

**South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness (SBCEH) General Meeting  
and Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Quarterly Community Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, November 18, 2015, 9:30 am – 11:30 am  
Providence Health and Services, Wellness Center  
470 N. Hawaiian Ave, Wilmington

**Attendees:** Hosting Agency: Rafael Garcia, Justin Joe, David Diaz; Guest Speakers: Lyndi Bell, Ronald Williams; Others: Co-Chair Mark Silverbush, Brianna Arreob (Fred Brown Recovery Services), Mary Bartel (Project Needs), George Bell (Lutheran Social Services), Keith Bennett (City of Carson), Dan Bradford (King Harbor Church), Gabriela Cerpa (US Vets), Tracey Duncan (City of Inglewood), Cinder Eller-Kimbell (City of Inglewood PD), Deborah Gibson (Homes for Life), Felecia Howard (US Vets), Caitlin Kelly (CSULB), Rick Kochheim (Redondo PD), Ryan Macy-Hurley (1736), Bobbie Nashed (Alliance for Housing and Healing (AHH)), Jessy Needham (CPAF), Yolanda Polony (DPSS), Alma Ramos (AHH), Ric Reed (First To Serve), Ara Reoyo (DPSS), Bill Robertson (Community Activist), Elaine Ruggiero (BHS), Paul Stansbury (NAMI), Serennah Tutt-Erwin (SHARE!), Valerie Williams (DMH), Nancy Wilcox (St. Peter's By The Sea), Sid Wilson (Walteria United Methodist), Wayne Windman (Redondo PD).

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** SBCEH co-chair Mark Silverbush opened the meeting at 9:40 am. He gave an overview of the Coalition and then asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.
2. **Hosting Agency Overview.** Justin Joe explained that Providence has two medical centers in our region, in San Pedro and Torrance. It also has a community health department operating outside these centers that work with neighboring schools with a mobile medical service. He informed the attendees Providence is an integral part of the region's Coordinated Entry System (CES), ensuring those we house have access to health insurance and have a clinic/doctor near where they live.  
  
Rafael Garcia gave an overview of the Wellness Center. It has been open for two years and was established to provide linkages to services in the immediate neighborhood. Its mission is to help the most vulnerable. Services are free to the community, with the costs covered by grants. He invited our member agencies to consider using this venue for agency activities.
3. **Minutes Review and Approval.** The September 2015 meeting minutes were not available but will be reviewed during the December meeting (Note: the October General Meeting was canceled).
4. **Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Quarterly Community Report.** Ronald Williams, Los Angeles Continuum of Care (CoC) Planning Coordinator at LAHSA, led a discussion asking what the barriers are to services in the South Bay. Responses included:
  - a. Few emergency shelter beds, with none publically funded for individuals in SPA 8
  - b. Clients are penalized when they earn more money as benefits are reduced

- c. Clients are discouraged from being proactive – for example, if they find temporary housing with friends or in a motel, this affects their chronicity status. Mark commented there is confusion around the definition of “chronic” homelessness. He said HUD is soon releasing an updated definition.
- d. There are few emergency shelter beds for homeless families. Concerns were raised about families having to split up to get shelter.
- e. Lack of motel vouchers
- f. A client had her SSI cut because she was now living in an apartment with a kitchen (Jessy Needham explained the rationale in that preparing one’s own meals is less expensive than eating convenience food)
- g. Provide incentives for the development of more affordable housing
- h. Provide opportunities for those underemployed or unemployed

Ronald then went on to describe the planning efforts underway by the County and City of LA. A question was raised on how we can be more involved with this. He responded by encouraging us to read the [strategies briefs](#) coming from these sessions and provide feedback on them. He also suggested we contact our local elected officials. The City is funneling more funding in preparation for El Nino. Tahia Hayslet suggested we have a separate provider meeting to understand each other’s needs and then give this feedback to LAHSA.

He continued by saying \$200 million has been identified by the City and County to help with the homelessness problem. When asked who will get this funding, Ronald said there will be request for proposals (RFP) released. Smaller organizations such as churches are encouraged to partner with larger established homeless providers to collaborate on asking for this funding.

Nancy Wilcox raised the issue of LAHSA virtually eliminating its HUD funding for transitional housing programs in the last notice of funding availability cycle (LAHSA requested over \$100 million for the LA CoC from HUD). It was a strategic decision made because HUD has said these types of programs are a low priority to fund. The concern she had is that LAHSA made this decision without public input.

Ronald then moved on to the next topic of wanting feedback on what we would like to see presented at future LAHSA Quarterly meetings. Feedback for this included:

- a. Present a timeline of new proposed housing
- b. Present details of the planning taking place within the City and County
- c. How LAHSA is advocating for additional shelter beds and other resources in our region
- d. Information on programs and upcoming RFPs, like it used to present
- e. Technical assistance on community planning, including how the faith community can be better integrated in with mainstream services

Nancy requested that LAHSA communicate with the Coalition before the meetings are held about the feedback they are seeking so people have time to gather information and reflect on their needs.

5. **Homeless Count 2016 Planning.** Lyndi Bell, SPA 8's Homeless Count Regional Coordinator, gave the following report. She explained the "Opt-In" program, where cities take responsibility for conducting the Count in their municipality. Seven out of 28 cities/neighborhoods have agreed to this to date. Our Coalition will opt-in for the remaining areas. Our goal is to count 100% of the tracts like we accomplished in the last Count. Starting in December, her main focus will be on recruiting volunteers. Special teams from LAHSA (Emergency Response (Outreach) Team) will be deployed across the county to help in more difficult areas to reach.
6. **Co-Chair's Report.** Mark encouraged everyone to come out this week's HomeWalk organized by United Way. It is a great opportunity to learn about other programs addressing homelessness. Our Coalition will have a booth where we will provide information on the South Bay's homeless, along with agency information (including volunteer opportunities). Nancy introduced Rev. Ric Reed, whose organization First To Serve is operating our newly opened Inglewood Winter Shelter Program.
7. **Member Agency Announcements.**
  - a. CPAF has a Holiday Wish List where volunteers can learn about and give a gift to a specific person in its program.
  - b. The VA Stand Down that US Veterans Initiative is organizing will be held December 19-21 at the LA Convention Center. This is the nation's largest such event, last year serving over 2,000 Vets.
  - c. St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Redondo Beach is having a Thanksgiving meal program, co-sponsored with other area churches. Gently used jackets will be distributed to those attending.
  - d. Inglewood Police Department is holding its toy drive, with the collection starting on November 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - e. First Lutheran Church in Redondo Beach is having a family program on December 5<sup>th</sup> where they expect 450-500 children.
  - f. Alliance for Housing and Healing provides PSH for chronically homeless individuals with HIV/AIDS and other challenging conditions. It is looking for landlords who will rent to its clients.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.