

South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness (SBCEH) General Meeting

Wednesday, July 13, 2016; 9:30-11:30 am

Carson Community Center, 801 E. Carson, Carson, CA

Attendees: Guest Speakers: Clementina Verjan, Peter Lynn, Lyndi Bell, Stephen Sotomayor (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority); Hosting Agency: Amanda Valorosi, Keith Bennett, Cac Le (City of Carson); Attendees: Co-Chair Mark Silverbush, Yesenia Akers (Alliance for Housing & Healing), Melissa Andrizzi-Sobel (BCHD), Mary Bartel (Project: Needs), George Bell (Lutheran Social Services), Meredith Berkson (PATH), Karen Ceaser (Community Member), Jennifer Corral (Harbor City Neighborhood Council), Nina Dooley (LINC Housing, Shared Bread), Elizabeth Eastlund (Rainbow Services), Cinder Eller-Kimbell (Inglewood PD), Mary Agnes Erlandson (St. Margaret's Center), Bill Evans (LA Sheriff Dept), Michele Fallon (Toberman), Erika Gist-Siever (DPH), Ed Gonzalez (1736), Tahia Hayslet (Harbor Interfaith Service), Donna Littlejohn (Daily Breeze), Ryan Macy-Hurley (1736), Connie McOsker (Harbor Occupational Ctr & Grand Vision Foundation), Janet Kelly (Sanctuary of Hope), Gerardo Magallanes (1736), Zhen McCullom (DMH), Jeff Mendence (Redondo PD), Peter Min (Love INC), Lao Moua (PATH), Delia Munoz (LA County Probation), Sharon Novalez (Office of Samoan Affairs), Tunetta Powell (Central San Pedro Neighborhood Council), Ryan Harrison (Redondo PD), Alma Ramos (AHH), Chuck Scarpaci (Christian Outreach in Action), Paul Stansbury (NAMI), Kathy Te (CPAF), Serennah Tuff-Erwin (SHARE!), Shari Weaver (HIS), Nancy Wilcox (St. Peter's By The Sea), Wayne Windman (Redondo PD).

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** SBCEH Co-chair Mark Silverbush opened the meeting at 9:40 am. Peter Lynn, Executive Director of the Los Angeles Services Authority (LAHSA), was introduced, followed by introductions of all those attending. Mark gave a brief overview of SBCEH, including how we use data such as the Homeless Count (HC) to inform our work.
- 2. Hosting Agency Overview.** Amanda Valorosi, City of Carson's coordinator of Senior Assisted Living, talked about the services the City provides to those who are homeless. Her office has also been the lead for conducting the Homeless Count in Carson.
- 3. Minutes Review and Approval.** The May 2016 meeting minutes were approved without change.
- 4. LAHSA Quarterly Community Engagement.** Clementina Verjan thanked SBCEH for being a strong partner in helping conduct the Homeless Count, and acknowledged how it takes LAHSA's data to the next level in its analysis and presentation to communities.

(Note: the following notes are supplemental to the materials briefed by each presenter; please refer to the attached LAHSA briefing and SBCEH HC16 data sheets).

- i. **SPA 8 Homeless Count Overview.** Lyndi Bell, LAHSA's SPA 8 HC Regional Coordinator, presented the Key Findings for Service Planning Area (SPA) 8/South Bay

results. 475 SPA 8 volunteers participated the night of the Street Count. Demographic statistics were based on 5,000 completed surveys of unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness; information on those staying in shelters was pulled from the HMIS database.

- ii. **SPA 8 City-Level Opt-In Overview.** Nancy Wilcox, co-chair of SBCEH, explained how it took LAHSA's detailed census tract-level data and generated the Coalition's HC16 data sheets.

She first went over the SPA-Level and SPA 8 Trends information sheets.

- The SPA Level sheet enumerates the number of persons found homeless for each South Bay city or unincorporated area. She cautioned against summing each category and then comparing it with the SPA-level findings reported by LAHSA; they do not always align because of rounding errors that occurred during the extrapolation process. For example, for each car found during the Street Count, it was multiplied by the factor representing the average number of persons living in this type of vehicle (this particular multiplier is 1.48).
- The Trends data sheet compares key factors from the last three Counts. There was a large percentage increase of people living in vehicles as compared to those on the streets or in shelters. It also shows the number of families experiencing homelessness has gone down over this time period. For the Special Populations – Veterans and Chronic Homeless – both saw a dramatic increase from 2013 to 2015, but then saw this trend decrease as resources and the national priorities for them were substantially stepped up; this shows we know how to solve homelessness given we have enough fiscal resources.

Before moving on to each city-level data sheet, Nancy gave this background:

- She encouraged people to understand what homelessness looks like throughout the entire region because those experiencing homelessness often cross city boundaries.
- For HC16, LAHSA changed the census tracts used from previous years – from the 2000 to 2010 set. This caused the assignment of certain shelters to move from one community to a different one.
- While the numbers of people staying in shelters located within each city is provided, people should focus on the *unsheltered* population because people throughout the SPA can use any shelter so that number does not reflect how many were experiencing homelessness in that community before they sought this type of temporary housing.
- Each sheet has at least a one-Count “look back.” Because we covered 100% of the tracts for two consecutive Counts (2015 and 2016), it gives us a solid basis for comparing homelessness throughout SPA 8. For 11 cities or neighborhoods, we also provided the 2013 HC data.

- All of these data sheets will be available on our website, www.sbceh.org/homeless-count-2016.html
- iii. **SPA 8 Coordinated Entry System (CES) and Homeless Family Solutions System (HFSS) Outcomes Report.** Shari Weaver, from SPA 8’s collaborative CES and HFSS lead organization Harbor Interfaith Services, reported on the number of persons housed during the 2016 fiscal year that just ended for these County programs (from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016):
- CES: 730 unique assessments were completed; 258 were placed into permanent housing including 89 chronic Veterans and 12 non-chronic Veterans.
 - Rapid Re-housing: 36 individuals and 4 Veterans were placed since January 2016 using this intervention (the City of Los Angeles funding flowed through CES).
 - HFSS: 639 were served, with 175 families placed into permanent housing.
- iv. **LAHSA Ad Hoc Governance Update.** Stephen Sotomayor, LAHSA’s Senior Policy and Legislative Analyst, gave this presentation.
- In order to meet HUD compliance, the LA Continuum of Care (CoC) has to modify its governance structure. It currently is overseen by a 10-person Commission (5 appointed from the County of LA, 5 from the City of LA), with community representation from the advisory Coordinating Council (2 elected representatives from each SPA). Concerns were raised at the loss of community and agency input with the new governance structure - especially at a time when the stakes are higher with HUD funding. Ensuring underserved areas such as SPA 8 was also expressed (LAHSA does give 5 bonus points to these regions during grant application evaluations).
 - The establishment of the Regional Homeless Advisory Council (RHAC) was approved by the LAHSA Commission. This new body will have 13-15 people representing a range of stakeholders. The timeline to select RHAC members is around November, but the formal process has not been developed. Clementina suggested all process questions be raised through our SPA 8 Coordinating Council representatives, Tahia Hayslet and Elizabeth Eastlund.
- v. **HUD CoC Competition.** Peter Lynn discussed the following:
- HUD has been shifting away from funding transitional housing (TH) programs in favor of permanent supportive housing (PSH). In last year’s HUD “SuperNOFA” competition, it was extremely competitive so LAHSA felt our continuum’s application had to comply with HUD’s priority; several TH programs were cut at that time. For this year’s NOFA, 7% of our funding is at risk, or in the “Tier 2” lower priority.

- With the City and County of Los Angeles committing funding to housing through RRH interventions, LAHSA feels it is better for HUD funding to support long-term PSH programs.
- TH programs for domestic violence survivors and Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) have been the exception populations in which this housing intervention is recommended. In this year's NOFA, the type of program (e.g., TH or PSH) is not as large a factor as it was last year.
- Peter pointed out the LA CoC is not the most competitive continuum in the region and is therefore looking at ways in which to improve our overall score.
- Nina Dooley commented the lack of PSH and the political will to "green light" such housing units is missing from the conversation.

5. Advocacy Committee Report Back. Paul gave an overview of the initiatives likely to be on the November general election ballot. He also reviewed the proposals championed by Supervisor Ridley-Thomas, and the City of Los Angeles' parcel tax.

6. Co-Chair's Report. Nancy reported that over \$3 million in SPA 8 CES grants is being sought for this funding cycle. She also discussed the Supervisorial District 4 Candidate Forum held in May; over 400 attended this Long Beach event. Another is being considered in the fall, perhaps located in Whittier.

The meeting ended at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.