

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

Wednesday, September 16, 2015, 9:30 am – 11:30 am

Center for the Pacific Asian Family (CPAF)

14112 S. Kingsley Dr, Gardena

Attendees: Hosting Agency: Ellen Hong, Wanda Luong; Co-Chair Mark Silverbush, Jordan Barlam (Torrance Unified School District (TUSD)), Kara Barthel (TUSD), Dan Bradford (King Harbor Church), Helena Cummings (TUSD), Mary Agnes Erlandson (St. Margaret's Center), Carolina Esquivias (TUSD), Cecil Flournoy (City of Carson), Ana Gomez (TUSD), Jessica Gomez (TUSD), Stephanie Inyama (LAHSA), Danielle Lindstrom (TUSD), Kenon Joseph (LAHSA), Regina Marsh (DPSS), Louis Mena (School on Wheels), Nicole Moser (LAHSA), Zhen McCullum (DMH), Darron Moore (First To Serve), Hinna Parwaiz (TUSD), Nick Rasmussen (Family Promise), Alma Ramos (Alliance for Housing and Healing), Elaine Ruggiero (BHS), Paul Stansbury (NAMI), Tamaiah Thompson (TUSD), Veronica Turner (Harbor/UCLA Medical), Shari Weaver (HIS), Brittany Whitsett (TUSD), Nancy Wilcox (St. Peter's By The Sea), Elisabeth Young (LAHSA).

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** SBCEH co-chair Mark Silverbush opened the meeting at 9:44 am. He gave an overview of the Coalition and then asked those in attendance to introduce themselves.
- 2. Hosting Agency Overview.** Ellen Hong and Wanda Luong explained that CPAF serves survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, specializing in the Asian/Pacific Islander populations (but they serve all cultures); they have staff and volunteers that are fluent in 30 languages/dialects. They are a multi-site agency celebrating their 30th anniversary, with their public site in the same building as Legal Aid of Los Angeles. CPAF has seen a 200% increase in their non-residential activity, primarily through its 24-hour hotline, 800-339-3940.

They operate an emergency shelter where families typically stay for 3-4 months, getting immediate crisis support. Many clients are learning English for the first time. CPAF also has a transitional housing site where stays are commonly are 12 months in duration. The agency receives 70% of its funding through government grants, with the remainder of its budget met through foundation funding.

- 3. Minutes Review and Approval.** The August 2015 meeting minutes were approved without change.
- 4. Homeless Count 2016 Planning.** Stephanie Inyama, Homeless Count Manager at Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), gave the following report.

Veterans Affairs provided funding to conduct a count in 2016. Stephanie is looking for regional coordinators for SPAs 3, 5, and 8, ideally with experience working with Veterans. These coordinators will be responsible for recruiting volunteers, the site coordination on the night of the Count, the "Opt-In" program, and securing sponsorships. They will start September 28th and will be full-time through June 30th. Toolkits will be developed and available for communities in

October. The “Opt-In” program, which encourages cities to take an active role in the Count, will launch later this month.

The “Demographic Survey” component will go out for bid soon. LAHSA is seeking one organization to take responsibility for this effort. The Survey will be piloted in October, and then conducted November through December. Elisabeth Young is the lead for the “Youth Count” component. She is holding a planning meeting on October 6th in Panorama City.

- 5. SPA 8 Coordinated Entry System (CES) and Countywide Resources Update.** Shari Weaver, lead for SPA 8’s CES program, gave a snapshot status on the second year (funding started in July). 56 placements have been made (their target is 212 for the year). New housing resources are opening at the Villages at Cabrillo in Long Beach. PATH’s “Vermont Villas” in Gardena is set to open this week and will provide permanent supportive housing (PSH) for 58 Veterans who are 55+ year old.

In August, \$10 million “Bonus” funding will be available in LA’s continuum of care from HUD. This will provide 527 PSH placements for 500 chronically homeless individuals and 27 chronically homeless families. A challenge CES faces is the low rental vacancy rate (<2%). Long Beach currently has 120 persons with housing vouchers looking for an apartment, some on their third extension. If anyone knows of 1-bedroom or studio apartments, please contact her.

For families, the “Family-VI-SPDAT” assessment is being administered to triage their immediate needs. Veronica Turner said there is housing in SPA 1/Antelope Valley if families are willing to relocate. Mary Agnes Erlandson shared that one of St. Margaret’s clients had been homeless for over two decades. This client recently moved into Vermont Villas and it has totally transformed his life.

- 6. Governance Committee.** Mary Agnes gave an overview of the work this committee has performed, explaining with the growth of our Coalition, the need to formalize and have more leadership is important. She will develop a Survey Money to ask members to nominate or self-nominate themselves for the Board positions.
- 7. Advocacy Committee Planning and Discussion.** Paul Stansbury led a discussion about how to integrate your agency’s advocacy efforts with those of the Coalition. He shared examples from his own work: as the head of NAMI South Bay, he works closely with the County Department of Mental Health and CES. He finds commonality with the goals of our Coalition and emphasizes these when he meets with these organizations. He uses the Homeless Count 2015 fact sheets developed by the Coalition to help articulate the need. His committee would like to develop a template with key talking points for members to use.

Mark shared that it raises the stature of your organization to be a part of a larger collaborative. You will be demonstrating how your agency is a part of the overall homelessness solution. Nancy said she is available to support any meetings, to help bring context to what each agency is individually doing.

Paul said when congressional members are home, it is a good time to meet with them or their

aids. They want to hear from their constituents. Testimonials from those we have housed is a powerful way to make an impact and humanize our work. – He suggested sharing information with agency board members, many who have deep connections with the community and elected offices.

8. Co-Chair’s Report. Mark reported that he recently participated in a United Way CES policy meeting attended by high level program staff. The attendees were impressed with SPA 8’s CES efforts and outcomes, especially since we are still relatively “resource poor” as compared to other regions. Nancy gave a status on the Inglewood Winter Shelter Program proposal. She also wants to enhance the Coalition’s website by providing links to our members’ homepage.

9. Member Agency Announcements.

- a. Paul said the annual NAMI (fundraiser and awareness) Walk is October 3rd starting at Grand Park in downtown LA.
- b. United Way’s “HomeWalk” is on November 21st at Exposition Park.
- c. CPAF is looking for a development director.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.