

## South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness General Meeting Minutes

San Pedro United Methodist Church

580 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St, San Pedro

Wednesday, March 15, 2017, from 9:30 am – 11:30 am

**Attendees:** Guest Speaker: Mark Silverbush (Abt Associates); Members: Leticia Quinlan (Molina Health Care), Teresa Saldana (DMH), Maria Sales (DMH), Patrick Tucker (DMH), Janet Kelly (Sanctuary of Hope), Jonathan Hans (LAHSA), Saba Tekle (LAHSA), Lao Moua (PATH), Zhenia Mccullom (DMH), Tahia Hayslet (Harbor Interfaith), Keith Bennett (City of Carson), Christan Starling (Salvation Army), Tyron Friend (Hathaway-Sycamores), Carl Teal (Hathaway-Syamores), Janeth Ventura (PATH), Serennah Tutt-Erwin (SHARE!), Cecil Flournoy (City of Carson), Ana Reoyo (DPSS), Yolandra Polony (DPSS), June Pouesi (Office of Samoan Affairs), Sharon Novaez (Office of Somoan Affairs), Jo Takanabe (CPAF), Michele Fallon (Toberman), Ryan Macy-Hurley (1736 FCC), Paul Stansbury (NAMI South Bay), Beatriz Vega (Rainbow Services), Nancy Wilcox (SBCEH, SPBTS).

**1. Welcome & Introductions.** SBCEH Co-chair Nancy Wilcox opened the meeting at 9:45 a.m. Everyone introduced themselves and gave their affiliation.

**2. Minutes Review and Approval.** The February 2017 Minutes were approved.

**3. LAHSA Regional Committee Report Back.**

Ryan Macy-Hurley, Service Planning Area's (SPA) 8/South Bay's representative to LAHSA's Regional Homeless Advisory Council (RHAC), gave the following report:

- a. The RHAC's initial quarterly meeting was held on 15 February. He distributed the contact list of its 56 members. He is concerned about ensuring a "provider voice" is still maintained on this council.
- b. LAHSA formed a committee to define the role and membership of the Continuum of Care (CoC) Board. This will replace the current Coordinating Council and its members will be seated in June. This committee is tasked with creating the by-laws, the nominating process, and generating a list of nominees to the CoC Board. All of the SPA service provider reps volunteered to be on this 19 member board out of recognition of the regional and provider voice that is critical to maintain on it.
- c. Ryan gave background on the Coordinating Council's history in advising the LAHSA Commissioners, especially on priority funding recommendations for the HUD NOFA (Notice of Funding Availability) – which last year brought over \$100 Million to LA CoC. The CoC Board is now going to be assuming this key role.
- d. When asked about County Measure H, Ryan informed us that the SPA RHAC regional representatives will be sitting on the review committee that will recommend how this anticipated annual \$355 million will be initially allocated.
- e. The RHAC Governance Charter draft is available. We requested LAHSA provide SPA 8 additional time to review this since our coalition meeting is held at the same time as RHAC and thus delays bringing this information before our membership. Jonathan Hans, LAHSA Planning Manager, said he would look into our request.

Tahia Hayslet, SPA 8's representative to LAHSA's Coordinating Council, gave the following report:

- a. She said the Coordinating Council will continue to meet monthly through June, when it is scheduled to "sunset."
- b. Because of the anticipated timing of this year's HUD NOFA release, the new CoC Board will unlikely be able to provide recommendations to the LAHSA Commission. The Coordinating Council has been asked to provide this guidance.
- c. Program "performance reports" will be sent to agencies for their review in April. These are especially critical this year given the anticipated funding cuts from the Trump Administration. Permanent supportive housing (PSH) projects that scored low may be in danger of cutbacks.
- d. She next discussed the "HMIS Data Migration" efforts. There will be a May "blackout" period when LAHSA does the conversion from the current system to the new HMIS provider, BitFocus. There will be different training options available, but at this time in-person training may only be available for about 300 people, with the rest encouraged to view a webinar.

**4. Guest Speaker: "Data, Dashboards & Discover."** Mark Silverbush works for Abt Associates, which provides HUD technical assistance to LAHSA. He gave an overview of how data is being used in homelessness services.

- a. "Visualization" takes key data elements and presents them in a useful, broader way. "Dashboards" can capture an entire system and then drill down to specific program components.
- b. Currently LAHSA's website (<https://www.lahsa.org/portal/>) hosts five dashboards. HMIS is the predominate data source used for them: (1) Winter Shelter Program, which is updated daily; (2) Veterans; (3) Rapid Re-Housing for Individuals; (4) CES for Families; (5) CES for Youth. Each has a "methodology document" referenced at the bottom of the dashboard that highlights the source of the data elements.
- c. The dashboards are used by policy makers (e.g., City of LA Mayor's Office, Board of Supervisors homeless deputies) and funders for planning purposes and to understand "what success looks like."
- d. He encouraged service providers to become better acquainted with these dashboards so they can "own their story" and ensure data is being accurately used to reflect their efforts.
- e. Mark explained each dashboard starts off presenting the "headlines," i.e., key metrics. Hovering over a graphic element typically shows detailed information relating to that field.
- f. He first highlighted the RRH Dashboard. Since it is currently City of LA funded, the statistics from it are displayed (which is why only certain SPAs are shown). In particular, it shows when clients entered the system along with the resultant placements.

A comment was made that it might be useful to highlight when key program funding was made so people can better understand spikes or dips in the numbers. Other feedback included being able to capture the common barriers people face such as evictions, low incomes; possibility of filtering the data by race; highlighting those with mental illness.

- g. For the Veterans Dashboard, the updates happen less frequently because data is also pulled from the VA and housing authorities, and then must be de-duplicated.

Mark said there are about 500 “open” VASH vouchers where participants cannot find a rental unit. Another 2,000 Vets have been identified as needing this PSH housing intervention. A question was raised about the VA’s staffing ratio to assist with this process.

- h. LAHSA is working on a “CES for Individuals” dashboard. Community meetings are planned to provide input into it. The dashboard may be able to help identify where there are bottlenecks in the housing pipeline so programs funded by Measure H can better focus on those areas.
- i. It was suggested neighborhood councils be made aware of these dashboards to help educate the community on the work being performed.

**5. Homeless Count 2017 (HC17) Status.** Nancy Wilcox gave a quick HC17 recap.

- a. The “Shelter Count” is completed and we are awaiting review of the programs identified in this component. She said it was important to ensure all the SPA 8 programs are reported in the official Count as being in our region because future funding is based on HC17. We get many of our family and youth count numbers from the shelter count because these populations are seldom found during the Street Count component.
- b. For the “Demographic Survey” component, there was a target to complete over 500 surveys in SPA 8. Teams conducting them from USC and LAHSA Emergency Response Team were experiencing a “higher” rejection rate of South Bay people who did not want to participate.
- c. For the “Youth Count,” more than 100% of the surveys were collected over last year’s effort. Nancy thanked LAHSA for their supporting Hathaway-Sycamores (Youth CES lead) and our coalition in getting volunteers to our “blitz day.”

**6. Advocacy Committee Report Back.** Paul Stansbury celebrated the passage of Measure H, on the heels of LA City’s Proposition HHH and the State of California’s “No Place Like Home” initiative, both that will provide funding for affordable housing and PSH. He cautioned on NIMBY-ism and cited a recent community push-back in Long Beach for a clinic opening.

There is also concern for federal cuts in HUD funding, as well as Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. CDBG funding is also on the chopping block as well; this 40-year old funding gives cities discretion on developing local programs to help low income and homeless citizens.

**7. Co-Chairs’ Report Back.** Nancy reported on the submission of LAHSA’s “CES for Families” collaborative SPA 8 grant application. The Coalition worked closely with lead agency Harbor Interfaith Services to facilitate a regional planning meeting, and develop the “Community Plan” and proposal narratives. In our application, we are asking for funding to provide a St. Margaret’s Center hub to better serve the families in our northern region.

**8. Member Agency Announcements.**

- a. Paul Stansbury announced the League of Women Voters “Mental Health Forum” on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Torrance Civic Center’s Toyota Meeting Hall.

**The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.**

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.