

South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness General Meeting Minutes

First Christian Church, 2930 El Dorado St, Torrance

Host: Family Promise of the South Bay

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 ~ 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Attendees: LAHSA Staff: Megan Emme, Dalma Diaz, Alison Korte, Chris Coaloa Ojeda, Saba Tekle, JuHyun Sakota. Hosting Agency: Nick Rasmussen, Jonathan Pascual. Members: Co-Chair Nancy Wilcox (St. Peter's By The Sea), Salvador Ramirez (DMH/MET), Delia Munoz (Probation), Lucie Hollingsworth (1736 FCC), Paul Stansbury (NAMI), Keith Bennett (City of Carson), Anahita Sandatard (Homes For Life), Janeth Ventura (PATH), Dan Bradford (King's Harbor Church), Isela Hernandez (PATH), Diamond Lee (DHS/WPC), Lynne Erwin (Harbor Interfaith), Max Estrada (PATH), Joan Engelhaupt (Community), Joan Reine (Calvary Presby), Jina Lawler (The Children's Clinic), Gaby Nunez (DPH), Zhenia Mccullom (DMH), Cecil Flournoy (City of Inglewood), Simone Binder (Community), Mary Agnes Erlanson (St. Marg's Center), Kathee Van Horn (Calvary Presby), Mychael Castillo (Exodus), Sharice Sowell (LAUSD), Ed Gonzalez (1736 FCC), Melody Davis (Safe Families for Children), Deniquia Berry-Golston (TUSD), Jennifer LaMarque (SBCCOG), Nauman Moladina (Care Industry).

1. **Welcome & Introductions.** SBCEH Co-chair Nancy Wilcox opened the meeting at 9:40 a.m. Everyone introduced themselves and gave their affiliation.
2. **Hosting Agency Overview.** Nick Rasmussen and Jonathan Pascual gave an overview of Family Promise of the South Bay. Its interfaith network of over 30 congregations provides shelter and food for homeless families, establishing a routine that keeps their lives as normal as possible. With the large number of congregations, they are able to form clusters like in San Pedro, where five churches and 1 synagogue work collaboratively.
3. **Meeting Minutes Review.** The October meeting minutes were approved without change.
4. **Advocacy Committee Report Back.** Paul Stansbury reported on the following:
 - a. At its October 31st meeting, the LA County Board of Supervisors (BoS) passed a motion to explore options to provide conservatorship to persons "who are gravely disabled." Dr. Sherin, DMH Director, made 13 recommendations about this. Staff will have 60 days to report back to the BoS. Concerns about how this condition is defined were brought up along with how law enforcement evaluates this inconsistently. Supervisor Kuehl was the only dissenting vote because of civil rights concerns.
 - b. On December 14th, there will be a Mental Health Town Hall at the South Bay Botanic Gardens with DMH Commissions in attendance. This will be an important opportunity to raise homelessness issues with them.
5. **Continuum of Care (CoC) Board Report Back.** SPA 8's CoC Board rep Ryan Macy-Hurley was attending the LAHSA Regional Homeless Advisory Council but provided the following report that Nancy gave on his behalf:
 - a. VAWA Policy Changes (Violence Against Women Act). HUD is mandating changes that include the emergency transfer from the tenant's current unit to another unit, and bifurcation of the lease when violence has occurred. LAHSA wants to have these same rules for all CoC-wide funded programs, which will impact all providers, not just traditional domestic violence agencies. She gave the following example: If there was no history of violence prior to the clients being placed into housing, but an episode occurred after being placed in rapid re-housing, then the RRH provider must now comply with the proposed new rules. There will be a two week comment period on the LAHSA policy. The October 11th briefing prepared for the CoC Board and draft language on the new policy were distributed. Please direct your comments to Ryan and LAHSA.
 - b. Requested Waivers to HUD CoC Programs. LAHSA is requesting the following waivers that will affect housing providers:
 - i. Changing RRH requirement from having a 12 month lease to a month-to-month option. Other CoC's throughout the country have requested and received this waiver. It is attached for information.
 - ii. Change HUD Quality Standards (HQS) to increase the number of occupants that can reside in apartments. There is no precedent for this so it is unclear how the waiver will be received by HUD.
 - c. CoC Board Alternate Representative. Currently SPA 8 does not have an alternate CoC Board representative. The By-Laws are being changed to provide direction on how to fill such open positions. Nancy encouraged people to consider applying for this position when a call for applicants is made.

6. Co-Chairs' Report. Nancy reported on:

- a. Working on the Measure H City Planning grants, specifically on organizing a bus supportive housing tour for key elected city officials and staff.
- b. Changing the General Meeting schedule starting in January. It was decided to move them to the fourth Wednesday of the month with a 9:30 am start time. For the months of January and November, the meetings will be held on the second Wednesday to accommodate the Homeless Count and Thanksgiving, respectively. No meetings will be held in December.
- c. As Homeless Count 2018 is stepping into high gear, we are continuing to look for more coalition members to deepen the deployment site support and leadership. She encouraged people to sign up to be assistants.

7. LAHSA Quarterly Community Meeting. Megan Emme, SPA 8 Regional Coordinator, welcomed everyone. She distributed the LA County's Homeless Initiative's "Measure H Implementation Highlights – November 2017" and directed questions about it to LAHSA's Sharon VerGow. Staff gave the following presentations (please note the following supplemental information below was brought up in discussions):

- a. Policy Updates. Dalma Diaz explained that LAHSA is creating CES policies in a two-committee manner: the first is the working group that develops the policy, and the second "policy council" reviews and approves them. This council is composed of senior stakeholder representatives, and their meetings are open to the public. Their work will conclude in late January when all the policies must be approved to meet the HUD timeline. Questions can be directed to policy@lahsa.org.

During the VAWA overview, a question was asked if providers will receive additional funding to implement the changes. That should be addressed by the Program department after the new policy is in place.

- b. Capacity Building and Technical Assistance. Alison Korte went into more details on the Training slide. Different organizations will be providing various aspects of it: LAHSA will provide HMIS training; "Bootcamps" are planned for the Program Implementation of programs such as RRH, Crisis Housing, etc.; "Train the Trainer" model will be used to teach the Assessments for all three CES systems (Individuals, Families, Youth). The use of webinars will be utilized for some of these components.
- c. LAHSA Funding Opportunities. Chris Coaloa gave the approximate funding levels of the upcoming RFP's: Capital Costs RFP: ~ \$5 Million; Shallow Subsidy ~\$3.9 Million; Housing Location: \$2 Million; Representative Payee: \$650K. The Capital Costs RFP can be used for the acquisition of new crisis and bridge housing units, including the long term lease or new construction of them. The Shallow Subsidy is for existing RRH recipients, to help for a longer time period with their rent burden.

Questions were raised that Chris will follow up on: (1) If the Capital Costs RFP can be bid on by providers in the Long Beach CoC; (2) How the Housing Location RFP aligns with the CES-Families enhancement contract that funds a similar position. Perhaps this RFP is working with "system" partners such as the VA, DMH, DHS? (3) Is LAHSA seeking one or two providers that can cover the entire CoC and/or County, especially for the Housing Location and Representative Payee grants?

- d. The following items were not covered but will be moved to our December meeting: HMIS, Community Info Sessions, 2018 Greater LA Homeless Count.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.