



South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness General Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 Beginning at 10:00 am

Via Zoom Video Conference

Attendees: This was unavailable.

Welcome. SBCEH co-chair Mark Silverbush opened the meeting at 10:06 am. Because the meeting was held via video conference, our traditional round of introductions was not made.

Advocacy Report

- Nancy Wilcox reviewed Alex Visotzky's attached "Update; Federal and State Funding for Homelessness" briefing that was presented at LAHSA's June 19th Policy and Planning Committee meeting. The reduction in tax revenue due to the COVID-19 pandemic will result in a decline in available Measure H funds next fiscal year. His briefing gives an overview of the different federal funding streams expected to fill this gap. These funds will flow into LA through the Coronavirus Relief Funds, Emergency Solutions Grant, and Community Development Block Grant programs. "City" on these charts refers to the City of Los Angeles.
- We invite coalition members to join our Advocacy Committee meeting. Often, we are asked to submit letters of support for different legislation and initiatives. Nancy, representing the Coalition, will frequently acknowledge our support for these housing and homelessness efforts.
- Paul Stansbury explained the state budget has "Realignment Fund" that are dependent on getting additional federal COVID relief dollars. This includes housing funding as well as programs for behavioral health.

"A Bridge Home" (ABH) Shelter Update. Shari Weaver of Harbor Interfaith Services gave the following report (note: HIS will be staffing the San Pedro ABH site and US Veterans Initiative Long Beach will be operating the Wilmington ABH):

- The grand opening for the San Pedro shelter will be July 7th. She gave the following background: in April 2018, the City of LA declared a shelter emergency crisis resulting in its FY18-19 City budget having \$29 million to build more bridge housing. Each of the 15 councilmembers were tasked with developing a shelter in the heart of their district's homelessness area. The shelters are all "low-barrier" providing case management.
- LAHSA is the funder for these shelters that will operate for three years. They are operational 24/7, with the residents selected from a prioritized list. The San Pedro site will have 36 women and 64 men, and the Wilmington site will have 28 women and 72 men. Each will have their own cubical with a bed and storage locker. The sites also are pet friendly. The San Pedro site will have a staff of 15, along with 24-hour security.
- Shari acknowledged the hard-working efforts of these outreach teams who are vital toward ensuring a successful opening: LAHSA HET, PATH, DMH, MHA's E-6 team, HIS, and CD15 staff.
- 175 people were prioritized for the Pedro site and 250 for Wilmington. For the people on this list who are not able to get one of the beds, they will remain on an overflow list and continue to be street case managed. The San Pedro list was comprised of people living near the San Pedro Post Office and Harbor City Lomita/McCoy encampment. These shelters are for single adults, not families.
- The nearby San Pedro Navigation Center, operated by Volunteers of America, will be opening soon. The intent is for people who are still living on the streets or in vehicles to use this storage facility. Case management will also be provided.

LAHSA RHAC “Post-COVID-19 Recovery Plan” Feedback. Nancy gave this report for our SPA 8 RHAC rep’s Mary Agnes Erlandson and Wayne Windman:

- LAHSA’s ED Heidi Marston presented to the Board of Supervisors a framework for the COVID recovery (see attached briefing). It provides a high-level roadmap for the “immediate and short term,” “medium-term,” and “longer-term” actions LAHSA has proposed. Communities are asked to provide inputs to this plan.
- Feedback that was brought up at our meeting to be shared with the RHAC included: (1) While we understand the new priority is to house the 15,000 who are COVID-vulnerable, including the 3,000 to date in Project RoomKey, what about the others that don’t fit this profile and are still “high acuity”? In addition, of special concern are these populations: those with severe mental health, families with minor-aged children, and domestic violence survivors.

2020 Homeless Count County Level Results. Mark and Nancy gave the following report (please see attached briefing):

- On pg 5 of the briefing, he explained our coalition raised concerns about the 2019 Count demographic surveys. Because the vast majority of last year’s surveys were conducted in the City of Los Angeles’ portion of SPA 8, the results may not accurately reflect the entire region, thus affecting the demographic 1-year change.
- Pages 12-13 show the race and ethnicity breakout. The pie chart showing the 2020 ethnic breakout is important to note over the 5-year trend charts, especially with the smaller population groups since any quantity change results in a relatively large percentage delta.
- Page 14 shows that there was a large 2020 1-year increase for Veterans. We do not know why this occurred, but it may be related to last year’s demographic surveys because of the large decrease that occurred in 2019. The trend line on the chart gives another perspective on how to view the data.
- Page 15 showing the number of persons with a substance use disorder saw a large jump, which is attributed to the way the survey question was asked this year. Because there are more people with this disabling condition, the number of chronically homeless also rose because there are now more who are eligible for this designation. It was emphasized that there was not a surge of “new” chronically homeless.
- We do not know why 2019 had a large spike in the number who have HIV/AIDS. Again, we suggest people look at the 5-year trends to get a viewpoint of each demographic.

Co-Chairs’ Report. Nancy gave an update that the County’s Homeless Initiative office is set to release its proposed Measure H budget for next FY this week. There will be a two-week public comment period along with a webinar explaining the suggested allocations. The Census 2020 effort has moved back the dates in which it will be visiting shelters and soup kitchen/feeding programs to September 20-24.

There were no member announcements.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.