

South Bay Coalition for the Homeless General Membership Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 10, 2014

Elizabeth Ann Seton Family Shelter

2198 San Gabriel Avenue, Long Beach, CA

Attendees: *Guest Speaker: Sharon Stewart (HIS); Others: Mark Silverbush (SPCH), Carrie Bach (DPH), Ameerah Brown (US Vets), Chery Carew (Family Promise), Amanda Cepeda (Communities in Motion), Cheryl Castillo (Alliance for Housing & Healing), Elizabeth Eastlund (Rainbow), Alexander Hall (CSP-NC), Tahia Hayslet (HIS), Ellen Hong (CPAF), Maria Hernandez (Rainbow), Julie Jacks (Family Promise), Veronique Johnson (Catholic Charities), Jamie Kugelberg (Illumination Foundation), Louis Mena (School on Wheels), Jeannie Meyer (Long Beach Memorial), Emma Ogley-Oliver (Marymount CA Univ), Yolanna Polony (DPSS), Ana Reoyo (DPSS), Elaine Ruggiero (BHS), Jeremy Sidell (PATH), Paul Stansbury (NAMI), Grace Weltman (Communities in Motion), Nancy Wilcox (St Peter's By The Sea Presbyterian).*

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** Mark Silverbush opened the meeting at 10:12 am by thanking our hosts, Catholic Charities. Everyone then introduced themselves.
2. **Minutes Review and Approval.** The November 2014 meeting minutes were approved as submitted.
3. **Hosting Agency Overview.** Barry Hackman, Regional Director of Catholic Charities (CC), gave an overview of this agency. His "San Pedro Region" covers the Harbor Area, east to Whittier, and north to Culver City. CC provides a wealth of services that include: housing and food distributions (Long Beach and now in Pico Rivera), utility assistance, rental assistance, and motel vouchers. People access these services through the Long Beach Multi-Service Center (MSC) with no residency restrictions. They also have a Wilmington site that now distributes food and provides case management, but does not offer housing. (Note: Please refer to the handouts found after the meeting minutes for additional information about their programs.)
4. **Featured Speaker: Sharon Stewart,** Homeless Family Solutions System (HFSS) Director for SPA 8, from Harbor Interfaith Services. (Note: The notes below reflect additional information she presented beyond what was on her briefing, which is attached to these minutes).
 - a. HFSS is a countywide program administered from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). This is the first year SPA 8 has had an HFSS, which is in its second program year.
 - b. In addition to the unique program elements listed on page 3 of her handout, there is a representative from the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) onsite to expedite services with this agency; DPSS is also the primary funder of this program, providing about 80% of the fiscal resources. Other services beyond housing are offered with the collaboration of the partner SPA 8 agencies, including mental health, and substance abuse program and counseling. These are all under one roof with the goal to provide ease of access for the families.

- c. The Housing Plan is customized for the unique needs of each family. Financial assistance is offered, sometime for up to 6 months; paying for a security deposit and utility fees, credit check and move in costs are also available. Case management can be maintained up to 12 months to ensure housing stability.
- d. Families meet bi-weekly with their case managers to status their progress and address any issues that arise. Additional services can be brought in at any time as needed.
- e. They have already enrolled 200 families.

Several questions were asked (the responses are highlighted below):

- Grandparents can participate in the program after they show their grandchildren are in their legal custody.
- Victims of domestic violence can be referred to other SPA's HFSS or DV programs as needed to ensure the safety of the family.
- There continues to be a high volume of calls and referrals, upwards of 40 a day. It takes 2 hours to do the intake paperwork. Because of these factors, some calls are not returned with the goal of 24-hours.
- HFSS is working with the VA's Supportive Services to Veteran Families (SSVF) program.
- A case manager can usually get a family into shelter temporarily while a more permanent, stable housing option is being worked. Motel vouchers, along with diversion strategies of staying with family or friends are also options.
- Contact Sharon if we encounter a homeless family, or the nearest HFSS to the community in which they are connected (e.g., where their children attend school)

5. SBCH Committee Coordination: Governance. Emma Ogleby-Oliver gave the following report on the By-Laws creation status:

- a. They reflect the Coalition's focus areas reaffirmed at the last planning retreat: providing coordination, education, and advocacy.
- b. She reviewed questions to consider before voting on the By-Laws:
 - i. What is a realistic term limit for serving the coalition to ensure productivity without overwhelming individuals? We want to balance the need to foster and grow new fresh leadership, yet maintain expertise without burning out the leadership. Those in attendance felt 1 year was a reasonable time.
 - ii. How should we define active membership/voting rights? There was discussion around offering different membership levels: (1) "Active" members who support us at least 5 times a year by participating in meetings or events held that are sponsored/supported by the Coalition – they would have voting rights. (2) "Affiliates" could include those who provide ancillary support, for example, from other regional coalitions. "Friends" would be those non-participating organizations or community persons whose primary focus is to provide donations.

- c. The timeline to get approval of the By-Laws was discussed. Most agreed we could bring it to an approval vote at the January meeting. However, Nancy cautioned she wanted to ensure everyone had ample time to review the next draft before calling for a vote.

6. Homeless Count (HC) 2015 Planning. Grace Weltman, SPA 8's HC Regional Coordinator, gave the following update:

- a. Amanda Cepeda is working with her on this effort.
- b. The primary focus now is to recruit the needed volunteers.
- c. The "Opt-In" city status: Torrance has agreed to opt-in. The South Bay Cities Council of Governments has been engaged and is an important partner. Cities that are not taking the lead on opting in will nevertheless collaborate and assist us in the Count in their communities; an example are the communities in Councilman Buscaino's 15th District (City of LA).
- d. We have 17 sites from which to choose. Grace has made arrangements to have a table set up at the Torrance Farmer's Market to publicize and recruit volunteers.
- e. There is a planning meeting this afternoon for the Youth Count. It will be from 3-5 at the Lennox Library. We will be identifying youth homelessness hot spots to target on the January 27th Youth Count.

7. Co-Chairs' Report. Nancy Wilcox and Mark filed the following report:

- a. She distributed a draft copy of the Beach Cities/Central SPA 8 Pocket Guide for review.
- b. She met with Professor Michael Powe of Marymount California University about designing a new Coalition logo to go with our new name, South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness. His class will present three designs in March 2015 from which we can choose.
- c. LAPD Harbor Division worked with LAHSA and CES to hold a quarterly outreach event hosted at Beacon House.
- d. People with pets are proving challenging to find housing for. Nancy would like to identify options for these people. Julie suggested PetSmart is offering kennels and food. Mark suggested looking for guidance in "SSVF University."
- e. We continue to participate in the City of Redondo Beach's Homeless Task Force. At these meetings, their police describe daily interactions with homeless individuals. Mark said the city acknowledges this problem and wants a better understanding of homelessness and how to better target resources to be more effective.

8. Announcements. The following announcements were made:

- a. Paul Stansbury described "Hacienda of Hope," which offers respite care in the Villages. These beds, 4 for women and 4 for men, are for those with mental illness.
- b. Elaine Ruggiero announced FQHC BHS Family Health Clinic will be opening in Hawthorne and serving those in neighboring cities.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Carrie Bach.



**HOMELESS FAMILY SOLUTIONS
SYSTEM (HFSS)
SERVICE PLANNING AREA
(SPA 8)**

HFSS OBJECTIVE

Mission is to create a seamless, cooperative system of service delivery for homeless families throughout LA County to reduce the overall impact of homelessness and the number of families who experience homelessness

Objective

- Reduce the length of time families experience homelessness to less than 45 days
- No family goes unsheltered
- Coordination of community based resources to rapidly re-house families into permanent housing



COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Funded Partners

- Catholic Charities
- PATH
- US Vets

Unfunded Partners

- Interval House
- St. Margaret Center
- Goodwill
- MHA
- Options for Recovery
- South Bay Coalition for the Homeless
- Community's Child
- Rainbow Services
- Torrance Memorial Hospital



REFERRALS

- 211 – L.A. County “Info Line”
 - Emergency Shelters
 - Transitional housing programs
 - Community Organizations
 - Self referral – walk ins
- 

WHAT MAKES HFSS UNIQUE

What

- Primary goal is permanent housing for all homeless families
- Families do not have to leave their own communities

- Direct access to housing and services

- Targeted Interventions

Why

- This is the solution and it is most cost effective
 - Leverages existing community based infrastructures for serving homeless families. Aids by enabling them to maintain connections to support systems
 - Ensures that families do not have to go to multiple places to obtain housing stability
 - Ensures that homeless families receive intervention that best meets their needs
- 

CRITERIA

Homeless families with at least one
child under the age of 18



FAMILY SOLUTION CENTER SERVICES

- Crisis Response
 - Standardized Screening using VI-F-SPDAT and Standardized Assessment
 - Access to crisis housing, motels, shelters, transitional housing
- Housing Plans
 - Rapid Re-Housing
 - Permanent Supportive Housing
- Financial assistance plan coordinated among multiple funding streams
- DPSS CalWorks Resources
 - Homeless Assistance Programs
 - Mental health services
 - Substance abuse services
 - Temporary Subsidized Employment



HFSS ASSESSMENT

VI-F-SPDAT/Standardized Assessment Tool

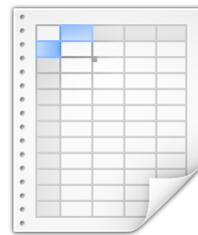
- Questions Include:
 - Number of children
 - History of Housing & Homelessness
 - Length of time homeless & # of times housed & then homeless again
 - Risk Factors
 - Health & Emergency Services – Emergency Room, interactions with police, hospitalizations and risky behaviors
 - Socialization & Daily Functions
 - Income, debts to others, planned daily activities & hygiene
 - Wellness
 - Receiving healthcare & identification of medical conditions including mental illness & substance use.
 - Family Unit
 - Changes in family relationships, number of times child has been separated from family, child enrolled in school.
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HOUSING PLAN

- Housing plan score determines level of barriers to housing:
 - High barriers - the family is recommended for interim housing and or permanent supportive housing and up to 12 months of case management.
 - Medium barriers – the family is recommended for interim housing or Rapid Re-Housing Assessment and up to 9 months of case management.
 - Low barriers – the family is recommended interim housing or Rapid Re-Housing Assessment and up to 3 months of case management.
- 

Case Conferencing

Case Managers
Substance Abuse Counselor
DMH Counselor
Family Therapist



FSC PROVIDERS

SPA 1	Valley Oasis
SPA 2	LA Family Housing
SPA 3	Union Station Homeless Services
SPA 4	PATH
SPA 5	St. Joseph
SPA 6	Weingart Center Association
SPA 7	The Whole Child
SPA 8	Harbor Interfaith Services



THANK YOU!

Sharon Stewart (HFSS):
sstewart@harborinterfaith.org
Phone # 310-831-0589 ext. 237





Catholic
Charities
of Los Angeles, Inc.

San Pedro Region

123 E. 14th Street, Long Beach CA 90813 Phone 562.591.1641

“Providing Help”

“Creating Hope”

“Serving All People”

Services

Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence

2198 San Gabriel Ave, Long Beach, CA 90810

Emergency shelter for homeless families, the disabled, and the elderly. Up to 45 day of care with placement into housing.

Community Services Center

123 E. 14th Street, Long Beach CA 90813

Assistance in food, clothing, shelter, utilities, and transportation. Case Management services. Gatekeeper Project brings a friendly visitor with food and other help to homebound elderly.

Family Resource Center

5014 Passons Blvd, Pico Rivera, CA 90660

Basic assistance in food, utilities, and transportation.

Mahar House Family Development Network

1115 Mahar Ave, Wilmington CA 90744

Case management, professional counseling, parenting and youth classes. Basic assistance in food, utilities, transportation.

Persons or groups who wish to know more can call 562.591.1641



Catholic
Charities
of Los Angeles, Inc.

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc. San Pedro Region

Providing Help

Creating Hope

Serving All People

Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence

for homeless families, the disabled, and the elderly

2194-2198 San Gabriel Avenue

Century Villages at Cabrillo

Long Beach, CA 90810

Emergency shelter for up to 45 days-
24 hour care including private
rooms for families, nutritious
meals, clothing, transportation

Case Management Services
moving families from "in-crisis
to safe and stable housing



Photo by Cindy Schafer, Synergy Images

Job preparation, parenting and life skills classes

On site services including school and child care

Health care, employment, mental health and other assistance from
the Long Beach Multi-Service Center

How Can You Help?

- Hold a drive to bring in hygiene items or baby items.
- Hold a fund raiser to provide help, create hope.
- Volunteer to tutor children or support family activities.

Call 562.591.1641 for further information.



Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.
San Pedro Region

Providing Help

Creating Hope

Serving All People

Project Achieve
for homeless men and women
located in Long Beach, CA

Emergency shelter for up to 90 days-
including overnight bed, breakfast
and dinner, and transportation

Case Management Services
moving individuals from "in-crisis"
to safe and stable housing



Photo by Cindy Schafer, Synergy Images

Daily pick-up points for transportation to and from the shelter

Health care, employment, mental health and other assistance from
the Long Beach Multi-Service Center for the Homeless

How Can You Help?

- Donate bed sheets, towels or personal hygiene items.
- Hold a fund raiser to provide help, create hope.
- Organize a guest chef group to bring in and serve a meal once a month.

Call 562.591.1641 for further information.



Project Achieve
123 East 14th Street
Long Beach, CA 90813
Ph. 562.218.9864
Fax 562.218.9841

Project Achieve

The Project Achieve Emergency Shelter is a 59 bed year round shelter. The shelter is designed to house 43 single males and 16 single females.

The main objective is to move residents into more stable housing such as transitional, permanent supportive, or permanent housing within 60 days after entering the program. A 30 day extension is available on a case by case basis.

The purpose of the shelter is to break the cycle of homelessness. All residents are required to adhere to a structured case management plan and to meet with their case manager regularly. Case Plans will reflect each persons needs and residents will need to show progress on goals agreed upon in their case management meetings. Residents are required to sign and abide by the Client Agreement as well as the Client Program Requirements which indicate the rules and guidelines of Project Achieve shelter life. In addition, the residents are encouraged to participate in a savings plan, which focuses on saving at least 80% of their adjusted income.

The shelter's hours of operation are from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 a.m. seven days a week.

All clients must have an agency referral and attend an assessment interview to determine eligibility into the program.



Catholic
Charities
of Los Angeles, Inc.

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc. San Pedro Region

Providing Help

Creating Hope

Serving All People

Family Source Center at Mahar House

Serving the Wilmington, San Pedro, Harbor City/Harbor Gateway
Communities

1115 Mahar Ave.

Wilmington, CA 90744

Case management services assisting families to move from "in-crisis" to safe and stable

Classes to increase family functioning and individual skills

Classes in financial literacy and computer literacy

After school tutoring for youth

Immigration services and citizenship application



Photo by Cindy Schafer, Synergy Images

How Can You Help?

- Hold a drive to bring in food, personal hygiene items, or baby items.
- Hold a fund raiser to provide help, create hope.
- Donate new toys at Christmas or baskets at Easter.
- Be an after-school tutor for youth.

Call 562.591.1641 for further information.



Catholic
Charities
of Los Angeles, Inc.

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.

San Pedro Region

Providing Help

Creating Hope

Serving All People

Pico Rivera Family Resource Center

5014 Passons Blvd.
Pico Rivera, CA 90660
Phone: 562.949.0937

Basic Assistance

Food
Transportation
Hygiene items
Diapers
Motel vouchers



Photo by Cindy Schafer, Synergy Images

Case management and referral services to help families/individuals achieve self-sufficiency

Direct assistance with CalFresh (Food Stamp) application

DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION - Monday at 9am to 12 noon

How Can You Help?

- Hold a drive to bring in food, personal hygiene items, or baby food and diapers
- Hold a fund raiser to provide help, create hope.
- Donate new toys at Christmas or baskets at Easter.

Call 562.949.0937 for further information.