

South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness General Meeting Minutes

Hosting Organization: St. John Fisher Catholic Church
5448 Crest Road, Rancho Palos Verdes
Wednesday, May 22, 2019 ~ 9:30 -11:30 am

Attendees: Guest Speakers (LAHSA): Sairs Cooper, Traci Kawaguchi, Melanie Martins, Takita Salisberry, Steven Yu, Saba Tekle; Members: Nancy Wilcox, co-chair (St. Peter's By The Sea), Deisi Rohsig-Moeser (Homes for Life), Anabel Sanchez (Salvation Army), Ari Hamilton (Harbor Interfaith), Cindy Jones (Feed the Needy), Rita Crabtree-Kampe (MB Safe), Janet Kelly (Sanctuary of Hope), Daniel Bradford (King's Harbor Church), Dominique Nakagi (Center for the Pacific Asian Family), Alex Flores (LAFLA), Mary Agnes Erlandson (St. Margaret's Center), Grace Farwell (SBCCOG), Courtney Reed (PATH), Huberth Maltez (PATH), Drago Baric (PACS), Ernesto Madrid (Salvation Army), Roslyn Fanello (League of Women Voters), Alejandria Sanchez (Rainbow Services), Jeri Martinez (DMH), Terroah Dietel, Jessica Flores (1736 FCC), Zhen McCullum (DMH), Veronica Aguilar (DMH), Barbara Kubo (Manhattan Beach Homeless Task Force).

1. **Welcome & Introductions.** SBCEH co-chair Nancy Wilcox opened the meeting at 9:40 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves and gave their affiliation.
2. **Meeting Minutes Review.** The April meeting minutes were approved without change.
3. **Advocacy Committee Report.** Paul Stansbury gave an update on current state legislative bills. SB50, which would provide for higher density housing in transit corridors, was unexpectedly pulled for the year. SB744 will help to streamline the building permit approval process for supportive housing. Locally, the LA County Board of Supervisors (BoS) are considering changing the rate for which board and care facilities get reimbursed. These types of housing are critically needed to place people with higher needs, yet they are closing their doors at an alarming rate before they are not currently financially viable to operate. The BoS are also looking into expanding options to gain meaningful employment for those who have been previously incarcerated. Paul concluded with inviting people to check out the SCANPH report recently released which gives a summary of how the high rental cost in Los Angeles, with the lack of affordable housing stock, is affecting homelessness.
4. **Continuum of Care Board Report Out.** Nancy reported out on behalf of CoC Board representative Shari Weaver, who had to miss last month's board meeting. This body is continuing to refine the performance targets scoring rubrics established within each program type. These are then applied to the HUD CoC-funded programs. The primary discussions were around permanent supportive housing projects. There was concern about the "spend-down" and "bed utilization" scoring, where sometimes conflicts occur. For example, when a client with zero income enters the program, the housing authority is spending more of its program funds on rent and thus is then not able to meet the annual bed utilization goals.
5. **Co-Chairs' Report.** Nancy reported that she has been involved with: Measure H Year funding meetings; Safe Parking and CD15 Navigation Center LAHSA RFPs (SPA 8 org's that attended the mandatory Safe Parking bidders conference include: PATH, 1736, City of Redondo Beach); LAHSA's proposed policy change raising the eligibility CES Assessment score (i.e., VI-SPADAT) for RRH; Homeless Count Youth Component (possible changes to next year's methodology); and the Downtown Women's Center Needs Assessment (completed 42 in SPA 8 to date with Rainbow Services).
6. **Member Announcements.** The following announcements were made:
 - a. Rita Crabtree-Kampe announced an upcoming meeting of MB (Manhattan Beach) Safe, which will be held on June 19th starting at 7:00 pm at American Martyrs Church.

- b. Shari Weaver announced that SPA 8 Coordinated Entry System will be holding its quarterly Housing and Health Fair on May 29th from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm at San Pedro First Methodist Church. This event will feature Supervisor Hahn’s mobile showers.
- c. Grace Farwell informed us of the City of Hawthorne’s upcoming Senior Homeless Prevention Fair being held on June 4th from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at its Senior Center.

7. Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Quarterly Community Meeting. The floor was turned over to LAHSA staff, who gave the following reports:

- a. CES Operational Guide. Saira Cooper reported that staff is getting feedback on this Guide, then it will move on to the CES Policy Council for review, followed by a public comment period. Training on the updated guide procedures will then commence.

She also gave a Homeless Count update: LAHSA submitted the official Count totals to HUD by its 30 April deadline, and she anticipates the city-level information to be released in late June/early July.

- b. Legislative Team Updates. Traci Kawaguchi explained how her unit tracks local, state and federal legislation. LAHSA is looking for community support on bills affecting housing or homelessness funding. These bills were removed because they ran into too much opposition: AB1481, which would have made it more difficult to evict tenants without just-cause; and AB1482, which would have provided rent caps.

She gave an overview of HUD’s proposed rule change, “Verification of Eligible Status,” affecting “mixed-status” families - households with both documented and undocumented members - to qualify for federal housing assistance based on their immigration status. This proposed rule would force families out of public housing and Section 8 programs, and cause family breakups. She urged our membership to take action by the July 9th deadline by telling HUD we oppose this action. Additional resources including a sample letter will be provided shortly.

- c. “Problem Solving” Strategy. Melanie Martins gave an overview of LAHSA’s new CES program component (please note: the notes below supplement the attached briefing). While Problem Solving, better known as “Diversion,” is new to Los Angeles, it has already been incorporated in Veterans program for about a year. Using it is a paradigm shift in the way in which services are offered. Because resources are still relatively scarce in LA given the tremendous need, this approach is targeted for those not eligible for other housing interventions such as rapid rehousing. \$2 Million has been allocated for this strategy in next year’s fiscal budget through Measure H funds, with \$1.2 M going to centralized administration activities and \$800K to Access Centers. Training will be at every organization level, including with elected officials.

The approach is to empower people to identify other solutions open to them besides going into shelter. LA’s implementation will have financial assistance tied to it, with LAHSA estimating ~\$1,500/person in client aid as a guideline (much less than other programs such as RRH). Staff at CES Access Centers will be trained on this, with referrals coming additionally from community stakeholders such as hospitals and DCFS. Participants will not get CES Assessed. The goal is to divert 20-30% of the people into this program.

LAHSA is still determining if participant’s homeless status will be affected if they use in this service.

- d. Access Centers. Melanie continued with the presentation on the “Update on CES Access Infrastructure.” She explained our homelessness response system has always had access centers, but now they will be operationalized and have a consistent set of required services across the County. Protocols will be developed, but not so prescriptive as to allow for regional flexibility. Referring partners will include county departments (e.g., DPSS, Probation), colleges, cities.

The meeting concluded at 11:40 am
Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.