

South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness (SBCEH) General Meeting

Wednesday, April 20, 2016, 9:30 am-12:00 pm

Department of Mental Health's San Pedro Mental Health Center

150 W. 7th St, San Pedro

Attendees: Guest Speaker: Grace Weltman (LAHSA), Ashlee Oh (County CEO Office of Homelessness); Hosting Agency: Maria Salas; Attendees: Co-Chair Mark Silverbush, Michael Akinbulawa (Family Promise), Crisalia Aranibar (LAUSD), Luis Arelano (PATH), Surain Badalian (LAHSA), Mary Bartel (Project: Needs), Lyndi Bell (LAHSA), Keith Bennett (City of Carson), Chris Chenet (LAHSA), Bob Chiota (City of Torrance), Linda Cortez (LAUSD), Mary Agnes Erlandson (St. Margaret's Center), Cecil Flournoy (City of Carson), Elizabeth Eastlund (Rainbow Services), Bakari Garvey (CNS), Philip Guaglianoue (Homes for Life), Tahia Hayslet (Harbor Interfaith), Margaret Hernandez (YWCA Harbor), Ellen Hong (Center for the Pacific Asian Family), Felecia Howard (US Vets), MJ Jara, Stephanie Jones (SHARE!), Paul Lange (LAUSD), Xavier Mack (LB VA), Ryan Macy-Hurley (1736), Zhen McCullom (DMH), Lao Moua (PATH), Bobbie Nashed (AHH), Yolanda Polony (DPSS), Alma Ramos (AHH), Nick Rasmussen (Family Promise), Ana Reoyo (DPSS), Bill Roberson (Judgement Recovery System), Maria Robles (DMH), Nemala Satele (Office of Samoan Affairs), Charles Smith (Salvation Army), Sharice Sowell (LAUSD), Paul Stansbury (NAMI), Shannon Teague (LB VA), Jim Tehan (Providence), Mena Vaimili (Office of Samoan Affairs), Shari Weaver (Harbor Interfaith Services), Nancy Wilcox (St. Peter's By The Sea), Ronald Williams (LAHSA).

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** SBCEH Co-chair Mark Silverbush opened the meeting at 9:37 am. The SBCEH General Meeting was held in conjunction with the quarterly Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Continuum of Care (CoC) Community Meeting. 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 forming key partnerships with local municipalities to continue creating transformative systems in our region. -- Those in attendance then introduced themselves.
- 2. Hosting Agency Overview.** Maria Salas gave a brief overview of the services at the San Pedro Mental Health Center. They provide mental health evaluations, case management, crisis intervention, and linkages to housing. They work closely with Shari Weaver and Service Planning Area (SPA) 8/South Bay's Coordinated Entry System (CES) team.
- 3. Minutes Review and Approval.** The March 2016 meeting minutes were approved without change.
- 4. Guest Speakers.** Grace Weltman from LAHSA and Ashlee Oh from the County CEO's Office were this month's guest speakers. (Please note: the summary below is a supplement to their presentations, which are attached to these minutes).

Grace Weltman's Presentation, Part 1

- a. Grace briefly reviewed the Los Angeles County and City's Homeless Strategies that have been identified for "Phase 1" implementation. For some of these strategies, LAHSA is the lead organization moving forward the implementation. A LAHSA staff person has been assigned to each strategy, including those where another department has that lead role.
- b. Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti recently released his budget, which has a large increase in homelessness spending.

Ashlee Oh's Presentation

- a. Ashlee explained on August 17, 2015, the County of Los Angeles launched its historic opportunity to develop a comprehensive set of strategies addressing homelessness. It partnered with the City of Los Angeles, 25 County departments, several other local municipalities and community organizations, seizing on the political will that now prevailed across the County.
- b. The 47 strategies are looking at providing assistance to very vulnerable populations. Part of the preventative measures will look at people exiting institutions such as jails and hospitals. Increased income strategies will be examining creating employment opportunities and efficient SSI enrollment. Case management recognizes the need for supportive services and addressing the root causes of homelessness.
- c. The collaboration with all the partners will be sustained well into the future. Investing in proven strategies will examine how limited resources can be used wisely.
- d. The Phase 1 County Strategies are the ones deemed having the greatest impact in the shortest amount of time.
- e. In addition to the one-time commitment of \$100 million, the County is exploring ongoing funds to sustain these initiatives.
- f. The community is invited to sign up to be a part of these strategies as they are being implemented. There is a link on the County Homeless Initiative webpage where you can indicate your interest.

Homeless Initiative Discussions (lead by Grace and Ashlee)

- a. The City of Los Angeles has already committed \$10 million for rapid re-housing. This funding is flowing through CES.
- b. First responder training is being established by the Sheriff's Department. It will be developing a standardized curriculum by June 30th. The City of Santa Monica's police department is a possible starting point for their work.
- c. CES is a critical element, with the City of Los Angeles last year adopting it as the coordinated system it will use.

- d. The “56.11” ordinance providing storage for those experiencing homelessness was discussed. Shelter Partnership has been contracted to provide guidance on this, but the local neighborhoods and communities need to be brought into these discussions.
- e. LAHSA will be developing performance metrics for some of the initiatives. Ashlee said the County’s goal is to house 3,500 people and prevent an additional 2,000 from falling into homelessness by June 2017.
- f. LAHSA is restructuring staff to provide planning throughout each SPA, including to focus on underserved sub-regions.
- g. Ashlee will look into providing information on the SPA 8 specific activities being implemented, including where there are gaps in our area. Other ways to stay informed include checking the Homeless Initiative website, signing up for specific strategies, and examining the quarterly reports to the Board of Supervisors.
- h. Businesses can engage through their local chamber of commerce. Landlord engagement is also key to the success of these programs.
- i. Technical assistance will be provided to communities. This is being coordinated between LAHSA, CSH, Abt Associates, UWGLA, and Shelter Partnership. A survey will be sent to elicit feedback on specific topics to cover.
- j. The County welcomes the faith community to be a part of the homelessness solutions. A question was raised how faith organizations can apply for funding, and what suitable uses of their property might be.
- k. A question was raised on who was working with the Long Beach CoC, especially in terms of providing funding for the transitional housing projects affected by the LA CoC’s “Reallocation,” where their funding was terminated from the application to HUD’s “SuperNOFA.” LAHSA will take the lead on contacting this CoC.

Grace Weltman’s Presentation, Part 2

- a. The Fair Market Rent (FMR) proposed policy was reviewed, with LAHSA recommending Option “3” be selected. It determines the FMR at the time when a lease agreement is signed, which provides the highest possibility for HUD reimbursement. Community feedback is due to LAHSA this month. Shari mentioned both HACLA and HACoLA have raised the amount that they pay out on their rental subsidies.
- b. The 2016 Homeless Count results will be released in early May. Planning on next year’s Count has already began.
- c. Surain Badalian reported on the upcoming HMIS platform RFP release. A meeting is being held to get community feedback on what capabilities service providers would like to see.
- d. LAHSA has new staff that are overseeing CES, HFSS, and Youth CES. There was a Hollywood pilot of the Youth CES. It will soon be scaled up to other regions.

5. **Advocacy Committee Report Back.** Paul Stansbury remarked SPA 8 has always been under resourced, especially in the area of permanent housing. Local engagement with city officials is important at this time, with the County Initiatives providing a good opportunity to have conversations to understand their needs and education them on available resources.
6. **Co-Chair's Report.** Nancy Wilcox reported she has been working with the City of Redondo Beach on its Homeless Assistance Working Group. She has been heavily involved with the County Initiatives as well.
7. **Member Agency Announcements.**
 - a. The VA Long Beach is holding a homeless resource day on May 18th. All Vets are welcome, even those connected with the West LA VA. Organizations providing services are encouraged to participate.
 - b. The Salvation Army in West LA is expanded into Compton. This office has employment services for Veterans.
 - c. Ellen Hong of the Center for the Pacific Asian Family announced April is Sexual Assault Month.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.