

South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness General Meeting Minutes

Hosting Organization: American Martyrs Catholic Church

1431 Deegan Pl, Manhattan Beach, CA

Wednesday, August 28, 2019 ~ 9:30 am -12:00 pm

Attendees: Guest Speakers (LAHSA): Marisol Lara, Steve Yu, Samantha Vethevanam, Jonathan Chi, [Takita Salisberry](#), Nicholas Weinmeister, Julie Jimenez; Hosting Agency (Am Martyrs): Tom Hoffarth, Bob Hodges, Jazmin Jimenez, Tony Fadale, Paul Jacoby; Members: Nancy Wilcox (SBCEH/St. Peter's By the Sea Church), Marie Gambon (DPH), Teri Neustraedter (League of Women Voters Beach Cities), Beatriz Vega (Rainbow Services), Ronson Chu (LA City Attorney), Trevor Yee (PATH/Harbor-UCLA), Veronica Aguilar (DMH), Kevin Collins (Oleskool Ministries), Paul Stansbury (NAMI SB), Mary Agnes Erlandson (St. Marg's Ctr), Rita Crabtree-Kame (MBSAFE), Zena McCullom (DMH), Felecia Howard (US Vets/Inglewood), Ishimine Caldwell (Sanctuary of Hope), John Chou (Bread of Life Church), Katrina Swafford (House of King David), Jennifer Pesavento (SoCal ROC), George Lee (SBWIB), Rene Caballos (Salvation Army), Drago Baric (PACS), Keith Bennett (City of Carson), Alicia Keuss (SA), Cheryl Cooks (SBWIB) Regina Marsh (DPSS).

- 1. Welcome & Introductions.** SBCEH co-chair Nancy Wilcox opened the meeting at 9:45 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves and gave their affiliation.
- 2. Hosting Agency Overview.** Tom Hoffarth explained that American Martyrs opened its doors in 1931 and currently has 6,300 families in its parish. Its "Matthew 25" ministry supports several efforts: Serves meals in Skid Row and gives a Saturday Blessing every Saturday; supports the Santa Monica "Hearts for the Hungry" ministry; is a founding church member of Family Promise of the South Bay; and creates "Hope Bags" with donated socks, toiletries, local resource guides.
- 3. Meeting Minutes Review.** The July meeting minutes were approved without change.
- 4. Advocacy Committee Report.** Paul Stansbury gave a board and care update: it's currently not a good business model to operate them because of the reimbursement rate so many are unfortunately closing. DMH's study recommends that larger "Adult Residential Facilities" be developed. He then reported on the status of developing a new downtown LA men's central jail: the Board of Supervisors has asked for a study to revisit how persons with mental illness will be cared for to stop their "revolving door" in- and out- of the justice system. He mentioned other state legislation (covered more in depth in LAHSA's Legislative Report). He encouraged members to attend Congressman Ted Lieu's El Segundo's constituent meeting, and to read all the Los Angeles Times articles on homelessness.
- 5. Continuum of Care (CoC) Board Report Out.** Nancy reported in Shari Weaver's absence that this Board will shortly be making key recommendations regarding HUD's Notice of Funding Availability project funding priorities.
- 6. Co-Chairs' Report.** Nancy reported on the County's Homeless Initiative Office's upcoming Policy Summits to discuss Measure H's Years 4-6 funding. More locally, our November coalition meeting will also provide an opportunity to provide these inputs into this. -- She reported on LAHSA's recent briefing to LAHSA Commissions on the "Right to Shelter." The October 23rd SBCEH meeting has been cancelled and she encouraged everyone to attend Carson's CES Resource Fair that day.
- 7. Member Announcements.** There were no member announcements.
- 8. Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Quarterly Community Meeting.** Steve Yu provided a welcome before introducing the LAHSA speakers. (Note: these supplement their attached briefings and handouts.)
 - a. Legislative Affairs.** Samantha Vethavanan reviewed the Legislative handout and provided additional information on other key federal rule changes including the [Public Charge Final Rule](#), [Mixed-Status](#)

[Families \(Verification of Eligible Status\)](#), [Fair Housing Act's Disparate Impact Standard](#), [Categorical Eligibility in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program \(SNAP\)](#). (Note: She provided additional details after the meeting, which was sent out in our 9-16-19 weekly Announcements email.)

- b. Operations Manual, Practice Standards, Program Guide. Jonathan Chi explained that these standards will apply across all system partner programs including those administered by DMH and DHS, thus ensuring consistency and making it easier for agencies that have multi-agency funding. These provide a minimal set of standards but LAHSA programs may have additional Scope of Required Services requirements. He gave an example of when clients have a program concern, there is now a common grievance process in place. For the Program Guides, these focus on administrative program aspects such as budgeting and staffing. There will be a web-based platform launching soon that is open for anyone to use. Agencies interested in becoming a LAHSA grantee are encouraged to go through the Request for Statement of Qualification process. Steve also explained that LAHSA now has a Capacity Building Unit under the direction of Candice Baker. A frustration was raised that there has been no communication from LAHSA with Access Center and Point recommended grantees, given how the LAHSA Commission direction staff to re-issues the RFP; Jonathan will follow up on this. Takita Salisbury explained that the CES Operations Manual is for all three CES System populations (e.g., Adults, Families, Transition Age Youth). The public is encouraged to sign up for LAHSA updates to automatically get the CES Newsletters. There will be public feedback sessions on all of the standards, guides and manuals.
- a. Homeless Youth Forum of LA (HYFLA). Marisol Lara gave highlights of HYFLA's purpose, stating it gives a voice to the 18-24 year old youth with lived experience on policies and procedures being developed. HYFLA is a 25-member board and they are currently looking for representatives throughout the county to fill open seats. The on-line application is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/F3VBVYH>.
- b. Success Stories. Steve asked the attendees to talk in small groups to brainstorm ideas for how to acquire more housing success stories. Ronson Chu announced the Weekend to End Homelessness will be held in the South Bay in conjunction with Gardena's Heritage Festival and Street Fair on October 5th.

The meeting concluded at 12:00 pm
Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.