

**South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness (SBCEH) General Meeting
and Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's (LAHSA) Quarterly Community Meeting Minutes**
Wednesday, August 19, 2015, 9:30 am – 11:30 am
LAPD Harbor Community Police Station "Community Room"
2175 John S. Gibson Blvd, San Pedro, CA

Attendees [Note: Because LAHSA staff has been working out of temporary offices this past month, the attendee list was not available at this time.]

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** Nancy Wilcox, SBCEH co-chair, opened the meeting at 9:40 am. LAHSA Commissioner and Chairperson Mike Neely was in attendance and said he wants to build community by listening to the challenges we face in ending homelessness. He appreciated everyone's attendance today, and also acknowledged the strong Homeless Count (HC) participation we had in our region.
- 2. Minutes Review and Approval.** The July 2015 meeting minutes were approved.
- 3. LAHSA Quarterly Community Report.**

Director of Planning and Policy Grace Weltman made the following announcements:

- a. Her department is developing overviews on local and national policies and legislation.
- b. The "SuperNOFA"(Notice Of Funding Availability) from HUD has not been released yet. Last year, over \$91M flowed into the LA Continuum of Care (CoC) from HUD. This included extra funding for LAHSA to facilitate regional (i.e., SPA-level) planning.
- c. The Winter Shelter Program applications have been submitted and are being evaluated.
- d. There will be a request for proposal for an organization to complete the Homeless Count demographic surveys for next year's HC16. The plan is to conduct these surveys in early September. The contracted agency will be responsible for completing these for the entire CoC, rather than awarding multiple contracts that cover each SPA.
- e. These quarterly meetings are a time when she and her team can report out on information relevant to communities, and at the same time, get feedback from us.

Julie Warren presented an overview on the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). (Note: Please see the accompanying presentation. The following notes supplement these).

- a. HMIS is a set of data standards developed by HUD that provides a prescribed format for reporting homelessness data across the country.
- b. It is a system any provider can use even if they are not receiving funding from LAHSA. The platform used by the LA CoC, developed by Adsystem, is also used in Orange County, Pasadena and Glendale. It makes collaboration possible with these other regions.

- c. Information about clients, including case notes and housing retention information is stored in it. Several pre-defined reports are available, as well the ability to develop customized reports. Many enhancements are being incorporated that support the County's Coordinated Entry System.
- d. The goal is to have one tool, HMIS, which would be used by all agencies, thus eliminating the need for separate databases or lists to be maintained.
- e. Technical support is available Monday-Friday, along with weekends. Free user training is also offered.
- f. It currently is a bit more challenging to use HMIS on an iPad, though LAHSA's Emergency Response Team is participating in a pilot to use tablets.
- g. The list of project links shown on page 8 of the presentation shows just the most recent programs, but many others are also supported.

The next portion of their briefing, on pages 10-30, covered the Homeless Count 2015 results. Because SPA 8 has already been well briefed on this, this section was skipped.

Stephanie Inyama presented the next segment on the 2015 HC Volunteer Survey Report.

- a. LAHSA is looking into ways to make the now annual counts less paper intensive, and to build a strong infrastructure to ensure community sustainability.
- b. On page 37, Priority Areas for Improvement, it was noted SPA 8 did not have these problems.
- c. One of the Key Recommendations is to revamp the Demographic Survey.
- d. SPA 8's Homeless Count 2016 will be held on Wednesday night, January 27th, with the launch of this event taking place in September.
- e. For HC15, the data collected during this year's separate Youth Count was not submitted to HUD because there was not a high confidence level in the data gathered. HUD will be involved with the 2016 Youth Count methodology to avoid this problem.

Commissioner Neely reiterated the purpose for conducting the Homeless Count, to make people aware of the problem and to find solutions to it. He encouraged the communities to think of new and innovative methods to tackle it.

4. Committee Reports

- a. **Advocacy:** Committee Chair Paul Stansbury talked about the ways in which we can become effective advocates. We should take advantage of the heightened public awareness on homelessness at this time to educate the public. We can support the upcoming September 3rd community meeting being held in San Pedro, and speak up for more housing funding. The Los Angeles Times recently published a digest of elected officials. Paul urged us to attend city council meetings in the community in which we live. He will be monitoring the consolidation efforts taking place at the County level involving the Departments of Public Health (DPH), Health Services (DHS) and Mental Health (DMH), for the combined effects on homelessness policies and housing.

- b. **Governance:** *Ad hoc* Committee Chair Mary Agnes Erlandson was not able to make the meeting so Nancy gave a report in her absence. Mary Agnes will generate a Survey Monkey-type questionnaire to gather nominations for our Board of Directors. This body will then meet four times a year, per our by-laws.
5. **Co-Chair's Report.** Nancy reported on the Winter Shelter Program application that was submitted on SPA 8's behalf by Rev. Ric Reed and his organization, First To Serve. She also discussed the LA County Department of Regional Planning's efforts to develop a transit-oriented community plan surrounding the Carson Metro transit station off the 110 Freeway. Lastly, she mentioned the Coalition has started using Constant Contact to send out its emails. Some in attendance had not received them since this conversion; she will investigate why the messages were blocked.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.