

South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness General Meeting Minutes
San Pedro United Methodist Church
Fellowship Hall, 580 W. 6th St, San Pedro

Wednesday, Feb 28, 2018 ~ 9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Attendees: Hosting Agency: Pastor Lisa Williams. LAHSA: Megan Emme, Kelli Pezzelle, Melissa Rojas, Candace Baker, Ben Key, Jose Delgado. Members: Co-Chair Mark Silverbush (SBCEH), Karen Ceaser (Community Advocate), Jacqueline Nichols (Community Advocate), Diane Bell (Lived Experienced Advocate), Elaine Ruggiero (Aloha Dental), Eva Michelback (Holy Trinity Church), Nick Rasmussen (Family Promise), Alex Devin (Harbor Interfaith Services), Julie Lie (Urban Community Outreach), Jermaine Strickland (US Vet Inglewood), Zhen McCullum (DMH), Mary Agnes Erlandson (St. Margaret's Center), Tara Reed (MHALA), Michelle Chambers (Assm. Mike Gipson), Chanel Smith (Rainbow Services), Nina Dolley (LINC Housing), Alma Ramos (Alliance for Housing and Healing), Mychael Castillo (Exodus Recovery), Sharice Sowell (LAUSD), DeniQuia Berry-Golston (Torrance Unified School District), Matthew Wessels (Torrance PD), Stephen Kim (Torrance PD), Jenn Hardy (Asm. Muratsuchi), Paul Stansbury (NAMI South Bay), Bill Roberson (San Pedro United Methodist), Javier Beltran (Legal Aid Foundation LA), Jessica Flores (1736 FCC), Keith Bennett (City of Carson), Tiphaine Lefevre (LINC Housing), Elias Ababa (Marymount University), Joey Solomon (Sanctuary of Hope), Lucie Hollingsworth (1736 FCC), Jennifer LaMarque (South Bay Cities COG), Morgan Roth (Req. Barragan), Roberta Venegas (DMH), Maria Salas (DMH), Francisco Carrillo (Rep. Barragan), Rep. Nanette Barragan, Nancy Wilcox (St. Peter's by the Sea Presby).

1. **Welcome & Introductions.** SBCEH co-chair Nancy Wilcox opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. After a round of introductions, co-chair Mark Silverbush presided over the remainder of the meeting. He explained the purpose of the coalition was to bring proven solutions to homelessness to the South Bay.
2. **Hosting Agency Overview.** Pastor Lisa Williams welcomed everyone and explained that San Pedro United Methodist Church is part of the Family Promise of the South Bay. As a "host congregation," this week families experiencing homelessness in this program are spending the night on their campus.
3. **Meeting Minutes Review.** The January 2018 meeting minutes were approved without change.
4. **CoC Board Report Back.** Nancy gave the following report for CoC Board rep Ryan Macy-Hurley:
 - a. CoC Board Elections. We are waiting for the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) to finalize plans, but we anticipate elections will be held at our May meeting to fill SPA 8's community representative vacancy to this board. Members from service providers are encouraged to run. They will be expected to represent the needs of the South Bay and not just their own agency. Monthly meetings are held at LAHSA headquarters downtown.
 - b. LAHSA Interim Guidance on Housing Navigation. This LAHSA guidance affects everybody because it raises "how vulnerable" people must be to receive housing navigation services. People who used to qualify for this will now be recommended for rapid re-housing (RRH) instead of long term supportive housing. Within the provider community, there is deep concerns about this guidance because these participants have generally required higher level of services that what is available through RRH.
5. **Special Report: 2018 LAHSA Gaps Analysis.** Mark gave an overview of this report (please refer to his 2-page summary for details). It was released last week and provides an updated analysis to the 2016 report.
 - Its purpose is to identify what resources are needed at the county level to reach "functional zero," which is when a region has a systematic response to ensure homelessness is prevented whenever possible and when it does occur, is a rare, brief and non-recurring event.

- This year's report had a special emphasis at examining Veterans and youth. It looks at three main populations: Non-Veteran Adult Head of Households, Non-Veteran Youth Head of Households, and Veteran Households. Within each of these populations the analysis was further broken down by individuals and families.
- Measure H funding allocations between the various 21 county strategies are heavily influenced by this report. The VA will be looking at how to fill the Veteran Household gaps as well.
- Data was pulled from HMIS. Subject matter experts were utilized to verify the modeling accurately. The report did not examine the number of affordable housing units required, nor did it go into the specific needs of subpopulations such as people with mental illness or substance abuse.
- Diversion and prevention were the trickiest to understand because these programs are new so their effectiveness is harder to model.
- Some assumptions made: the average emergency shelter length of stay is 80-90 days; RRH aid will be given for an average of 6 months per participant.
- The need for RRH went up tremendously from the 2015 report (78%). A factor for this large change was this intervention was only used for Veteran programs during 2014.
- Transitional programs are still used for youth and survivors of domestic violence.

6. Advocacy Committee Report Back. Paul Stansbury covered several topics:

- He gave an update on several state and federal funding bills, including SB 35 and SB 167. SB 35 creates a streamlined, ministerial approval process for infill developments in cities that have not met their regional housing needs assessment numbers. SB 167 prohibits local agencies from disapproving qualifying affordable housing projects unless specific findings or hardships can be made.
- Many board and care facilities are going out of business because of the high costs to run them.
- The County Board of Supervisors has voted to urge the state to expand the definition of "gravely disabled" in order to give officials more power to forcibly treat mentally ill homeless people. We have invited DMH Service Area 8 Chief Dennis Murata to our April general meeting to address this.
- Paul noted the series of homelessness articles published by the *LA Times* and *Daily Breeze* paper.

7. Co-Chairs' Report. Nancy gave an update on the Supportive Housing Bus Tour held on February 14th, and the City Homeless Planning Grants awarded to seven SPA 8 cities.

8. Member Announcements. The following announcements were made:

- a. Maria Salas spoke about San Pedro DMH's May 23rd Mental Health resource fair.
- b. Nancy attended the grand opening of 1736 Family Crisis Center's emergency shelter for unaccompanied youth ages 10-17 near Mar Vista.
- c. Alex Devin announced the homeless resource fair being held in Hawthorne on April 18th.
- d. Keith Bennett invited everyone to tomorrow's Veterans Village groundbreaking at 600 W. Carson.

9. Guest Speaker: Representative Nannette Barragan thanked everyone for their efforts in working with those experiencing homelessness.

- Congress is cutting funding for affordable housing, health services, HOME program, and Veterans programs.

- Locally, she participated in the 2018 Homeless Count. She also contacted the Sherriff's department after a homeless person was dropped off recently on Western Ave. She said they did not have a procedure for what to do when they encounter people who are homeless.
- She offered her support for initiatives in which we are involved. A suggestion was made that she could work with local elected officials to provide co-leadership on homelessness solutions, including combatting NIMBY-ism. She said she or her staff will attend community efforts, such as landlord engagement events.
- Some suggested exploring the use of cruise ships to provide temporary shelter or changing local ordinances to support "granny flats."
- Her staff distributed copies of legislation she is introducing. The Services, Tools and Opportunities to Prevent (STOP) Homelessness Act would create a voluntary check-off donation box on tax returns to help fund housing and supportive services. She also co-signed a letter to the VA expressing concerns about possible funding realignment that would remove case management funding under the VASH program.

10. LAHSA Quarterly Community Meeting. Megan Emme introduced LAHSA staff who gave the following presentations (please refer to the LAHSA briefing - additional verbal information is highlighted below).

- Procurement Opportunities. Kelli Pezzelle said the Shallow Subsidy RFP is being delayed for a few months.
- Policy Update. Dalma Diaz explained the CES Interim Guidance Process was recently developed in January. Public comment period for draft policies is generally two weeks. The Housing Navigation Guidance is scheduled for release in two weeks.
- Capacity Building & Support. Candace Baker said the Organization Capacity Building Technical Assistance will be awarded on a rolling application basis. The Centralized Training Academy will in August have all the HMIS course listings (currently these signups are from a specialized HMIS portal). The 2nd Homeless Services Provider Job Fair has been rescheduled from March 23rd to April 13th.
- Homeless Count Debrief. Because of time this portion was not briefed.
- LAHSA Contacts. Post meeting, Megan provided the following information on where to direct questions. She indicated LAHSA staff should respond to inquiries within 24-48 hours. Depending on what is being asked, they may not have a full answer right away, but should at least respond that they are working on finding the answer.
 - fundingopportunities@lahsa.org – for procurement questions
 - hmisssupport@lahsa.org – for HMIS questions
 - capacitybuilding@lahsa.org – for capacity building questions
 - CES@lahsa.org – for CES policies or procedure questions
 - policy@lahsa.org – for questions on non-CES programs.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.