

South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness General Meeting Minutes

Hosting Organization: Family Promise of the South Bay,
First Christian Church, 2930 El Dorado St, Torrance
Wednesday, February 26, 2020 ~ 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Attendees: Hosting Agency (Family Promise): Andrew Nishimoto. Guest Speakers: LAHSA: Carneka Grant, Alexandra Brown, Gloria Johnson, Marisol Lara, Saira Cooper, Steven Yu, Nancy Watson. LA City Attorney: Ronson Chu. Members: Nancy Wilcox (St. Peter's by the Sea Church), Kevin Collins (Oleskool Ministries), Dominique Nakagi (Center for the Pacific Asian Family), Beatrix Vega (Rainbow Services), Mercedes Kee (St. James Church), Jess Echeverry (SOFESA), Michelle Thomson (ACOF), Marie Gambon (DPH SPA 8), Delia Munoz (County Probation), Keith Bennett (City of Carson), Mary Agnes Erlandson (St. Margaret's Center), Ernesto Madrid (SA Stillman Center), Zhen McCullom (DMH), Janet Kelly (Sanctuary of Hope), Barbara Kubo (Community Member), Grace Farwell (South Bay Cities Council of Governments), Laurie Jacobs (SBCCOG), Roslyn Fanello (Beach Cities LWV), Charles Lee (DMH, Harbor/UCLA), Jeanette Christian (Senator Feinstein), Theresa Mendoza-Jagosz (Community Member).

1. **Welcome & Introductions.** SBCEH co-chair Nancy Wilcox opened the meeting at 9:40 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves and gave their affiliation.
2. **Meeting Minutes Review.** The January 2020 meeting minutes were approved without change.
3. **Advocacy Update.** Nancy gave the report in Paul Stansbury absence.
 - i. As previously discussed, Board and Cares licensed by the Community Care Licensing Divisions housing persons with a mental disability have been closing because the business model is not feasible with current funding. Most current funding has been through Supplement Security Income (SSI) or Social Security Disability Income (SSDI). The closing of board and cares has become a state wide issue especially in the urban environments with the high costs of housing and without some relieve would lead to more people becoming homeless. The Board and Cares were a primary option for most persons with a mental disability when the state hospitals closed. With the increased costs of housing and living the funding has to be revised in order to keep them operating and encouraging the development of new ones.
 - ii. In Los Angeles County the Board of Supervisors authorized a study on board and cares and ask staff to develop ways to improve the funding. The Board of Supervisors identified \$11.7 million as a first step to fund the development of an association to develop best practices, develop a bed tracking system, fund some capital improvements and provided enhanced rates of funding per person at the board and cares. The Governor in the state budget also identified board and cares as needing fund.
 - iii. These initial efforts are a beginning as the current funding for the enhanced rate only covers a small percentage of persons with a mental illness in board and cares, capital improvement needs are extensive and quality of services is low. The County is advocating at State and Federal levels for increased funding, stronger regulations to support sustainable and strong ARFs and and RCFEs
4. **Special Topic: LA City Attorney's Citation Clearing Efforts.** Ronson Chu provided handouts describing LA City's Project, along with other related programs (they are posted on SBCEH's website).
 - i. \$800 is the average amount of cumulative citations per person cleared by this project. Over \$2 million in citations have been dismissed, with 80% being from zip codes in lower income areas.

- ii. Driver licenses are often suspended until fines are cleared. This leads to difficulties getting a job, being admitted to a shelter that performs background checks, possible garnished wages, and a reduction in credit score that can be seen unfavorably by a potential landlord.
- iii. Eligible infraction tickets include minor moving violations and jaywalking. If there is an open case with the DA it must be first resolved. It is ok if the client is on probation. Parking tickets are cleared through a different program: Community Assistance Parking Program.
- iv. Members from his team attend community clinics to meet with clients. It takes 2-3 months to clear the tickets as a background check and judge must ok the requests. They are partnered with other municipalities, but in Torrance, Inglewood, and Long Beach, their city attorneys are additionally looped into the approval process.
- v. Clients do not have to be in HMIS and can self-identify as being homeless.

5. Co-Chair's Report. Nancy gave a report-out on the February National Alliance to End Homelessness National Convention, held in Oakland:

- i. Conference Background. NAEH is the major homelessness policy org in the country, and it holds two conference a year. In addition to breakout sessions on various topics, it features HUD listening sessions providing guidance on CoC National Competition, Unsheltered, SNAPs.
- ii. Conference Themes. The shift in conference sessions reflects the change in national homelessness policy. Her first NAEH Conference was in 2014 when the emphasis was on rapid rehousing for individuals and vets. This year, nearly all the presentations discussed: lack of affordable housing; living wage; racial disparity; involving those with Lived Experience; aging population: more seniors; continues to be much more data driven (saw shift ~4 yrs ago). LA County was well represented: 30% of 72 panels/breakout sessions had at least 1 LA-based presenter

6. Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's Quarterly Community Meeting. Steve Yu welcomed everyone and then handed the meeting over to Saira Cooper. Please refer to the presenters' handouts posted on SBCEH's website.

- i. Lived Experience Advisory Board Overview/Membership. Gloria Johnson and Marisol Lara explained that this Board helps shape program policies and design to ensure they are client-centered. The board representing Transitional Age Youth is accepting applications. It meets 10 hours/month and members also participate as guest for special engagements. A modest stipend is available to offset meeting expenses.
- ii. CES Refinement Process. Nancy Watson described LAHSA's process for getting feedback on CES in order to incorporate agency suggestions from future improvement. On page three of this briefing (CES Refinement Process), the first three steps have been completed, through defining the refinements. The standardization of CES processes is at the system/County level to ensure client experiences are consistent within each SPA. Plans are to simplify paperwork, generate program reports, and improve the efficiency of the overall housing process. "Housing Central Command" is a new program now operational in SPA 4 & 7, with it being rolled out into the other regions later this year. LAHSA has a working group to look at the Refinement Process' next steps.
- iii. Problem Solving. Carneka Grant and Alexandra Brown gave background on this new LAHSA housing intervention for "lower acuity" persons. It emphasizes a conversation to see how participants can explore options already open to them, such as staying with a family member or friend. In order to expand this program, members of the faith community and DMH have been invited to actively participate in this program, which requires completion of a 16-hour course. Additional training sessions have been added because of its popularity. Modest client aid is

available through this program, with it being funded with \$2.1 million currently for the entire County.

- iv. Legislative Update. Traci Kawaguchi gave an update on: Public Charge; Census 2020; Legislative Action.

The meeting concluded at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.