

South Bay Coalition for to End Homelessness General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

First Christian Church, Torrance CA

Attendees: Guest Speakers: Zina Washington (Help Me Help You); Hosting Agency: Nick Rasmussen (Family Promise). Others: Mark Silverbush (SBCEH), Paul Lange (LAHSA), Janeth Ventura (PATH), Joe Takanabe (CPAF), Carisa Krikke (MHALA), Zhenia McCullom (DMH), alicia Contreras (1736 FCC), Beatriz Vega (Rainbow), Yesenia Menesus (Rainbow), Alma Ramos (Alliance Housing & Healing), Mary Erlandason (St. Margaret's), Yesena Royas (Providence Little Company), Janai Fukintake (Providence Little Company), Shelly Kinder (Providence Little Company), Ivan Mason (Cloudbreak), Sharon Novalez (Office of Samoan Affairs), Jonathan Pascual (Family Promise), Delia Munoz (Dept of Probation), Ryan Macy-Hurley (1736 FCC), Brett Riley (Torrance Unified), Nancy Wilcox (St. Peter's by the Sea)

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** SBCEH Co-chair Mark Silverbush opened the meeting at 9:40 am. Everyone introduced themselves and their affiliation.
- 2. Hosting Agency Overview.** Nick Rasmussen explained how Family Promise is an interfaith network of 30 places of worship with 800 volunteers. First Christian Church is the operational base of this program, which empowers congregations to help families who are experiencing homelessness by allowing them to stay at the "host" congregations on a rotating basis.
- 3. Advocacy Committee Report.** The report was moved forward in the agenda to accommodate committee chair Paul Stansbury's schedule.

He discussed the need for the SBCEH co-chairs to have the authority to quickly act on behalf of the Coalition when advocating for legislation actions by government organizations without first having to get approval by its members. The attached motion to allow this was passed unanimously, which allows them to respond to calls to action by (1) National Alliance to End Homelessness; (2) National Health Care for Homeless Health; (3) Corporation for Supportive Housing; (4) Southern California Association for Non-Profit Housing; (5) Housing California. Other organizations can be brought forward which can be added to this list with Coalition membership approval. Nancy Wilcox asked how best to report back any actions she or Mark takes. It was suggested they highlight such actions in the weekly Announcements email, and then summarize them in the next monthly General Meeting.

Paul gave a report on the upcoming Countywide ballot Measure H that is on the March 11th ballot. It will provide funding for 10 years from a quarter cent sales tax that can only be used for homeless services. While the City of Los Angeles recently passed Measure HHH in November, it was for brick and mortar funding of permanent supportive and affordable housing; Measure H will compliment it by providing supportive services and prevention assistance, and the funding will be distributed countywide. There is a large push to have cities endorse the measure.

- 4. Guest Speaker: Executive Director of Help Me Help You Zina Washington's presentation on SSI eligibility and enrollment.** Zina went over her attached presentation and added these remarks:

- A major difference between the two is that SSI is based on one's need, while SSDI is based on having a work history. The benefit is more for SSDI as well.
- For the Disability Determination Process, a person qualifies if making \$1,000 or less a month. The medical condition must be "severe." A client will be referred to a primary physician if she or she does not have one. Having multiple conditions is helpful with establishing eligibility.
- Clients are encouraged to use the enrollment form she provided. Referrals from any agency are welcome, as are walk-ins, but it is better to have an appointment.
- The basic steps for applying for SSI or SSDI include:
 - Completing the application and getting medical records, often by signing a release so her agency can request them on behalf of the client.
 - Having a medical checkup
 - Getting the work history documentation (past 15 years)
 - Completing a medical summary report, which includes when the disability started
- Zina is based at the Multi-Service Center in Long Beach. Her agency is also under the CES for Individuals contract for SPA 8, and is collocated at St. Margaret's Center/Lennox the 2nd Tuesday of each month and at Harbor Interfaith Services/San Pedro the 3rd Tuesdays.
- After submitting an application, it typically takes about 1 month to hear from the Social Security Administration. Often more documentation is requested. It can take up to another 120 days to get the response. During this timeframe, the client may be asked to visit another doctor.

5. 2017 Homeless Count Status. Paul Lange gave the following report:

- About 450 volunteers have "registered" as of today. Of that, 249 have "RSVP'd" or selected the site in which they want to volunteer; 76 are return volunteers from the 2016 Count. By January 21st, those who have not selected a site will be automatically assigned one.
- Paul suggested signing up family members is a great way for them to have an opportunity see what you do.

6. Minutes Review and Approval. The December 2016 meeting minutes were approved without change.

7. Co-Chairs' Report. Nancy reported on the Youth Count and the Blitz Day taking place on January 31st.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.

South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness

Authorization to Endorse, Support or Oppose Legislative Actions By Government Organizations in accordance with Official Positions, Statements, Policies of Leading Agencies Addressing Homelessness

Whereas there is need to endorse, support or oppose legislative actions at the city, county, state and national levels on very rapid basis in order to ensure the legislative bodies are aware of the concerns of the South Bay Coalition to End Homeless,

Whereas there are associations and organizations that endorse, support or oppose these type of actions in keeping with the goals of the South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness, and

Whereas these association and organization have resources, staff and experience to research, analyze and assess the merits of these actions,

Authorize the Co-Chairs of the South Bay Coalition to End Homeless to respond to calls to action by the following groups endorsing, supporting or opposing legislative action(s):

National Alliance to End Homelessness
National Health Care for Homeless Health (NHCHC)
Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
Southern California Association for Non-Profit Housing (SCANPH)
Housing California