

South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness (SBCEH) General Meeting

Wednesday, March 16, 2016, 9:30-11:30 am

St. John Fisher Church, 5448 Crest Rd, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA

Attendees: Guest Speaker: Denise McCain-Tharnstrom; Hosting Agency: Misty Jesse; Attendees: Co-Chair Mark Silverbush, Jessica Acosta (BHS), Michael Akinbulawa (Family Promise, Luis Arelano (PATH), Mary Bartel (Project: Needs), Mary Bautista (US Rep Janice Hahn), Lyndi Bell (LAHSA), Meredith Berkson (PATH), Bob Chiota (City of Torrance), Cecil Flournoy (City of Carson), Nancy Gutierrez (LAUSD), Greg Higa (South Bay Community Church), Heather Hocking (BCHD), Felecia Howard (US Vets), Chris Jenne (Harbor Interfaith Services), , Ryan Macy-Hurley (1736), Jose Martinez (PATH), Zhen McCullom (DMH), Lao Moua (PATH), Miku Nakamusa (CPFAF), Bobbie Nashed (AHH), Janae Oliver (Kaiser Permanente), Alma Ramos (AHH), Nick Rasmussen (Family Promise), Bill Roberson (San Pedro UMC), Maria Salas (DMH), Nemala Satele (Office of Samoan Affairs), Chuck Scarpaci, Paul Stansbury (NAMI), Shari Weaver (Harbor Interfaith Services), Serennah Tutt-Erwin (SHARE!), , Dulce Vargas (Rainbow Services), Dejuanna Wallace (DMH), Nancy Wilcox (St. Peter's By The Sea), Pastor Lisa Williams (San Pedro UMC).

1. **Welcome and Introductions.** SBCEH co-chair Mark Silverbush opened the meeting at 9:46 am. He gave an overview of the Coalition, explaining we are an educational and advocacy body with expertise on what homelessness looks like in the South Bay. We are deeply involved with the annual Homeless Count, which provides the official statistics of homelessness across the county. SBCEH has recently successfully advocated for a second SPA 8 winter shelter program, along with initially bringing together the agencies that formed our region's Homeless Family Solutions System and Coordinated Entry System. Those in attendance then introduced themselves.
2. **Minutes Review and Approval.** Approval of the February 2015 meeting minutes was deferred until April.
3. **Guest Speaker: Denise McCain-Tharnstrom: Youth Directory.** Dr. McCain-Tharnstrom provided background on the Youth Directory and then presented an overview of its contents. (Please note: the summary below is a supplement to the other materials she provided which are attached to these minutes.)
 - a. Her organization is Our Children LA. It uses mobile communications to assist homeless and vulnerable youth under age 25.
 - b. She was first approached by the LA City libraries to create a youth guide. The LA County Office of Education later asked her to extend these listings. The guide is now available in every city library.
 - c. The 146 page guide is divided into eight informational categories: Shelter, Crisis, Food, Health/Mental Health, Drop in/Access Centers, Education, Jobs, and Legal. All the resources can be accessed without a formal referral.
 - d. The Guide can be downloaded at https://www.ourchildrenla.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/2015_Directory_v2-6-24-15-updated.pdf. There is a feature that will allow you to download just those listings in a particular SPA.

- e. Also on their website are fact sheets and other research articles about youth homelessness. In addition, it provides a forum in which youth can express themselves; this provides for policy makers a window into how transitional aged youth (TAY) feel.
- f. The mobile app version of the resource guide is called WIN for “What I Need.” TAY trust online information and are comfortable with the technology. 75% have access to a smartphone. The guide will be identifying free Wi-Fi spots in the future.
- g. There are 1,400 programs currently listed in the Guide. Organizations providing services can be listed by submitting their information via the mobile app or on their website. Photos where the resources are available are more trusted among the youth.
- h. People do not need to register to view the resources so confidentiality is maintained.

4. SPA 8 Coordinated Entry System (CES): Program Status and Update. Shari Weaver of Harbor Interfaith Services (HIS), gave an update on CES. With a goal of housing 212 by June 2016, the CES Collaborative has already placed 197 into permanent housing.

The City of Los Angeles recently infused the program with rapid re-housing funding. SPA 8’s targets are to house 41 single adults and 41 Veterans by 6/30/16. US Veterans Initiative is partnered with HIS in this effort. Please contact her at sweaver@harborinterfaith.org if you have a person who might be interested in this program. Summary of the eligibility includes:

- a. Priority score of 2 (acuity 4-7 on the VI-SPDAT), and either chronic or non-chronic; or priority score of 1 (acuity 1-3) and chronically homeless.
- b. Income @ 50% AMI: \$2,420/month or \$29,050/year income or less
- c. Client must have been homeless in the City of LA
- d. Veterans, National Guards and Reservists are eligible

Shari introduced Chris Jenne. He is the AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer assigned to CES SPA 8 through a partnership with United Way Greater Los Angeles. He will be helping to create a volunteer programs to enhance landlord engagement, outreach, and to develop a companionship program.

5. LA County Homeless Initiative Review. Paul Stansbury, Nancy Wilcox, and Mark Silverbush reviewed the 12 strategies in the County’s “Phase 1” Plan that will be implemented by June 2016. \$150 million has already been allocated to this Initiative for its first year. (Please note: the Phase 1 Strategies are attached to these minutes.)

6. Co-Chair’s Report. Nancy reported she and Paul Stansbury have been representing SBCEH on a committee to hold a forum for candidates seeking the Supervisorial District 4 position.

7. Member Agency Announcements.

- a. Maria Salas announced DMH is holding conservatorship workshops.
- b. Meredith Berkson said PATH is starting the implementation of the South Bay Cities Council of Government contract to provide outreach teams in SPA 8.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.