

South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness (SBCEH) General Meeting

Wednesday, October 19, 2016; 9:30-11:30 am

City Annex Building, 200 N. PCH, Redondo Beach, CA

Attendees: Guest Speakers: Jonathan Hans, Sarah Mahin (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority); Mychael Castillo, Mitch Kayle (Exodus Recovery), Cathy Carranza (US Vets); Freddie Black (1736 FCC); Hosting Agency: Keith Kauffman, Jeff Mendence, Wayne Windman (Redondo Police Department); Attendees: Co-Chair Nancy Wilcox (St. Peter's By The Sea), Melissa Andrizzi-Sobel (Beach Cities Health District), Mary Bartel, Lyndi Bell (LAHSA), David Bradford (Harbor Interfaith), Dan Bradford (Kings Harbor Church), Carolina Briones (LAHSA Helena Cummings (Torrance USD), Gina Diaz (Exodus Recovery), Lori Eastman (Providence Little Company), Cynthia Harbour (Exodus Recovery), Gerardo Magallanes (1736 FCC), Cinder Eller-Kimbell (Inglewood PD), Sherry Ellis (Exodus Recovery), Elizabeth Eastlund (Rainbow Services), Kester Ezuma (The Infinite Foundation), Cecil Flournoy (City of Carson), Felecia Howard (US Vets), Kevin Kincey (US Vets), Patima Komolamit (CPAF), Paul Lange (LAHSA), Ryan Macy-Hurley (1736 FCC), Ernesto Madrid (Salvation Army), Geraldo Magallanes (1736 FCC), Zhen McCullom (DMH), Heang Meas (DPSS), Lao Maua (PATH), Marilyn Montenegro (WASW), Delia Munoz (Dept of Probation), Mitchell Nelson (Rainbow Services), Jane Newman (Public Defender's Office), Janae Oliver (Kaiser), Fred Osorio (Inglewood PD), Yesenie Rujai (Providence Little Company), Andrea Sanserino (The Children's Clinic), Chuck Scarpaci, Anika Simpson (DMH), Paul Stansbury (NAMI South Bay), Christian Starling (Salvation Army), Jenny Tae (The Children's Clinic), Jo Takanabe (CPAF), Serennah Tuff-Erwin (SHARE!), Cesar Villa (Health Advocates), Shari Weaver (Harbor Interfaith), J. Zamora (Providence Little Co of Mary), Michelle Zaragoza (Exodus Recovery).

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** SBCEH Co-chair Nancy Wilcox opened the meeting at 9:43 am. Everyone introduced themselves and their affiliation.
- 2. Hosting Agency Overview.** Lt. Wayne Windman spoke on behalf of the hosting organization, Redondo Police Department. He recently attended a meeting with LA County District Attorney Jackie Lacey where homelessness was discussed. She is looking to ensure there is a fair and equitable allocation of funds throughout the County to address this problem. More locally, he said about 25% of all the calls his department receives are in responding to someone who is homeless. PATH has a contract with the City to provide focused services.
- 3. Minutes Review and Approval.** The September 2016 meeting minutes were approved without change.
- 4. Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Report-Out.** (Note: the following notes supplement the information in their attached briefings.)

2017 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count (HC17). Jonathan Hans, Policy and Planning Manager, presented the following.

- a. LAHSA has a new partnership with USC, replacing the contract with the University of North Carolina. USC will bring local knowledge and its 40,000 student body as potential volunteers for the Count. Its president has identified homelessness as a key area in which it will focus.
- b. HC17 goals include identifying youth and families. These groups traditionally have been very difficult to find. The Youth Count component will again be a survey-based count. HUD has for the first time mandated that Continuum of Cares (CoC) throughout the county conduct a specific youth count. The Los Angeles CoC has been running them for several years.
- c. On-line monthly “newsletters” will be part of a stepped-up communications plan this year.
- d. HC17 has been rebranded with a new logo, showing two hands coming together to form a house. This symbolizing the volunteers who join in this effort, and to remind us that we are counting people, not just gathering statistics.
- e. In Service Planning Area (SPA) 8/South Bay, 11 of 14 cities have “opt’ed in” and will share in the responsibilities of seeing that we meet our goal of canvassing 100% of our assigned tracts. “Hot Spot” planning sessions are scheduled for each SPA. These will be used for the demographic survey analysis and outreach the night of the Street Count component.

LAHSA’s New Governance Structure. Sarah Mahin, Policy and Planning Director, presented the following.

- a. LAHSA was motivated to examine its governance structure because it currently is not compliant with the federal government’s HEARTH Act, which is the key legislation that directs HUD on homelessness matters. LAHSA is a joint powers authority of the City and County of LA. Both are in strategic alignment over the proposed new LAHSA structure, which takes into consideration best practices from across the country.
- b. The Regional Homelessness Advisory Council (RHAC) is not a decision making body, but rather a “deliberative” body. The latest draft composition of the RHAC identifies 54 members that will meet quarterly. The first meeting is scheduled for February 2017.
- c. Each SPA will have one elected representative to the RHAC (SPA 4/Metro LA will have two). These members will also represent specific homelessness populations, such as Veterans, families, domestic violence survivors, etc. If the nine SPA representatives do not cover these populations, there are an additional three “at-large” seats that will be filled with the missing population provider agency experts.
- d. SPA candidates can be self-nominated and must be endorsed by three colleagues who do not work for their agency. An individual can endorse as many candidates as he/she desires. The nomination process is now open, with applications due to LAHSA on November 8th. In-person elections will be held at our November 16th meeting, with each organization having one vote rather than each individual having a separate ballot.

- e. Elizabeth Eastlund, SPA 8's LAHSA Coordinating Council Representative, added that having an understanding of the SPA is important, including our relationship with our Long Beach partners. The RHAC will not have a regional alternate like the Coordinating Council's membership structure. Though the terms have not been set, it is anticipated RHAC representatives will serve for two years.

5. Guest Speaker: Exodus Recovery. Mychael Castillo and Mitch Kayle presented the services their agency provides to those with mental illness.

- a. Exodus Recovery covers several SPAs. Its SPA 8 presence includes a center in Redondo Beach and is one that is co-located at Harbor/UCLA.
- b. It is contracted with the Department of Mental Health to operate a "Full Service Partnership" (FSP) program. This offers the highest level of care for those homeless with a mental illness. It is field-based, and its case managers work very closely with clients, including taking them to appointments, and providing supportive services once they are stably housed.
- c. The Integrated Mobile Homeless Team (IMHT) provides field outreach for those who are either not able or willing to come to their access site.
- d. They have integrated clinics, co-located at hospitals. These offer a merger of physical health and mental health services. Law enforcement and hospitals often refer clients to these sites.
- e. If a person has been seen by Exodus, he or she can go to any clinic in their network. This includes their psychiatric site in Culver City, which has overnight housing. This particular facility has both clients who come voluntarily as well as serving involuntary admits (on a "5150" hold).
- f. Mitch was originally trained in a medical model rather than a "recovery" model. The latter focuses on getting clients back to where they were before being in crisis. He feels everyone is on a spectrum of "best functionality" and when in crisis moves along this band. Clients are then given different levels of support, from a small amount to a much higher degree.
- g. Redondo Police Department works closely with them, providing support for their area homeless. Local hospitals can contact Exodus directly as well.
- h. Housing referrals and placements are primarily made for those in their FSP program. Exodus can assist with "move in" funds. Housing vouchers, such as Section 8 and "shelter plus care," are options.
- i. Finding apartments is difficult in SPA 8 because of the high rent rates. Landlords are reluctant to take housing vouchers.
- j. Referrals to sober living programs, board and care, and recuperative care (with skilled nursing) are provided.

6. SPA 8 Crisis Housing.

- a. US Veterans Initiative Program: Cathy Carranza reported that US Vets will soon be opening its crisis housing program. It will provide 30 beds for Veterans and 10 for male non-Vets. This includes up to a 30 day stay, extending to 90 days of “bridge” housing for those that have a housing plan and are actively looking for a place to live. The program details are still be worked out, but she believes “walk-in” clients will be accepted.
- b. 1736 Family Crisis Center: Freddie Black explained that victims of domestic violence and human trafficking (sex or labor trafficking) will be able to eligible to stay at their crisis housing program. They have a 24-hour hotline that screens for eligibility. Clients do not need a “third party verification.” In additional to shelter, they provide individualized counseling and legal services. They accept both male and female clients, but they must be 18 or older. (Note: see the attached program description for more program details.)

7. Advocacy Committee Report Back. Advocacy’s Chair Paul Stansbury brought up the City of Los Angeles’ “HHH” ballot proposition to raise \$1.2 billion to build 8,000-10,000 units of supportive and affordable housing. This initiative is at the end of ballot, so voters need to ensure they do not miss it. -- Paul is also attending the swearing in of Dr. Jonathan Sherin as the new director of LA County’s DMH. He comes from Volunteers of America, with a background working with Veterans.

8. Member Announcements. The following announcements were made:

- a. City of Redondo Beach is having a candle light vigil to support victims of domestic violence.
- b. Shari Weaver reminded us of the United Way Greater Los Angeles’ Homewalk event being held on Saturday, November 19th.

9. Closing Remarks. Redondo Beach Police Chief Keith Kauffman thanked everyone for attending and commented that the internal training law enforcement receives does not always touch on the best practices that homeless service providers use in their work. He appreciates this information that is brought up at these homeless coalition meetings. Chief Kauffman also remarked that being “reactive” is not working in helping the homeless, but that his staff are challenged to quickly evaluate people who are the subject of their calls in two minutes. He acknowledged Mitch Kayle’s comments about viewing people as being on a spectrum. He views the future of policing as being a “service organization with a law enforcement emphasis.”

The meeting ended at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.