. Supportive Housing has been found to be best plan to permanent housing so it has a high funding priority.
8. Co-Chair’s Report. Nancy reported on the following:
 - a. PIT HC: (Point In Time Homeless Count) will not happen this year, but LAHSA will be conducting its HUD mandated Housing Inventory Count (HIC) snapshot on the number of people staying at each shelter/agency. LAHSA has asked the regional coalitions to assist with collecting this information. Let Nancy know if you are interested in our SPA 8 effort.

- b. Winter Shelter Programs: The only one in the South Bay is located in Long Beach. Nancy's looking into others throughout the county, especially those operated by the faith community. She plans to visit First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood and the program operated by the East San Gabriel Homeless Coalition to understand their models.
 - c. Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council Homelessness Forum: This event being organized by Sue Casillo will be held on April 2. Kerry Morrison (Hollywood 4WRD and LAHSA Commissioner), Jeremy Sidell (PATH), and Tahia Hayslet (HIS) will be the panelists. This sparked a discussion about people in Downtown San Pedro independently trying to develop a "drop-in center." A meal service at 1804 South Pacific (annex), which begins around 5 pm tonight, will be an opportunity to meet this group.
 - d. Transitional Age Youth (TAY): TAY refers to persons between the ages of 18-24 (sometimes ages 12-24). Denise McCain-Tharnstrom (Everychild Foundation) is putting together a guide for countywide TAY resources, and will be discussing her agency's updated guide at next month's General Meeting (2012 scanned copy will be emailed to SBCH membership).
 - e. National Alliance to End Homelessness conference. Nancy is attending this conference on Families and Youth held February 18-19 in New Orleans.
 - f. SBCH Planning Retreat: Nancy and Mark are in preliminary discussions about a follow-up retreat to the one held last May. Right after that gathering, he came up with a list of projects that we have mostly completed, so we are at a good point to go up to the next level. They are looking into holding it possibly this summer. Nancy will be floating ideas about when to have it.
9. Agency Announcements:
- a. Kaiser: Its CBP (community benefit program) grant application was just released on 2/10/14 and will send it out to membership. On 2/26/14 there will be an orientation at CSDU for the grant.
 - b. Holly Richards (Gals Starting Over): Job shop workshops will be held at two locations, one starting 3/3/14 in Hawthorne and the other on 3/29 in Redondo; flyers will be sent to the membership.

The meeting ended at 12:10 pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates and Locations:

2 nd Wednesday 10am-12pm	Host Name	Address
3/12/2014	St. John Fisher Church (Misty Jesse)	5448 Crest Rd., Rancho PV
4/9/2014	Wayside United Methodist Church (Janet Mercer)	25904 Cayuga Ave., Lomita

Respectfully submitted by Carrie Bach and Mary Agnes Erlandson.