

South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness General Meeting Minutes

Hosting Organization: City of Carson

Wednesday, July 24, 2019 ~ 9:30 -11:30 am

Attendees: Guest Speaker (LAHSA): Melanie Martins; Hosting Agency (City of Carson): Keith Bennett; Members: Mark Silverbush (SBCEH), Shari Weaver (Harbor Interfaith Services), Jeannette Aguilar (Exodus Recovery), Toya Johnson (Salvation Army), Paul Stansbury (NAMI South Bay), Alicia Reves (Salvation Army), Chris Gilrath (Salvation Army SSVF), Grace Farwell (South Bay Cities Council of Governments), Steven Yu (LAHSA), Jennifer Pasavento (SoCal ROC), Courtney Reed (PATH), Ronald Williams (Shoftim Consulting), Nancy Wilcox (St. Peter's By the Sea Church).

1. **Welcome & Introductions.** SBCEH co-chair Mark Silverbush opened the meeting at 9:38 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves and gave their affiliation.
2. **Meeting Minutes Review.** The June meeting minutes were approved without change.
3. **Advocacy Committee Report.** Paul Stansbury gave an update on current state legislative bills, including SB744 (No Place Like Home), SB 329 (Stop Discrimination of Section 8 Voucher Holders), and AB1482 (Rent Cap). He extended an invitation to attend LA County DMH's "Stakeholder Engagement" on July 25th.
4. **Continuum of Care (CoC) Board Report Out.** Shari Weaver, our Service Planning Area (SPA) 8 representative to LAHSA's CoC Board, gave the following report:
 - a. On July 3rd, HUD announced the release of the 2019 CoC Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) national competition. Approximately \$2.3 billion was approved by Congress and includes \$50 million for Domestic Violence Bonus Projects.
 - i. LA CoC's annual renewal is a little over \$122 million, with an additional \$1.25 million for new planning grants (1-year/non-renewable funds) and \$5 million for the "DV Bonus" funds. CoC's can submit new projects either through reallocation and/or CoC Bonus. Eligible projects remain the same this year: PSH, RRH & Joint TH/RRH (no population limitations).
 - ii. Key Changes from 2018 include: (1) for the first time HUD is allowing new projects to request an initial grant term from 12 to 18 months, recognizing that project start-up often delays full spend down. (2) expansion grants are only permitted for renewal projects (2018 HUD permitted non-CoC funded projects); (3) unlike in the last competition, CoC can submit multiple applications under the eligible DV Bonus components (RRH / TH-RRH).
 - iii. The LAHSA's CoC Board is establishing and approving policies for the 2019 competition, specifically for performance evaluation, reallocation, and priority list ranking strategy.
 - iv. HUD NOFA Timeline: (1) LAHSA will release the RFP on July 26th; (2) August 2nd is the proposer's conference; (3) RFP due on August 16th; (4) CoC Written notification; (5) Deadline for submission to HUD Sept. 30th
 - b. LAHSA will be applying again for the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (this is the third time the funding opportunity as been available). HUD is accepting applications for \$1 to \$15 million to reduce the number of Youth experiencing homelessness.
 - c. Significant Changes in HUD's Homeless Policy Priorities:
 - i. In 2018, a "Housing First Approach" was emphasized; but in 2019 it shifted to "using an evidence-based approach." Prioritize projects will be based upon cost-effectiveness and impact on positive housing outcomes, recovery, self-sufficiency and reducing homelessness.
 - ii. Increasing employment is also being emphasized, partnering with public and private employment agencies to create training and job opportunities.
 - iii. Flexibility for Housing First with service participation requirements, using rapid placement into permanent housing without preconditions. However, this NOFA will allow service participation requirements, without penalty, once a person has been stably housed.
5. **2019 Homeless Count Update.** Mark said the Community Level Homeless Count information will be released very soon, while some key data files (Housing Inventory Count) available in the fall.

- 6. Special Topic: Veterans Affairs (VA) Homelessness Programs.** Melanie Martins, title with LAHSA, gave an overview of key VA programs. (These notes supplement her attached briefing.)
- a. Veteran resource qualifications are based on a participant's "VA Healthcare Eligibility." Determining this is complicated and factors in (1) the nature of the person's discharge status and (2) whether he/she was deployed during certain conflict eras. Vets are able to receive benefits from multiple programs.
 - b. The SSVF program, which started in 2012, is a rapid re-housing and prevention program for both families with minor aged children as well as for single adults.
 - c. While Vet homelessness has decreased slightly in LA County, there still remains a large inflow of new persons experiencing homelessness. In the past, the focus has been on housing the chronically homeless so we are seeing lower numbers among this group.
 - d. Locally, the West LA VA is reducing the case load ratio of its staff to move Vets into housing sooner.
 - e. The West LA VA will be staffing three positions to compliment Melanie's LAHSA position; they will be assigned regionally (e.g., SPAs 1-4, SPAs 5-8, and Santa Barbara).
 - f. There are 7,453 HUD-VASH vouchers in the LA CoC, including about 800 "under development." This represents the cumulative number allocated over the years (note: Mark provided an updated number after the meeting which is reflected in these Minutes).
 - g. "Rapid Resolution" started in 2018 as a 3-month pilot in 10 communities throughout the country. This represents a shift in thinking and will be integrated into all the VA housing programs. Reconnections with family is one of the keys to this approach.
 - h. "Veteran Peer Access Network" is focused on helping Vets return to the civilian life. Besides helping with life skills, it has a suicide and homeless prevention program element, and also includes approaches for helping reentry clients. An example of how this might be used: SSVF clients might need more hands-on help and support, so a peer can accompany them to appointments that often tie up the entire all day.
 - i. "Shallow Subsidy" is left up to the local community to decide the implementation details. With this program starting in October 1st for the LA CoC, these details are being worked out now, including whether to mirror the Measure H program of offering \$300/individual or \$500/family household per month to those served by RRH. The VA's program will probably have a 3-year cap because that is the length of the SSVF contracts (though it could be extended).
 - j. US Veterans Initiative in Inglewood and Long Beach each have GPD programs in SPA 8.
 - k. The older GPD model had many rules participants had to follow, causing several to prematurely leave the program. The updated GPD program works closely with SSVF and VASH. The first four program models listed on Melanie's slide are available in LA CoC; the last two (Hospital to Housing and Transition in Place) may not be currently available by a provider (she will check and let Shari Weaver know so she can share this with the SPA 8 provider collaborative).
 - l. The "Bridge Housing" is typically for stays up to 90 days while the Vet is waiting for paperwork to be approved or while looking for an apartment. "SITH" is for clients that have more housing barriers and need more case management. "Clinical Treatment" provides a stricter operational structure. "Low Demand" is for those not wanting treatment and follows Housing First practices.
- 5. Co-Chairs' Report.** Mark is working with LAHSA to update the "[Gap Analysis](#)." Nancy reported that the County's Homeless Initiative Office has prepared a process to seek inputs for Year 4 Measure H funding.
- 6. Member Announcements.** There were no member announcements this month.

The meeting concluded at 11:10 am
Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.