



**South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness
General Meeting Minutes
for June 23, 2021
held via Zoom Teleconference**

Attendees: This list was unavailable.

Welcome. SBCEH co-chairs Mark Silverbush and Nancy Wilcox opened the meeting at 10:04 am. Because the meeting was held via video conference, our traditional round of introductions was not made.

Advocacy. There was no report this month.

Special Topic: Housing Racial Equity Series #2: LAHSA's *Ad Hoc* Committee on Black Persons Experiencing Homelessness, and Agency Spotlight on Sanctuary of Hope (SOH). SOH's Executive Director Janet Kelly gave an agency overview and then weaved information about the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority's *ad hoc* Committee on Black Persons Experiencing Homelessness. (Please refer to her attached briefing.)

- She first gave an overview of her professional background. After graduating from UCLA, she worked on social justice issues centered around fair housing. She then worked 14 years with PATH before creating Sanctuary of Hope, which is aligned with racial justice and liberational justice for young adults ("youth" ages 16-25).
- Janet shared a video of SoH's "Destinations" program, which takes South LA youth to southern Africa, where they can learn firsthand how historical moments of injustice still have impacts on our systems today.
- SoH works with many who were involved with the child welfare or justice system. Young people do not like to be tagged as "homeless" because it is a situation, not an identity.
- Staff is trained with organizational values to affirm their participants' cultural identities in order to realize their potential. The briefing lists the agency's 13 Core Youth Development Competencies.
- Students are helped around the country that participate in the "College I Can" program. There is no homelessness requirement, with the program also serving middle- or low-income families that do not have the means to support their college-aged students to bolster their resiliency.
- Upcoming program plans include: "Freedom Ride" equity trip centered around the civil rights movement; traveling to Cuba; and returning to Africa in 2022. Launching in September will be a pilot program in partnership w/faith-based organizations.
- COVID changed what the agency has done this past year, but the need was still great as they served over 1,000. Employment was a particularly critical service provided.
- Janet gave an example of a young man they helped who had experienced gun violence. SoH helped to relocate him to a new neighborhood and gave him services so he would continue to have a support system and not "get stuck."

- Accessing employment programs is hindered especially for young black men who have to answer if they signed up for the draft. SoH holds mock interviews to help them.
- It also sends “care packages” to youth across the county to keep up their morale while in college.
- LAHSA’s *ad hoc* Committee on Black Persons Experiencing Homelessness identified 67 strategies that uncovered structural, institutional, and systemic racism. These can be categorized into five areas: (1) Coordinated Entry System (CES); (2) housing affordability; (3) criminal justice; (4) youth; and (6) permanent housing and retention. LAHSA and LA County CEO’s Office both recently hired a director to lead their racial equity work.
- LAHSA brought on a team to analyze the feasibility of piloting the 67 strategies, to expand the lived expertise expertise, and to invest in research. Two reports were published, one lead by Dr. Rice of USC on CES which showed that Blacks do not score as well on the CES Assessment as others.
- The *ad hoc* committee will reconvene later this summer or early fall, to be responsive to changes that have already taken place within LAHSA and the County. It will also look to how it can partner and/or provide co-leadership to ensure the strategies are implemented in County departments.

Co-Chairs’ Report. Nancy and Mark reported on the following:

- On behalf of SBCEH, Nancy is co-convening weekly meetings with the SPA 8 CES leadership and the South Bay cities that have public housing authorities (Hawthorne, Inglewood, Redondo Beach, and Torrance), focused on the new HUD Emergency Housing Vouchers program where 6,800 new vouchers were allocated to Los Angeles County PHA’s.
- She has also been working closely with the City of Torrance on crafting its Homeless Plan, which was approved by the City Council earlier this month. Council also approved a 40 unit pallet interim shelter.
- The results of the 2021 Shelter Count will be announced by LAHSA in July. Mark cautioned that the results will probably be very mixed because of how COVID restrictions affected the operations in January, when the Count was conducted.

Member Announcements.

- Misty Jesse with St. John Fisher’s Church in RPV asked about shelter programs in Long Beach. During the pandemic, her congregation has been providing food at locations in this city, where the need for those wanting meals has increased. Jordan Wynne with the LA County Department of Health Services (DHS) and member of the Long Beach Homeless Coalition reported that the Long Beach shelters are starting to come back to their pre-COVID capacity.
- Jordan reported that DHS is looking for COVID vaccine opportunities in SPA 8 to bring its mobile clinic to both sheltered and unsheltered venues. Its teams have specialized staff trained to engage vaccine-reluctant people. They are hoping to reach their fall goal of vaccinating 70% of unhoused persons.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.