



## South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness General Meeting Minutes for May 26,, 2021 held via Zoom Teleconference

**Attendees:** This list was unavailable.

**Welcome.** SBCEH co-chairs Mark Silverbush and Nancy Wilcox opened the meeting at 10:05 am. Because the meeting was held via video conference, our traditional round of introductions was not made.

**Advocacy.** SBCEH Advocacy Chair Paul Stansbury reported on pending legislation at all governmental levels.

- At the federal level, President Biden’s Infrastructure bill proposal was reduced to \$1.7 trillion but there is still a big difference with yjr Republican proposal for \$568B. From s housing perspective Biden’s proposal does include expansion of rental assistance, \$70B to repair public housing, \$40B for the National Housing Trust Fund to build and preserve affordable homes. See [www.nlihc.org](http://www.nlihc.org) for more information.
- At the state level:
  - Governor Newsom’s “May Revise” includes: \$6.8B on homelessness, up substantially from the \$2.1B he outlined in January; \$3.5B to purchase and refurbish motels, hotels and other homeless housing units over the next two years through the Project Homekey initiative; \$1B to help families experiencing homelessness or at risk of being homeless; \$150Mto help transition thousands of homeless Californians who remain in motels through Project Roomkey into permanent housing.
  - **SB 679** proposes the creation of a L.A. County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency: a single affordable housing solutions agency in Los Angeles County with the ability to raise its own public and private revenue to fund systemic solutions to the countywide affordable housing crisis, including 100% affordable housing and renter protection programs.
  - Assemblymember David Chiu (D-San Francisco) initiated **AB 816** that would ensure all state and local governments are working to meaningfully address homelessness. AB 816 would undertake a statewide planning process to reduce homelessness and hold local governments accountable to those plans through a newly created Housing and Homelessness Inspector General position. The Corporation for Supportive Housing, Housing California, Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, and the Steinberg Institute are co-sponsoring this bill.
  - Implementation on peer certification continues to implement **SB 803** which will establish standards for peers -persons with a mental illness or family members -to be certified based on training or expertise which hopes to improve the use of peers in providing services. The peer certification may allow for Medi-Cal billing.
  - **Cal AIM** multiyear initiative to improve the quality of life and health outcomes by implementing broad delivery system, program and payment reform across Medi-Cal program Medicaid 1115 waiver expires can be extended for five years.
- At the LA County level: Measure J recommendations were heard and commented on in listening sessions last week. The estimated amount of funds available is about \$100 million every year

for three years. Recommendations can be viewed at <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/ati/>. They included more funding for community based organizations, reduction in barriers to small community-based organizations contracting with the county, Men's Central Jail, more housing with services, diversion programs and many more. The [spending plan](#) is available at public review.

- At the City of Los Angeles level: Motion by Council Member de Leon to retract HHH Funding, is being heard on May 27 to have City report on legal options to withdraw letters of commitment for Proposition HHH in the pre-development phase and steps to initiate such a process.

### **Special Topic: Housing Racial Equity Series #1: General Introduction From a Data Analysis Perspective.**

Mark Silverbush used the Veterans Administration's Supportive Services for Veterans Families (SSVF) initiative as a model of how a program can use data to examine the distribution of its resources across racial categories. (Please refer to his attached briefing for the primary details.)

- SSVF is "data rich" because all the grantees must upload its performance data into HMIS monthly. This program is also extensive in its reach, serving 98% of the Continuum of Care (CoC) nationwide. Cumulatively since program inception in 2012, SSVF has served more than 900,000 persons.
- Leading with racial equity is important to undo the systemic policies that incentivized homelessness among people of color. This has manifested in the legacy of slavery with no reparations, intergenerational poverty, disproportional imprisonment, destruction of families, harmful policing policies, systems of oppression, redlining, loan distributions, job discrimination, inequitable educational system, and the military's history of discrimination. We have an ethical responsibility to provide services to all members of our community. Looking at race, it is the single largest predictor of health determinants. COVID-19 has exasperated these disparities, disproportionately affecting people of color.
- "Equality" is about "sameness; "Equity" is about "fairness" with the opportunity to achieve positive outcomes; "Justice" is achieved when we can look at the percentage of people affected by a problem and that reflects the general demographics of that community, rather than a disproportionate number found in any categories such as race, ethnicity, gender, etc.
- Mark introduced the concept of "Targeted Universalism," showed a UC Berkeley clip highlighting this idea.
- At the CoC level, HUD created the Racial Equity Analysis Tool that compares homelessness household groups, both sheltered and unsheltered, with census data to highlight any differences (through the American Community Survey). The graphs presented with data from the Los Angeles CoC shows strikingly the difference in the number of Black persons in poverty as compared to those who are experiencing homelessness (11% vs 43%).
- The "SSVF Equity Report" was developed to (1) better assist grantees to first understand equity issues, (2) help identify specific service disparities, and (3) to suggest policy and practice changes that address and correct these. One key outcome is following the BIPOC group to ensure they are making it into permanent housing at the same rate as the overall group.
- When reviewing other mitigating factors, it is also important to ensure the data is used appropriately, given the context of local factors.
- Mark explained that SSVF data is entered daily by grantees, which is then uploading to a national data repository on monthly basis. For the 2020 Count within the LA CoC, the number of Veterans experiencing homelessness was 3,681, with 428 in SPA 8 (this number is large because of the US Veterans Initiative interim housing program located in Inglewood that serves Veterans from across LA County).

**Co-Chairs' Report.** Nancy Wilcox reported on the following:

- She is continuing to work on the "Homelessness 101" awareness presentations, having created a version for the community and one for faith-based organizations. She hopes to have talking points to accompany these by summer's end.
- In preparation for the 2022 Homeless Count, LAHSA is piloting a mobile app to replace the traditional clipboards that had a tally sheet and map for each census tract.
- With the lifting of COVID restrictions, she will be sending a poll to get member feedback on keeping the General Meetings virtual, resuming them in-person, or some combination of these two options.

**Member Announcements.**

1. Jennifer Pesavento with So Cal ROC's said summer and fall session registration are now open.
2. Laurie Jacobs with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments reminded us about its HomeShare program, where seniors at-risk of homelessness can rent a room by a homeowner.
3. Jessie Ramirez, the City of Hawthorne's Homeless Liaison who works for St. Margaret's Center, reported that yesterday's Hawthorne Homeless Connect Day had 12 providers participating in assisting 50 people, including 15 who received a COVID-19 vaccine.

**The meeting was adjourned at 11:2 am.**

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.