



**South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness
General Meeting Minutes
for October 28, 2020
held via Zoom teleconferencing**

Attendees: This list was unavailable.

Welcome. SBCEH co-chairs Mark Silverbush and Nancy Wilcox opened the meeting at 10:04 am. Because the meeting was held via video conference, our traditional round of introductions was not made.

Advocacy Report-Out. Paul Stansbury's report began with an observation on how the upcoming national election will impact homeless services. LA County's Measure J's passage was discussed, as well as the state's addressing the continued use of telehealth once the COVID-19 pandemic is under control. At the county level, the Department of Mental Health is trying to make changes to the Medical waiver so clients can be charged on a "per capita head basis" rather than from a "fee for service" to make it easier to providing ongoing services. There is a concern that the Los Angeles City Council will, once Project Homekey's is fully implemental, start enforcement for the removal of encampments.

Special Topic: Becoming a Trauma Informed Care (TIC) Organization. Elizabeth Eastlund, Executive Director for Rainbow Services, presented how Rainbow transformed to becoming a TIC Organization. (Note: the notes below are supplemental to the information on her attached presentation.)

- An major agency change took place in 2009 when the focus shifted from ensuring participants were "being screened in" rather than "being screen out" through a safety lens.
- The Change/Transitions/Neutral Zone" chart notes the personal changes that take place inside the "U," with the corresponding changes made by the organization shown on the outside on this figure. Upon reflection, Elizabeth did not at first honor how things were done in the past, with the recognition her staff was still thinking and operating using an outdated non-TIC model and thus needed more focused training before they could change.
- The shift from "Power Over" to "Power With" partnering with a survivor is a key component of TIC. Participants concurred that this attitude was hindering their recover because it created a power imbalance that mirrored the environment they were fleeing from in the first place. They were feeling like "We're in another abusive relationship" at the shelter.
- When this approach was initially implemented, staff felt they had no power and that management always believed the participants. Boundaries had to be created so everyone was respected.
- Residential advocates helped evaluate if existing rules had to do with safety or were just imposed when something negative had occurred. If they did not have to do with immediate safety, then they could take more time to respond to problems as they come up. This shift allowed them to think about more positive actions that could be used in a challenging situation instead of just being inflexible and following rigid rules.
- With Trauma Informed Supervision, teaching staff to debrief and talk about horrific events they have seen is an important skill to impart, such as witnessing DCFS remove children from the parent.
- TIC training requires ongoing check-ins and discussions, and is not mastered in just a course taken one time.

- John's story is highlighted in Rainbow's report "From Power Over to Power With" and describes the transformative journey of an angry 14 year old to one that became a "junior advocate" and teenage liaison with the other kids staying at the DV program. Along the way, he learned more about family violence and realized that even though the physical abuse did not happen to him, it affected him emotionally. With the assistance of Rainbow staff, John learned to identify that violence in any form is not okay.
- Note: After the meeting, Elizabeth sent the following links to learn more about TIC:
 - Rainbow's report on creating a trauma informed culture at: <https://rainbowservicesdv.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/From-Power-Over-to-Power-With-Report.pdf>
 - A link to Rainbow's virtual tour: <https://rainbowservicesdv.org/dvam-virtual-tour/>
 - <https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/hpr-resources/studies-back-trauma-informed-approaches>
 - <https://nationalhomeless.org/trauma-informed-care/>

Co-Chairs' Report. Nancy and Mark brought up the following:

- The recently released HUD "Expanding the Toolbox" Report, where there was concern and criticism that it downplayed proven approaches such as Housing First.
- They encouraged everyone to tune in to this week's LAHSA's Quarterly Community Meeting. Pre-COVID, these were held in conjunction with each SPA's homeless coalition meetings but are now presented in one videoconference for the entire County to attend.
- They urged everyone to complete the LAHSA Homeless Count survey, which will be used to help determine how the 2021 Homeless Count will be held. To date, there has been no federal guidance on it given the nationwide COVID pandemic.

Member Announcements.

- Mark reported that the agency for which he works, Abt Associates, is hosting a national webinar on Unsheltered Homelessness, focusing on how COVID has changed approaches including to outreach through an equity lens. Information is at <https://www.hudexchange.info/trainings/courses/addressing-unsheltered-homelessness-webinar/>

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.