

South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness General Meeting Minutes

Goodwill SOLAC (Serving the People of Southern Los Angeles County)

Wednesday, April 19, 2017, from 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Attendees: Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Eastlund (Rainbow Services); Hosting Agency: Paulette Thornton, Members: Co-Chair Nancy Wilcox (SBCEH, SPBTS), Tiffany Maxwell (1736 FCC), Tammy Wood (LAUSD), Crisalia Aranibar (LAUSD), Maria Walton (Alliance for Housing and Healing), Jonathan Pascual (Family Promise), Paul Stansbury (NAMI), Lao Moua (PATH), Nicole Columbare (PATH), Cos Abercrombie (DHS/Harbor-UCLA), Zina Washington (Help Me Help You), Saba Tekle (LAHSA), David Bradford (Harbor Interfaith), Patrick Tucker (DMH), Shavonda Webber-Christmas (Christmas Consulting Gr), Ryan Macy-Hurley (1736), Tanya Ford (SHARE!).

1. **Welcome & Introductions.** SBCEH Co-chair Nancy Wilcox opened the meeting at 9:40 a.m. Everyone introduced themselves and gave their affiliation.
2. **Minutes Review and Approval.** The March 2017 Minutes were approved.
3. **Guest Speaker: “Domestic Violence & Homelessness in LA.”** Elizabeth Eastlund, Executive Director of Rainbow Services and member of Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority’s (LAHSA) Women and Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee, gave the following presentation (Note: these notes supplement her briefing).
 - a. On the “Definitions” slide, the term Intimate Partner Violence is more inclusive of the LGBT community and is becoming a more broadly used term. “Trauma Informed Care” is about shifting the power balance between the clinician and the participant, where decisions always are a client’s choice.
 - b. On the “Services provided by DV Org’s” slide, Community Housing Programs include a partnership with Harbor Interfaith Services and a state-funded DV Housing First pilot (one of eight awarded, along with 1736 Family Crisis Center and Valley Oasis (SPA 1)). Legal services are a huge part of the services Rainbow provided. Strengthening the parent-child bond is critical since this is typically broken through past DV history.
 - c. On the regional DV work cited, out of 300 pages of LA County Homeless Initiatives, DV was mentioned only three times yet we know 20% of persons have identified themselves as victims per the 2016 Homeless Point-In Time Count.
 - d. On the “LAHSA DV-related word” slide, this agency is developing policies surrounding DV victims and while this is moving in the right direction, it is not in practice yet. Project performance measures need to be reexamined so they do not penalize DV programs; examples are “length of stay,” “bed utilization,” and “increased income” metrics.
 - e. On the “Ad Hoc Committee on Women’s Homelessness – Topic Areas” slide, outreach teams should increase the number of female members. Older adult women and those who experienced human trafficking have very specific needs. Cultural and ethnic considerations must also be considered across the spectrum of women who are

homeless. This committee will be developing final recommendations this July to the City and County of Los Angeles.

- f. On the “DV-Homeless Services Coalition” slide, they are striving for consistency in the type of questions asked to best determine the most appropriate program for the client. Some might be able to go directly into a RRH program and not to a DV shelter. In terms of Systems Analysis, they are looking into strengthening the relationship between DV provides and the Coordinated Entry System and also examining how they might be able to use HMIS to better access housing resources (note: DV programs currently do not enter their clients into HMIS to maintain confidentiality, but this might cause them to miss out on CES housing opportunities that are linked to a client through it). Elizabeth again emphasized how important it is to listen to the survivors to truly understand what their needs are and how to deliver them in a meaningful way.
- g. On the “Safe Housing for Survivors in LA” report findings, she pointed out communal living situations are not the best for families for an extended length of time. However, there is a lack of affordable housing and transitional housing programs for them.

4 LAHSA Regional Committee Report Back.

Ryan Macy-Hurley, our SPA 8 rep to the Regional Homeless Advisory Council (RHAC), gave the following report.

He first gave background of the RHAC’s “Continuum of Care (CoC) Board,” saying every CoC must have a governance structure that oversees regional planning and performance monitoring. The first step was to form the RHAC and develop its by-laws. Next will be the selection/election of the CoC Board members. They will advise the LAHSA Commission on the HUD NOFA. The timeline to seat these members is June so community elections will be held during May and early June. There will be one representative from each service planning area (SPA), and nine additional at-large members representing subpopulations and other stakeholders including two who have lived experience. The by-laws are available for review.

The HUD NOFA will be released soon. Because of the timing of seating the CoC Board, the current Coordinating Council will stay in place for a few more months to advise the Commission on program priorities.

He next gave an overview of Measure H and how its revenue will be allocated among the County Homeless Strategies approved by the Board of Supervisors. There will be public meetings, including one devoted to hearing public comments. He then gave specific design components where he was advocating for change including: (1) “holding fees” for landlords – to include all housing authority vouchers and not just those from HACoLA; (2) referrals to crisis housing/recuperative beds – to include private hospitals and not just county-run facilities; (3) more flexible use of funding.

Elizabeth, our SPA 8 Rep to the Coordinating Council, added this report-back:

HUD will again be encouraging CoC's to "Reallocate" existing program funds to other projects. Details of this year's strategy have not been finalized. The initial federal budget has an 18% cut in HUD funding, including the elimination of CDBH and HOMES programs.

LAHSA has streamlined its proposal process by replacing the "threshold review" with now having agencies "pre-qualify" to bid based on the funding source. This Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) process will be an on-going procedure where agencies submit their administrative and financial statements for approval.

- 5. Host Agency Overview.** This agenda item was reslotted because hosting agency representative Paulette Thornston, Director of Marketing and Community Outreach, was not available at the outset of our meeting. She distributed copies of Goodwill SOLAC's annual report, which gave highlights of their work including their retail operation and workforce development programs.
- 6. Advocacy Committee Report Back.** Paul Stansbury added Measure H comments. He and Ryan were suggesting LAHSA have an RFP-advisory group before the release of proposals. With so much money being awarded as soon as possible, they felt it was important to be publically accountable to voters on its effective uses.
- 7. LAHSA Report Back.** Saba Tekle reported that LAHSA continues to seek to fill the SPA 8 Regional Coordinator position, who will facilitate the annual Homeless Count and assist with capacity building. The HMIS Data Migration is on schedule and is set to be completed May 15th. Some noted they have not seen communications about this effort. Questions can be directed to program manager Pada Lee. Training on the new Clarity system is available in person or online.
- 8. Co-Chairs' Report Back.** Nancy reported on the Funders Collaborative RFP, which included the CES Renewal Grant.
- 9. Member Agency Announcements.**
 - a. Paul Stansbury announced the League of Women Voters "Mental Health Forum" on April 24th at the Torrance Civic Center's Toyota Meeting Hall.
 - b. Jonathan Pascual announced the Family Promise of the South Bay "Cardboard Box City" event on April 29th. This year, they are inviting provider agencies to help inform their members of the services they had for those experiencing homelessness.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.