

South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness General Meeting Minutes

Hosting Organization: St. Paul's Methodist Church/Project Needs

2600 Nelson Ave, Redondo Beach, CA

Wednesday, March 27, 2019 ~ 9:30 -11:30 am

Attendees: Host Agency (Project Needs): Donna Barr, Rev. Lynette Fuka (St. Paul's Methodist); Guest Speaker: Paul Stansbury (NAMI South Bay); Members: Chair Nancy Wilcox (St. Peter's By the Sea Presby), Shari Weaver (Harbor Interfaith Services), Jeannette Aguilar (Exodus Recovery), Cindy Jones (community member), Sharon Novaez (Office of Samoan Affairs), Quincey Coleman (United Way Everyone In), Steven Yu (LAHSA), Beatriz Vega (Rainbow Services), Trevor Yee (PATH/Harbor UCLA), Saira Cooper (LAHSA), Mary Agnes Erlandson (St. Margaret's Center), Osmara Reyes-Osorio (Marymount CA Univ), Jahira Willis (Marymount CA Univ), Ernesto Madrid (Salvation Army), Jennifer Pesavento (SoCal ROC), Sabrina Porras (NAMI South Bay), Zhen McCullom (DMH), Jeff Mendence (Redondo PD), Keith Turner (Redondo PD), Nicole Watson (DMH MET), Matt Rushton (Hermosa PD), Lori Jones (City of Inglewood), Isela Hernandez (PATH).

1. **Welcome & Introductions.** SBCEH co-chair Nancy Wilcox opened the meeting at 9:40 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.
2. **Hosting Agency Overview.** Donna Barr gave an overview of St. Paul's homelessness minister "Project Needs." Started in 1990, it serves a weekly hot meal, and distributes goods from its food pantry and donated clothing twice monthly. It is open to organizations or individuals that want to contribute donations. There are no geographic restrictions on who they serve, but they typically see people from North Redondo, Lawndale, Gardena, and Torrance.
3. **Meeting Minutes Review.** The February meeting minutes were approved without change.
4. **Advocacy Committee Report.** Paul Stansbury provided information on the ongoing federal budgeting process, including proposed cuts to program such as SNAPs (aka food stamps).
5. **Special Topic: DMH Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Overview.** Changing to his role as NAMI President and Service Area 8 DMH lead, Paul gave an overview of MHSA. (The notes below supplement the attached "Your DMH and MHSA" briefing and MHSA FY2019-20 SPA 8 Outcomes pages).
 - a. State Senator Darrell Steinberg recognized the severe lack of mental illness funding. He championed Proposition 63, which passed in 2004. Dubbed the "millionaire's tax," it created the annual MHSA funding by taxing income at 1% over \$1Million.
 - b. Today there is a severe shortage of psychiatrists, with 50% who only take cash payments and most not taking Medicaid.
 - c. On his attached briefing, he explained the key MHSA County components:
 - a. CSS: Community Services and Support
 - b. PEI: Prevention and Early Intervention
 - c. Inn: Innovations: Important component: provides new programs, including the mobile outreach teams

- d. CF: Capital Facilities and Technological Needs: this provides the “brick and mortar” housing funds
 - e. WET: Workforce Education & Training
- d. On the annual percentage of MHSA funding each component receives, CSS is by far the largest. They are trying to get additional funding for WET.
 - e. There is a reserve built-in for when the tax base goes down any year. There has been throughout the state large amounts of unspent dollars in addition to this reserve causing concerns about why the money is unspent.
 - f. For the services available, the FSP (“Full-Service Partnership”) program provides intensive case management. The “RRR” (Recovery, resilience and Reintegration) programs provide less intensive services but still comprehensive coverage. Mental illness urgent care centers are additionally funded, including Exodus at Harbor/UCLA, Long Beach’s Starview, and San Pedro’s Providence Little Company of Mary’s program. LA County DA Jackie Lacey has developed a mental health diversion court. Some of the housing programs include the recent “No Place Like Home” for Veterans.
 - g. “Mental Health First Aid” is also covered under the Prevention focused services. \$10 million is allocated for schools to provide more suicide prevention programs.
 - h. DMH Executive Director, Dr. Jonathan Sherin, wants to get more people involved with its programs. A review of the MHSA Annual Update for Fiscal Year 2019-20 will be held tomorrow at our Lady of the Cathedral in DTLA. Paul will be representing us at this meeting.
 - i. Paul also gave a brief history and overview of NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness). The local South Bay chapter conducts no-cost community training. They also are influential advocates, promoting local, state, and national programs and legislation providing mental illness program funding. They hold monthly meetings. Additional information is available at its South Bay website,

6a. Regional Homeless Advisory Committee Report Out. Mary Agnes Erlandson gave the following report from the March quarterly RHAC meeting:

- a. State Legislative Priorities:
 - Proposals addressing homelessness grew from \$500 million to \$2 billion, including expanding the state tax credit, creating a homeless youth program, raising CalWorks grants to 50% of FPL, supportive services for people on parole experiencing homelessness.
 - The Health Homes Program will begin in July 2019, and strengthens MediCal homeless health programs for frequent hospital users. The original funding had a 2-yr cap.
 - Homeless Disability Advocacy Program would include funding for housing SSI recipients.
 - Another bill would streamline use of state-owned armories as shelters.
 - Senate constitutional amendment 1 would repeal Article 34 of CA constitution, which requires local jurisdictions to impose caps on affordable housing. If not repealed we’ll reach max on affordable housing construction.
 - Anti-discrimination efforts include a proposed ban on inquiries about criminal history at initial stages of housing applications, and prohibiting landlords from discriminating based on source of rental payment.

- Also an anti rent-gouging bill.
- b. Calibrating Expectations of CES Discussion:
- Identifying expectations for CES, clarifying what it is, and communication of successes and also realities.
 - She gave the “Chicken” metaphor, showing how the public has the unrealistic expectation that CES will provide homelessness resources to everyone because that is how it is being promoted, but there is a lack of funding and system capacity to do this.
 - Lead agencies’ reputations suffer because they don’t have the resources.
 - LA HOP: expectations that it’s like 9-1-1. Issues of confidentiality.
 - Recommendations included: greater emphasis on prevention, and on stabilization services; more diversion resources/funding/training; tenant training before moving in, and supportive services afterwards; helping everyone, not just the most vulnerable; involving COG’s and Chambers to greater degree.
- c. FY19-20 Measure H Budget Allocations Discussion
- Measure H: 3-year resolution in 2017. We’re in year 2, and modification being made. Tentative recommendation for Year 2: \$424 million, and \$460 million for Year 3. Base revenue of \$355 million, and includes \$34 million unspent in 2017-18, \$19 million calculated will be unspent in current year, and \$50 million in extra revenues because of strong economy.
 - Increased investment in prevention services, interim housing and PH for families; facilitating the use of federal housing subsidies for PSH; employment services for homeless adults; and supportive services and rental subsidies for families and individuals.
 - Public comments accepted through 3/20. Comments reviewed through April, and at end of month decisions on recommendations.
 - In terms of sustainability, homeless initiative office believes that we’ll be able to sustain levels of about \$450 million/year, even if there is a recession, because sales tax revenue doesn’t always drop in that scenario, and because there will probably be some rollover. Also there is increased interest at state level in homelessness funding, recognition of the humanitarian crisis and using political will to address issue.

6b. Continuum of Care (CoC) Board Report Out. Shari Weaver gave the following report:

- a. Last year’s FY2018 HUD NOFA Awards:
- \$123,707,061 in total funding awarded (highest award ever for LA CoC)
 - All existing projects were renewed by HUD; \$114,068,101 in renewal funding across the country
 - All new project requests were funded except for one
 - All expansion project requests were funded

- The CoC was awarded the maximum possible under the Domestic Violence bonus @ \$5 million
 - \$9,638,960 in New CoC funding awarded, which included:
 - Expansion (on renewal PSH grants) of \$2,185,416; 3 projects now able to add additional beds
 - \$7.4 million in New Projects funded, which included: (1) 1 scattered-site PSH project; (2) 4 joint TH-RRH projects for DV survivors; (3) CES project focused on aligning DV & homeless systems
 - System Benefits and Impact:
 - 228 additional/new PSH beds
 - 177 new RRH slots for DV survivors (15 of those are TH/RRH)
- b. Next NOFA, FY2019, anticipated release in Summer of 2019
 - c. The Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) funding was reviewed at a high level.
 - d. Strategy – Preventing Homelessness (Diversion) - \$16 million - Total (\$2 million – Problem Solving Funds / \$14 million – Diversion Staff, RFP expected release early April
 - e. RRH - \$12 million total – (\$9 million adding capacity Family CES – added to existing contracts) \$1 million holding fees PATH Lease Up program - \$2 million Youth RRH to add slots (RFP closed 2/27)
 - f. Access Center/Access Points (RFP Closed 2/27) \$8 million
 - g. Enhancing Interim Housing - \$45 + million (Interim Hsg. Operations \$40 million – RFP closed 2/27) Interim Housing Capital - \$4 million – LAHSA will be conducting an analysis of interim housing portfolio to determine where improvements/upgrades most needed.
 - h. Safe Parking - \$1 million RFP release expected April. Nancy added that the overall funding is expected to be \$2 million, which includes state HEAP and Measure H funds.

7. Co-Chairs’ Report. Nancy continues to work the South Bay cities on their City Homelessness Implementation grants.

8. Member Agency Announcements. The following announcements were made:

- a. Nancy explained the Coalition is receiving over 300 handbags with toiletries from The Links Incorporated. Interested agencies that would like some handbags are encouraged to contact her.
- b. Jennifer Pesavento of SoCal ROC invited all to their open house being held tomorrow.
- c. Mary Agnes promoted the “See It, End It” event being held March 29-30th. It is a film and arts festival being held at San Pedro’s Warner Grand focusing on providing human trafficking awareness.
- d. Shari encouraged all to participate in United Way’s “Homewalk” being held on May 18th, which brings together thousands to raise funds and promote solutions to end homelessness. Nancy will send out the code to waive the \$25/participant registration fee in the coalition’s weekly Announcements email.

The meeting ended at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.