

## South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness (SBCEH) General Meeting

Wednesday, August 17, 2016; 9:30-11:30 am

San Pedro United Methodist Church, 580 W. 6<sup>th</sup> St, San Pedro, CA

**Attendees:** Guest Speakers: Tara Reed (MHA); Hosting Agency: Lisa Williams (San Pedro United Methodist Church); Attendees: Co-Chair Mark Silverbush, Casalia Aranibar (LAUSD), Lyndi Bell (LAHSA), Keith Bennett (City of Carson), Meredith Berkson (PATH), Harriot Chase (League of Women Voters South Bay), Bob Chiotta (Community Member), Nicole Colunbae (PATH), Linda Cortez (LAUSD), Nina Dooley (LINC Housing, Shared Bread), Mary Agnes Erlandson (St. Margaret's Center), Elizabeth Eastlund (Rainbow Services), Nyscelle Garcia (Safe Families for Children), Joan Le Sage (League of Women Voters Beach Cities), Felecia Howard (US Vets Inglewood), Zena McCullom (DMH), Jeff Mendence (Redondo PD), Peter Min (Love INC), Janae Oliver (Kaiser South Bay), Yolanda Polony (DPSS), Alma Ramos (Alliance for Housing and Healing), Ana Reoyo (DPSS), Bobbie Scott (Alliance for Housing and Healing), Paul Stansbury (NAMI South Bay), Jo Takarabe (Center for the Pacific Asian Family), Serennah Tuff-Erwin (SHARE!), Veronica Turner (County Harbor/UCLA Medical Center), Zina Washington (Help Me Help You), Shari Weaver (Harbor Interfaith Services), Nancy Wilcox (St. Peter's By The Sea Church), Wayne Windman (Redondo PD).

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** SBCEH Co-chair Mark Silverbush opened the meeting at 9:45 am. Everyone introduced themselves and their affiliation.
- 2. Hosting Agency Overview.** Pastor Lisa Williams welcomed everyone and explained this particular church has a long history of community service, citing when soldiers would use the space to write letters home during WWII. Her congregation wants to be more involved with helping those who are homeless and is joining the Family Promise network, which provides emergency housing for newly displaced families. She invited any organization to use the church's space as another way the faith community can partner with the broader community.
- 3. Minutes Review and Approval.** The July 2016 meeting minutes were approved without change.
- 4. Advocacy Committee Report Back.** Advocacy's Chair Paul Stansbury brought up the continued homelessness coverage in the local media, most recently in the *LA Times* article about cutbacks to transitional housing programs in favor of permanent supportive housing. He went on to note the many initiatives that will be on the November ballot, as well as the vote for the two new County supervisors – including our's in District 4 - that could tip the more liberal balance on this governing body. Mary Agnes Erlandson reported the urgent nature of getting an initiative approved to be on the ballot that would reinstate certain SSI benefits.

5. **Co-Chair's Report.** Nancy Wilcox reported on the "Youth 100 Day Challenge" recently awarded by Los Angeles in a national competition and how that coincided with the beginning of the Youth Coordinated Entry Program (CES). She is working to update the "Food" resource guide. Lastly, she is starting conversations about having a separate meeting for the faith community surrounding homelessness to provide a deeper understanding of the issues and how they can be active partners to help end it.

Mark Silverbush gave a report on how LA is at the forefront of analyzing data to inform County level policy makers about homelessness. He showed the [LA County Veterans Dashboard](#) and [Winter Shelter Dashboards](#), both hosted on the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority's website. While these are examples of programs viewed from a systems perspective, there is ongoing work to provide data at a more regional view to make it more applicable to local practitioners.

- a. For the Veterans Dashboard, he explained it gives a running historical view of key data points such as where homeless Veterans were formerly living before attaining permanent housing and the average number of days spent in each step of the housing pipeline. This dashboard combines data from several sources including LAHSA, the City and County of LA's housing authorities, cities of Long Beach, Pasadena and Glendale (who have their own continuum of care), and the VA. Policy makers can use this data to inform where there are system bottlenecks and potentially where more resources could be effective in breaking these logjams.
  - b. He emphasized the importance of getting reliable data, which often starts from local programs entering it into Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).
  - c. To help facilitate viewing future data at the regional level, LAHSA is identifying which city each "scatter site" permanent supportive housing asset is located.
6. **Guest Speaker.** Tara Reed, Director of Homeless Innovations with Mental Health America of Los Angeles (MHALA), gave an overview of her agency. Its philosophy is to provide services that meet a client's immediate need then over time, graduate them to a less intensive program. Clients with mental health are encouraged to use their resources by first building relationships with them (offering them food and shelter); they are always client centered and ask what they want to work on rather than prescribing a course of action. (Note: The information below is supplemental to the material on her attached presentation.)
    - a. Navigation Team slide: The outreach teams are DMH-focused, all targeted for those with a high level of mental illness. Calls made to this team are generally responded to within 24-48 hours. If the client is in immediate crisis, the local law enforcement or "Multidisciplinary Integrated Team (MIT)" can respond.
    - b. Homeless Innovation Project (HIP) slide: The program goal is to have clients be self-sufficient, needing a lower level of support. HIP does not provide treatment beds, rather it goes out into the streets to assist the most vulnerable. Most of the clients have a severe physical health co-condition, such as cancer, heart disease, HIV/AIDS.

Clients must agree to accept MHALA's services; they are never forced on them. The Children's Clinic serves persons of all ages.

- c. Homeless Assistance Program (HAP) slide: 1200 persons were assisted last year. The HAP's MIT is composed of five members; it has worked with 60 clients last year. Their Safe Haven has 10-20 beds; Street to Home has 10-20 beds; Transitions in Place has 12 openings for young adults who are struggling and have aged out of the foster care system.
- d. Homeless Supportive Service slide: MHALA partners with DHS and DMH, along with Housing for Health partner Brilliant Corners.
- e. The Village slide: This is MHALA's flagship program and serves 350-400. It is located at 456 Elm St in Long Beach. Clients typically are seen once a week to receive services, and do not have to be homeless.
- f. Long Beach TAY ACADEMY slide: there are 100 in the program, located at 202 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St. Its TAY (transitional age youth) work helps them adjust from a very structured environment that they previously experienced in institutional care to independent living.
- g. Long Beach Wellness Center slide: This is the least intensive program they run. Clinicians and psychologists are onsite. Clients 18 and older generally use these services once a month or once a quarter.

**7. Member Announcements.** The following announcements were made:

- a. Veronica Turner reported Harbor/UCLA has partnered with PATH, who now has staff in its emergency department (ED). They are identifying and enrolling people who frequently use the ED into the DHS Housing for Health (HFH) program. Exodus Recovery will be on the hospital's campus starting early next year. There will be a new adolescent psych unit opening the end of this year.
- b. Janae Oliver said it would like to see the HFH program coordinated with private hospitals. Kaiser South Bay has a homelessness navigator staffed from Harbor Interfaith Services, who might be able to make these system connections.
- c. Shari Weaver said the CES multi-day, multi-agency outreach effort this month will be held in Redondo Beach on August 30-31<sup>st</sup>. She also announced City of Los Angeles Mayor Garcetti's office is inviting community members to hold "Welcome Home" parties to raise awareness about homelessness while donated items for the newly housed. Harbor Interfaith will supporting an upcoming event in San Pedro.
- d. Felecia Howard said US Vets in Inglewood and St. Margaret's Center partnered to submit a "New Projects" in this year's HUD SuperNOFA, to provide 10 non-Vet beds by master leasing units using the transition in place model.
- e. Paul Stansbury said the local South Bay NAMI is hosting a "Basics" class for families with a child under 18 with mental illness. It is a 6 week course being held at Star

View. He promoted the upcoming NAMI Walk that will be held in Downtown LA on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

- f. Nina Dooley announced an upcoming dinner on August 25<sup>th</sup> to help the “Shared Bread” dinner ministry at First United Methodist Church.
- g. On behalf of the SPA 8 CES Collaborative, Felecia and Mary Agnes recognized Nancy for her work on LAHSA’s renewal CES proposal.

The meeting ended at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.