



**South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness
General Meeting Minutes
for November 18, 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.

Special Topic #1: San Pedro Navigation Center. Amanda Brear with Volunteers of America explained the function of this center is to provide storage and light-touch case management for the unhoused living in the surrounding areas. It is located next to the San Pedro police station on John S. Gibson Blvd (please see the attached information flyer).

- Belongings can be stored in a 60-gallon bin indefinitely, but participants must check in once a week either by phone or in person. Items will be stored up to 90 days if they do not do this, after which time the belongs are discarded. During this 90-day period, several attempts are made to contract the owner. As part of the intake process, participants have the opportunity to identify others who are allowed to check in for them (like a family member, friend, or housing navigator).
- On-site case managers give referrals for requested services, such as job placement, shelter, etc. They provide support in making these connections, recognizing the extra challenges during the COVID pandemic as many offices are closed and only taking appointments over the phone. CES assessments can be given as well for those people wanting services through this framework.
- The facility is open six days a week, Monday through Saturday, with the case managers working M-F. No appointments are necessary but helpful to have.
- Their case management capacity is working with 90 active clients at a time, . They are “exited” from the program once a successful referral has a made. Currently, there are 57 active clients. This includes a mixture of those who are just utilizing their storage program, just want case management, or both.
- The facility can store 165 bins on-site, with 22 available currently. This number varies because some participants have not checked in during the 90 day grace period.
- Families experiencing homeless can welcome. Each adult can enroll separately to maximize the number of storage bins the family unit could use.
- It is funded through the City of LA for the next three years and thus is for clients living in CD15. Other programs currently in the City are located in CD2 and CD8. aq
- Street outreach done every Tuesday. If you know of someone desiring these services who can’t make it to the center, let them know and they will try to meet them to complete both the intake process and pick-up the belongings they want stored.
- Amanda told of story of a woman living on the streets who refused all services, but finally was motivated to use the storage program when she heard LA Sanitation was coming to her street. Once she used this service, she was more accepting of later receiving case management support. She wanted to move to Pomona so the case manager was able to connect her to the shelter in this city.

Special Topic #2: “Unite Us” Coordinated Care Network. Karla Torres of Unite Us explained that this technology referral network platform is for any organization that has helpful community resources for those experiencing homelessness. (please refer to her attached briefing).

- Janae Oliver, Community Health Manager of Kaiser South Bay, explained that Kaiser Permanente is a partner because they saw the great need to have such an automated network from community “needs survey” they conduct every three years. Blue Shield is also a key partner.
- Unite Us is currently used in over 40 states, providing referrals for all populations of those unhoused (e.g., Veterans, domestic violence, individuals, families, etc.). They are active in 20 California counties, with 90+ agencies in LA, including Salvation Army and Harbor Interfaith.
- Their platform is unique from other online referral networks in that it is used by the organizations and not for participants. Referrals are made through it, with an automatic email reply generated once a client accepts the referral, thus streamlining the traditional paper or phone interface.
- Clients just have to explain their situation one time so they will not get retraumatized by retelling it over and over to each organization providing a service that they accept.
- This platform is for a diversity of organizations: both those that have services as well as others that want to refer people to them (such as cities, churches, etc.). As an example, the City of Bell Gardens is part of the network. They are in discussions with “211” and other referral platforms about having them join Unite Us.
- She gave a demo to demonstrate many of the features highlighted in the briefing.

Member Announcements.

- Tom Haberkorn with SHARE! collaborative housing reported that they will be opening a new house in Long Beach and two others in Torrance.
- Jennifer Pesavento with Torrance’s SoCal ROC said its dental and medical assistance classes are starting soon, and that spring semester registration is now open.

(Note: Because of time constraints, the “Homelessness 101 Awareness Slide Deck” was rescheduled for a future meeting, and the Co-Chairs’ Report was also omitted.)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:34 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.