



**South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness
General Meeting Minutes
for March 24, 2021
held via Zoom teleconference**

Attendees: This list was unavailable.

Welcome. SBCEH co-chairs Mark Silverbush and Nancy Wilcox opened the meeting at 10:04 am. Because the meeting was held via video conference, our traditional round of introductions was not made.

Advocacy. SBCEH Advocacy Chair Paul Stansbury reported: (1) At the national level, we are following the National Low Income Housing Coalition's advocacy on the upcoming COVID Relief bill for housing and rental assistance and Medical reform. (2) At the state level, the MHSR program is having its 3-year plan evaluation and is focused on equity issues; \$5 million of this funding comes to LA for its "Innovations" programs but the state is thinking of ending this allocation. (3) At the local level, the Alternatives To Incarceration (ATI)/Measure J is continuing to define the programs it will focus on, with community concerns that the County should not receive a great deal of the funding but rather make it available for community-based organizations.

Special Topic #1: Homelessness and Housing Programs in LA City Council District 15. Guest speaker Gabi Medina, District Director focused on housing and homelessness for Councilman Joe Buscaino, gave an overview of the CD15 programs in operation and those coming online. The following comments supplement the information in her attached briefing.

- Each person's journey to ending their homelessness is unique and thus can vary in how long it takes to achieve this goal.
- The 60% goal of shelter/beds is based on the latest Point-In-Time Count held in 2020. The percentage came from Judge Carter's recent ruling on providing housing for people living adjacent to freeways.
- Navigation Center: This is not a shelter but a storage facility with light-touch case management for service referrals. There is strong need for this service as 155 bins were being used as of last week. Street outreach teams go out to surrounding areas, providing transportation to the Center.
- Safe Parking: This is not the most ideal model with its nighttime operational hours, but it does offer a needed service. This program is being expanded to two additional sites in CD15. All of the Safe Parking programs have hygiene services.
- A Bridge Home (ABH): This is a congregate model shelter, with 26 ABH sites citywide providing over 2,000 beds. During COVID, these programs had significant challenges because of the social distancing and quarantine requirements. This put a tremendous strain on the participants, with some losing their jobs. Getting people vaccinated is a priority.
- Tiny Homes: The first such City of Los Angeles project opened in North Hollywood (CD2).
- Project Room Key: Over 27 hotels participated in this program citywide.
- California Home Key Program: \$550 Million was made available from the state, with City of LA getting funding to purchase 21 sites through matching federal funds. There is one PRK site in CD15, and it is currently going through renovations. An additional site is located in an unincorporated area (Supervisorial District 2) near Harbor City in SD2.

- Permanent Support Housing (PSH): One project is in construction in Watts, with groundbreaking for another in this community scheduled shortly. The rest of the CD15 PSH projects are going through site selection, design, or getting community inputs.
- Rapid Re-Housing: There are 140 slots available for this program in CD15 (not 200 beds on the slide).
- CD15 is partnering with Supervisor Hahn's office since homelessness cannot be solved by just one city's efforts. Nancy reported that the County's Housing for Health program is increasing its capacity. This program is specifically for people with severe disabilities.
- In response to a question, Shari Weaver of Harbor Interfaith Services explained how PSH for families is based on available vouchers supplied by the Los Angeles Homeless Authority (LAHSA). Upon receiving notification that these resources are available, they send LAHSA referrals that meet the eligibility criteria.
- Nancy thanked Councilperson Buscaino for setting the example for how South Bay cities could be responding to ending homelessness.

Special Topic #2: "Homelessness 101" Awareness Community Presentation. Nancy Wilcox has been a part of a collaborative developing basic homelessness training for city staff. That effort has concluded so she modified the "101" slide deck for presentations to the general community. The notes below reflect additional information from her attached presentation.

- This resource is available for anyone to use and is meant to be tailored for each audience, including just the slides that are of most interest to that group given the time allotted. It provides a consistent set of messages that city staff is also receiving.
- The definition of who is "homeless" is based on HUD's more narrow definition.
- We want the briefing to have a long shelf life so specific year Homeless Count numbers were not given, but rather high-level overviews and rounded statistics were provided.
- Many of the barriers listed for why people are reluctant to go into shelters have been removed in publicly funded programs.
- She emphasized it is "client choice" when accepting services and housing, and stressed it often takes months for people to move into housing. It is important to help set realistic expectations.
- There are over 100 outreach staff working throughout SPA 8, with LA-HOP and the CES Regional Coordinator providing coordination with all of them.

Co-Chairs' Report.

- Nancy and Mark are members of LAHSA's Homeless Count Advisory Board. Changes for the 2022 Count include replacing the Street Count clipboards with a mobile app that will be piloted this summer.
- United Way has launched its "Our Future Los Angeles," which is mobilizing advocacy efforts among organizations rather than as individuals like how it is done with its Everyone In effort.

Member Announcements.

- Carielle Escalante, the SPA 8 CES DV Coordinator, suggested having a resource list of all the DV agencies in the South Bay.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.