

South Bay Coalition for to End Homelessness General Meeting

Wednesday, December 14, 2016 , 9:30 – 11:30 am

St. John Fisher Church, 5448 Crest Road, Rancho Palos Verdes

Attendees: Guest Speakers: Grace Weltman, Stephanie Inayma (Communities In Motion); Hosting Agency: Missy Jesse (St. John Fisher); Others: Mark Silverbush (SBCEH), Janeth Ventura (PATH), Elaine Ruggiero (BHS), Shari Weaver (HIS), Gina DiPietro (ICF), Serena Josel (Kaiser Permanente), Patima Komolamit (CPAF), Zhen McCullom (DMH), Cinder Eller (Inglewood PD), Tracey Duncan (City of Inglewood), Cheryl Castillo (AHH), Robert Espinoza (1736), Vincent Adkison (BHS), Nicole Columbare (PATH), Keith Bennett (City of Carson), Veronica Turner (Harbor/UCLA), Mychael Castillo (Exodus), Felecia Howard (US Vets), Jan Nowinski (Mary & Joseph Retreat Ctr), Lao Moua (PATH), Isela Hernandez (PATH), Bob Chiota (Torrance Commissioner), Nick Rasmussen (Family Promise), Sharonda Webber-Christmas (Goodwill SOLAC).

Welcome and Introductions

Mark Silverbush welcomed attendees and self-introductions were made. He explained that Nancy Wilcox was on vacation and asked for a volunteer note taker in her absence. Shavonda Webber-Christmas with Goodwill SOLAC volunteered.

Hosting Agency Overview

Misty Jesse of St. John Fisher Church gave an overview of St. Johns Fisher Center noting that they host homeless families through Family Promise of the South Bay 4-5 times per year and work with Agape in Tijuana. Mark invited any agency interested in hosting a future meeting to sign-up on the list at the sign-in table.

Mark shared an overview of the SBCEH and that the coalition is the expert on homelessness in the South Bay. They use the information and data to educate and advocate for the needs of the homeless.

Minutes Review and Approval

The October 19th SBCEH meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

Planning for SPA 8/South Bay Homeless Count on January 25th - Paul Lange, Los Angeles Housing Services Authority (LAHSA)

Paul Lange presented the needs for the 2017 Homeless Count in SPA 8. He explained the four components of the Homeless Count are:

- 1) street count,
- 2) demographic survey which provides information regarding gender, ethnicity, age, etc. gathered via approximately 5000 surveyors that go out to into area,
- 3) youth count which specifically targets TAY with methods similar to the demographic survey but focused on confirming age and
- 4) shelter Count – which asks shelters in the areas their capacity and the number being hosted on the night of the Count

Question: How do you get to the youth? LAHSA is informed where youth typically hang out by youth service providers in the area. Their team take that information back to prep for the current year's count.

Paul informed attendees that the new website to register for the January 2017 Homeless Count has launched. He noted that three types of volunteers are needed. Tally Sheet Validators, who verify the numbers noted on the Street Counters' tally sheet. This position requires some analytical skills but not extraordinary technical skills. LAHSA is encouraging local leadership in the Count to provide Site

Coordinators, including supporting roles. Deployment sites also needs Assistant Site Coordinators. In total, there are approximately 20 -200 volunteers needed per site.

Question: Is there an age requirement to participate in the count? Street Count volunteers must be 18+, however youth age 14-17 can volunteer at the deployment site. Would need to discuss which location with Paul Lange/staff, as some do not utilize youth volunteers.

Following comment from an attendee, Paul mentioned that deployment centers are expected to provide coffee and refreshments/snacks for their site. If no budget is allocated for this purpose, centers can request donations from local businesses, which may help increase interest/advocacy for homelessness among more of the community.

Question: How many sites total? Approximately 130. This count excludes Pasadena, Glendale and Long Beach.

Training is scheduled for January 11, 2017 for SPA 8 Site Coordinators and Assistant Site Coordinators. Onsite training will be provided through a new professional video for all onsite volunteers. Mark recommended interested attendees add a star to your name on the sign-in sheet so additional information can be sent to them.

Youth Count – there's a planning session scheduled for early/mid-January. Blitz Day (for Youth Count) is January 30, 2017. A targeted email will be sent out for those interested. They prefer people with experience working with TAY or lived experience.

Shelter Count– If you receive a survey regarding shelter asking for contact for shelters not on LAHSA's list, submit any additional sites you are aware of. The deadline has been extended to Monday, December 19, 2016. This includes all non-government issued hotel vouchers, like churches/crisis housing).

Question: Will people who sign-up on the website get direction as to which city they are assigned to? Yes. Follow-up question: what happens if a site gets maxed out over time? Volunteers will be redirected to the next closest site.

Question: Are there any cities looking to get opted in or increase levels of participation? Opt-in partners are completely covered. Most deployment sites could use more volunteers – on-site support. Paul noted which 5 sites that were fully covered; all others need more volunteers. Paul also acknowledged that most people sign-up in January, so the numbers as of now are encouraging. They currently have about 25% of the targeted 400 needed for the South Bay.

Mark thanked Paul for the update and noted that the Homeless Count provides data that enables advocates to leverage involvement around homelessness. He reiterated the date, Wednesday, January 25th for South Bay and Thursday, January 26th at 5pm for Long Beach.

Question: How are homeless families in cars counted? Strategies to count vehicular homelessness differ. They only count the car, not the number in the car. They will get the numbers from the demographic survey which comes from a sample.

Guest Speaker: Metro Homeless Planning – Grace Weltman & Stephanie Inyama, Communities in Motion

Grace explained that Communities in Motion is working on homelessness with Metro as Metro recognized the issue of homelessness on trains and buses and wanted to plan with the community to address the needs of this population. She further explained the structure of Metro, the primary areas they were targeting, who were key stakeholders, and engaged attendees in a feedback period regarding strategies and ideas around the issue.

A PowerPoint presentation is available for key points of the presentation. Feedback from attendees is attached.

Co-Chair's Report

- Winter Shelter - Mark reminded everyone that they winter shelter will soon begin for about 3 months to evade risk to the homeless. They are using a new provider, First to Serve in Long Beach, but the site will be the same as previous. It is off Atlantic at 6845 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach. Shari will provide more information to be sent out to the coalition.
- 100 Day Youth Challenge – an effort to do as much as we can to get 100 people housed in LA. It began in September and ends soon. Focus on youth – already at 17 youth placements, exceeding goal.
- A SBCEH Hospital Subcommittee is being developed due to interest with respect to the ACA. Currently have interest from Kaiser Permanente, Torrance Memorial South Bay, Provident Little Company of Mary and Harbor UCLA. UHHP County coordinated training will also be pursued.

Mark gave an update on behalf of the Advocacy Committee in Paul Stansbury's absence.

- The Board of Supervisors voted unanimously to add a ¼ cent tax for housing to the March ballot. This is anticipated to generate a large amount of revenue for homelessness.
- Passage of HHH added \$10K for new supportive housing units. HR 34 – on the table and will send more information by email.
- NAMI Mental Health Forum in the Spring 2017.

Member Agency Announcements

Janet – PATH

- Offering Short term financial assistance to help get housing. She will leave cards on the back table for questions or referrals.

Stephanie – Communities in Motion

- Invited attendees to the Youth Stakeholder Session on 12/15 from 11 am- 2pm at Metro, 1 Gateway Plaza.
- Offered meeting attendees to come to the outreach meeting Today 12/14 from 1:30-3:30pm at 130 Plaza near Twin Towers.

Jen – St. Joh Fisher Church

- Thanked everyone and noted it was her first meeting. Asked about local Christmas meal for the homeless.

Bob Chiota –City of Torrance, Social Service Commission

- The city council approved the Commission's four strategies – homeless, veterans, adults with mental health challenges, and the youth equivalent.
- Torrance recently opened a universally accessible Bocce Ball court at Columbia Park. They are currently training people how to play.

Grace and Stephanie invited attendees to attend upcoming sessions

Respectfully submitted by Shavonda Webber-Christmas