

South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness General Meeting Minutes

Behavior Health Services, 15519 Crenshaw Blvd, Gardena, CA
Wednesday, June 21, 2017, from 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Attendees: Guest Speaker (LAHSA): Clementina Verjan, Anna Bialik, Paul Lange, Silvana Caruana, Saba Tekle; Hosting Agency: Dejuanna Wallace; Members: Co-Chair Mark Silberbush, Elaine Ruggiero, Beatrix Vega (Rainbow), Paul Stansbury (NAMI), Chante Wheeler (US Vets), Laura Scotvold-Lemp (Beacon Light Mission), Janeth Ventura (PATH), Dan Brandform (King's Harbor Church), Zhen McCullom (DMH), Mary Agnes Erlandson (St. Margaret's Center), Keith Bennett (City of Carson), Tahia Hayslet (Harbor Interfaith Services), Esperanza Carmoner (Community's Child), Jo Takanbe (CPAF), Lao Moua (PATH), Ryan Macy-Hurley (1736 FCC), Cecil Fournoy (City of Carson), Bill Roberson (San Pedro United Methodist Church), Nancy Wilcox (St. Peter's By The Sea).

- 1. Welcome & Introductions.** SBCEH Co-chair Mark Silverbush opened the meeting at 9:48 a.m. Everyone introduced themselves and gave their affiliation.
- 2. Hosting Agency Overview.** Dejuanna Wallace of Behavioral Health Services (BHS) gave an overview of services at her agency.

"BHS has been providing services to the community since 1973. The majority of our services have historically focused on recovery from drug and alcohol issues. We provide 2 of the county's 3 Detox Hospitals, along with 5 Residential Treatment Centers (3 of which can accommodate children whose parents are in treatment), 10 Outpatient Programs, and Prevention services in the South Bay and Hollywood. BHS has also traditionally focused on underserved community members and no one is turned away for lack of ability to pay.

Over the years BHS has expanded their services to meet community needs and now provides a vast array of services that may include according to site: Family Preservation, DUI, Anger Management, Mental Health Services, Domestic Violence classes, HIV Outreach, and Adolescent Specific services.

Just last year we opened our newest community service venture, a Federally Qualified Health Center in the City of Hawthorne. That is where I work in Outreach and Enrollment. Our clinic has multiple providers including Pediatricians, Adult Primary Care Physicians, an OB/GYN Physician, Family Nurse Practitioners, and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. This means that we are able to see patients for health care needs ranging from a common cold or flu to chronic disease management (such as Diabetes or Hypertension) and from the need for an up to date physical to pre-natal and postnatal care. We currently accept Medi-Cal, Medicare and some private insurance. No one is turned away for a lack of ability to pay and as an enrollment specialist through Covered CA I have the ability to help patients who have no coverage apply for insurance coverage. We also have discounted/sliding fee rates for cash patients.

We are located at 2501 W El Segundo Blvd. Suite B in the City of Hawthorne. That is just a couple of

blocks east of Crenshaw on the north side of the street. Our current hours are Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri 8am to 4pm, Weds 11am to 7pm and Sat 9am to 5pm. We are accepting new patients of all ages.”

3. **Minutes Review and Approval.** The May 2017 Minutes were approved with change to item 7.b about the City of Carson’s Laundry Love, which is held on the 3rd Wednesday from 4-9 pm.
4. **LAHSA Quarterly Community Items.** Staff from the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) gave the following reports. (Note: these minutes supplement the information presented in the attached briefing).
 - a. HUD CoC Program – Community Feedback. Clementina Verjan described the “Reallocation” process used for this year’s HUD CoC Competition, which will be reviewed by the Coordinating Council in July. The “New Projects” Request for Proposal (RFP) will not be issued by LAHSA until HUD releases its Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) so it can reflect any changes from last year’s NOFA. Anna Bialik suggested agencies could review last year’s New Project RFP on the LAHSA website to get a heads-up on what this year’s might be like, given the anticipated short time to respond to it.

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) programs now funded by HUD’s CoC award are being considered defunded because they will now be covered by Measure H. There were concerns about what would happen after this 10 year sales tax generated funding goes away. Staff said funding RRH with local resources will give more program flexibility than those under HUD resources.

85% of the CoC Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) beds will be allocated to those who are chronically homeless, with 100% of the “turnover” beds going to this population as well.

- b. Los Angeles Continuum of Care (CoC) Board Elections. Paul Lange reviewed the CoC Board background and election rules. Candidate Ryan Macy-Hurley stated his qualifications. The second candidate, Veronica Gonzales, was not able to be present so Clementina read her application statement. After a secret vote where each organization present had one vote, it was decided that Ryan would be SPA 8’s representative to this board.
- c. Request for Statement of Qualification (RFSQ) & Upcoming RFPs. Anna described the RFSQ process. She emphasized the required Org Chart cannot be too detailed; LAHSA has [a sample](#) on its website. If an organization does not pass this process, staff is willing to provide assistance. Once an agency has corrected any deficiencies, it can immediately reapply. New agencies, like from the faith community, are encouraged to be a subcontractor to those that have passed the RFSQ so they can establish their qualifications thereby allowing them to apply on their own in the future. Other county agencies such as DHS and DMH have their own qualifying procedures.
- d. Policy Updates. Erin Cox reviewed the “Law Enforcement” LA CoC Policy. It was created in response to the shifting federal climate on undocumented persons. The “CES Policy Workgroup & Council” is working with all three CES systems, Single Adults, Families and Transition Age Youth. The CES Policy Workgroup is a closed meeting, but the CES Policy Council is open to the public.
- e. 2017 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count Results. Because of time, Paul skipped the County results shown on the slides and focused on the SPA 8 findings. In response to a question

about the increase in mental health, he said the use this year of a “response card” instead of relying solely on verbal answers may have been a factor, making the respondents more comfortable about giving a candid answer. Demographic information about sex trafficking for those who were in shelter was not attained (note: this was a question in the Demographic Survey, which was given to unsheltered persons; demographic information for those in shelter the night of the Count is pulled through HMIS, but this specific factor is not in this database).

5. Co-Chairs’ Report Back. Nancy reported on the upcoming County Interfaith Summit for SPA 8, being held on July 26th from 3-5 pm at the Redondo Beach Public Library. She also stated she participated on behalf of SBCEH to the national call-in sponsored by the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

6. Member Agency Announcements.

- a. Mary Agnes Erlandson announced that starting July 5th, CES-Families was using St. Margaret’s Center as the “northern hub” staffed by PATH. She also shared about the Pets for Homeless event being held at St. Margaret’s.

The meeting adjourned at 11:44 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.