

## South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness General Meeting Minutes

Host: DMH San Pedro Mental Health Clinic  
150 W. 7<sup>th</sup> St., San Pedro, CA  
Wednesday, October 24, 2018 ~ 9:30 -11:30 am

**Attendees:** Guest Speakers: Victoria Hurtado (Downtown Womens Center), LaRae Cantley (DV & Homelessness Coalition), Cristina Cortes (LAHSA); Members: Co-Chair Mark Silverbush (SBCEH), Beatrix Vega (Rainbow Services), Shelby Crawford (TUSD), Becky Adams (St. Mark's Presbyterian); Rosalyn Kemp (DMH-SPMHC); Heang Meas (DPSS), Shari Weaver (Harbor Interfaith), Marie Gambon (DPH), Chanel Simpson (TUSD), Camelle Escanlante (Rainbow Services), Ronnina Thomas (Good Neighbors), Zhen McCullom (DMH), Stephanie Moon (Community Member), Victoria Westerskov (SoCal ROC), Maureen O'Crean (ABOMO), Judy Shaffer (Redondo Resident Action Committee), Elizabeth Eastlund (Rainbow Services), Saira Cooper (LAHSA), Paul Stansbury (NAMI), Elizabeth Holmberg (TUSD), Livey Beha (Imagine LA), Debby Striffe, Sharonda Capees, Lisa Williams (San Pedro United Methodist Church), Isela Hernandez (PATH), Ronson Chu (SBCEH), Nancy Wilcox (St Peter's by the Sea).

1. **Welcome & Introductions.** SBCEH co-chair Mark Silverbush opened the meeting at 9:37 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves. Rosalyn Kemp read her poem about Recovery to commemorate Red Ribbon week.
2. **Meeting Minutes Review.** The August 2018 meeting minutes were approved without change.
3. **Advocacy Report Back.** Paul Stansbury, chair of our Advocacy Committee, discussed Propositions 1 & 2 on the upcoming November election, PATH Ventures West Carson affordable/supportive housing development, Measure H Funding Listening Session, and the status on key state legislation ("gravely disabled" will reappear next year).
4. **SPA 8 CES Update.** Shari Weaver, our Service Planning Area (SPA) 8 Director of the three Coordinated Entry Systems, gave the following report:
  - a. The FY 2018-19 Budget of \$8,104,605 for SPA 8's CES includes: \$4,696,528 – Family System (4 sub-contractors); \$3,090,448 – Individual / Youth (5 sub's); \$317,629 – Access Center (1 sub).
  - b. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Placements: for Families: 201 Assessments, 46 Placements, 23 Prevention. Seen 39% increase in families accessing services, resulting in 62% added spending of annual motel voucher funds. Individual/Youth: 157 Assessments, 44 placements, 9 Prevention.
  - c. Have a new Regional DV Coordinator from Rainbow Services. She's liaising between CES service providers to improve how DV survivors' access both DV and homeless resources, as well as helping to identify how CES can be strengthened to better serve the DV subpopulation.
  - d. Have a new Youth Regional Coordinator, Chris Jenne, and will be partnering with Sanctuary of Hope & St. Margaret Center to bring on two new Rapid Rehousing Case Managers. This year's work will focus on homeless college students; have already begun to establish working relationships with LB City College, El Camino Real, Harbor Community College & Cal State Long Beach.
  - e. We also continue our work with homeless patient services with our 5 partner hospitals. We have added a new position at Kaiser Permanente Hospital (Patient Navigator). LAHSA is currently working on developing similar services throughout L.A. County modeled after the work we have done in SPA 8.
  - f. LAHSA announced that HACoLA will be providing 200 to 300 Housing Choice Vouchers for clients that have been placed into permanent housing (RRH) and are struggling to pay rent through their own financial means.

- 5. Domestic Violence Focus Group Report and Los Angeles Women's Needs Assessment.** Elizabeth Eastlund, Rainbow Services ED, first gave an overview of the DV and Homeless Services Coalition (DVHC). It is comprised of 80 organizations who examine system issues, provide training, and hold client-center work groups. The Coalition drives system change and gives voice to those with DV lived experience.

Victoria Hurtado gave the Findings presentation, while LaRae Cantley and Cristina Cortes interjected reflections from survivors. (Note: the following notes are supplements to the attached presentation.)

- a. Methodology. In recognition of cultural barriers, DVHC conducted the focus groups in Spanish, different Asian/Pacific Islander languages, and American Sign Language.
- b. Demographics. DV occurs in all populations, ethnicities, ages, and across all economic levels. 89% had experienced homelessness, 35% in the last 6 months.
- c. Key Finding 1: CES is a complicated system. Having to retell their story over and over made participants feel they were not believed, further traumatizing them. Calling 211 is also difficult. Participants are asked if they have a restraining order. Many do not because of the fear that the abuser will react with more anger, while others do not want to get law enforcement involved.
- d. Key Finding 2: For safety, DV agencies generally want to place victims in a different area, but participants want to stay where it's familiar. Some might have a stable job, or want their children to continue attending the same school and community center for after-school services. It's difficult to reestablish community connections, and to have conversations with teachers (once done, they are supportive).
- e. Key Finding 3: Survivors thought sharing with a landlord they were victims might elicit more compassion, but often find them insensitive saying "you look find to me."
- f. Key Finding 4: Being a self-advocate is very empowering. Participating in programs like CSH's Speak Up are important where they learn to have impactful voices.
- g. Recommendations: Cross-sector coordination and training with CES (which uses a Housing First approach) and DV (which uses a Safety-First approach) is needed. Community education, to help eliminate stigmas and teach in schools healthy relationships at an early age, are important to have.
- h. Needs Assessment: Every three years, DVHC conducts a needs assessment. For its Spring 2019 assessment, it wants to expand its focus beyond downtown LA, holding one of its five listening sessions in the South Bay. Front line staff will receive training and will likely go to encampments. SPA 8's new Regional DV Coordinator and CES staff will follow-up on this.
- i. Q&A.
  - i. More flex funding is needed to pay for non-traditional expenses such as childcare.
  - ii. Those identified to be part of the assessment can be of any age. Older participants have a more recognized understanding of how the trauma occurring when they were younger has impacted their lives.
  - iii. There needs to be a change in our collective narrative on how we offer services so we do not retraumatize victims regardless of when the abuse happened.
  - iv. Long Beach's LGBT Center was mentioned as a potential partner that works with the trans community.

**6. Co-Chairs' Report.**

- a. Mark reported on the Rapid Re-Housing Institute Conference, where he recently presented on an earlier study phase examining Homelessness Prevention and Diversion. The resources required and challenges

faced were discussed. Phoenix and San Diego will be conducting pilots so more data will be available for future analysis.

- b. Nancy has been working on the upcoming Hospital Discharge Symposium being sponsored by the LA County DA's office and the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC). She also gave a reminder of the new 2019 General Meeting schedule when we meet in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of November and are dark in December.

**7. Member Agency Announcements.** The following announcements were made:

- a. DMH's Marie Gambon talked about the typhus outbreak and the free flu clinics being held throughout the South Bay.
- b. Homeful's Ronson Chu spoke of the "Weekend to End Homelessness" events that occurred last week in the South Bay at Harbor Interfaith, 1736 Family Crisis Center, and US Veterans Initiative in Inglewood. This event, which took place across the entire county, brought great awareness to the agencies providing services to those who are experiencing homelessness.

The meeting ended at 11:15 am

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.