

South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness (SBCEH) General Meeting

Wednesday, September 21, 2016; 9:30-11:30 am
St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Redondo Beach, CA

Attendees: Guest Speakers: Sam Gonzales, Michael Bowen, Tyrone Friend, Raji Shivshanker (Hathaway-Sycamores); Hosting Agency: Mary Bartel, Donna Barr (St. Paul's United Methodist Church's Project Needs); Attendees: Co-Chair Nancy Wilcox (St. Peter's By The Sea), Casalia Aranibar (LAUSD), Lyndi Bell (LAHSA), Keith Bennett (City of Carson), Meredith Berkson (PATH), Gabrielle Branagsco (Family Promise), Rani Cherkoori, Nicole Columbare (PATH), Cinder Eller (Inglewood PD), Nancy Gutierrez (Torrance USD), Cynthia Harbour (Exodus Recovery), Tahia Hayslet (Harbor Interfaith Services), Janet Kelly (Sanctuary of Hope), Paul Lange (LAHSA), Geraldo Magallanes (1736 FCC), Peter Min (Love INC), Delia Munoz (Dept of Probation), Fred Osorio (Inglewood PD), Yolanda Polony (DPSS), Nick Rasmussen (Family Promise), Ana Reoyo (DPSS), Krystina Robinson (Salvation Army), Emily Serna (DMH), Anika Simpson (DMH), Paul Stansbury (NAMI South Bay), Christian Starling (Salvation Army), Melissa Andrizzi Sobel (BCHD), Beatrix Vega (Rainbow Services), Tammy Wood (LAUSD), Michelle Zaragoza (Exodus Recovery).

- 1. Welcome and Introductions.** SBCEH Co-chair Nancy Wilcox opened the meeting at 9:40 am. Everyone introduced themselves and their affiliation.
- 2. Hosting Agency Overview.** Mary Bartel explained that Project Needs, hosted at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, was formed in 1990 as a feeding program and expanded eight years later by providing groceries two times a week. People in need from the entire South Bay (from Palos Verdes to Inglewood, and all parts in between) are welcome. About 80 people attend their meal program, with 250 coming in for groceries. It receives support from many area partner churches, and starting in August 2012, receives food from the LA Food Bank.
- 3. Minutes Review and Approval.** The August 2016 meeting minutes were approved without change.
- 4. Guest Speaker.** Nancy first provided an introduction to Hathaway-Sycamores. With the Coordinated Entry System's (CES) recent funding announcement, our Service Planning Area (SPA) 8/South Bay was awarded to expand its program to include Transitional Age Youth (TAY), typically 16-24 year olds. Hathaway-Sycamores was invited into our SPA 8 CES collaborative to provide their expertise with this population. They currently run an Independent Living Program (ILP) in the South Bay.

Sam Gonzalez, Assistant Vice President of Supportive Housing with Hathaway-Sycamores Child & Family Services, provided background on his organization's history and programs. They are based in SPA 3 (Pasadena, in the San Gabriel Valley) – being an organization that is over 100 years old – and now operates programs in all the SPAs except for SPA 1 (Antelope Valley).

The term TAY is used for primarily for funding, but this term does not capture the complicated system of services required for this age range. He felt the Youth Homeless Count results were “super low” compared to what agencies experience. TAY spend money to make themselves more presentable - camouflaging their homeless situation is one way they survive. There are 2,500 foster care youths existing the County’s program each year, many who experience homelessness.

He went over each of their TAY programs. He explained that “AB12,” which went into effect in 2012, extends federal foster care program eligibility care for up to age 21.

(Note: the remaining minutes are additional information he provided from his attached handouts.)

- a. Their core treatment philosophy, or “CINDR” (pronounced “Kind-R”), emphasizes their key principles: “C” for Client Focus/Driven Treatment; “I” for Individualized Treatment; “N” for Non-Punitive Treatment; “D” for Developmentally Appropriate Treatment; “R” for Relationship Based Treatment. Sam emphasized every principle is individualized for each program participant, with consistent supervision and oversight to ensure they are all upheld.
- b. The Transitional Independent Living Program (TILP). Referrals into this program – which is a transitional program and not permanent housing - come from DCFS and Probation. A key eligibility requirement is that the candidate must be in foster care or probation after the age of 16. There is no rent so the focus is on teaching the participants life skills so they can live independently without the institutional structure of their previous living situation (e.g., group home). Sam is most proud that when clients graduate from this program, it is not the jobs nor housing they appreciate most, but the relationships with their case manager that they value at the end.
- c. Transitional Age Youth Community Mental Health Program (TAY-CMH). Participants can be living with their parents. The housing component makes this program more complicated, presenting potential roommate challenges and inappropriate behavior. Participants stay in master-leased houses blended within a community. Part of the instruction is helping them build relationships with the community.
- d. Participants in the Continuum of Care program can stay for up to 24 months, but before they reach the age of 24. They do not need to be “ILP” eligible, i.e., not in foster care after age 16.
- e. Hathaway-Sycamores is now providing services through the Youth CES. It was first piloted in Hollywood about a year ago and is now being scaled out in every SPA. It was noted landlord engagement was important to the success of this program. It will be a big challenge serving any youth experiencing homelessness since very few doors are open to them at this time. It was noted HUD is starting to focus on family and TAY homelessness, with additional funding anticipated in the coming years.

- f. There are TAY-specific “full service partnerships” (FSP). In SPA 8, Star View and Mental Health America have such programs. FSPs are funded through the County Department of Mental Health to provide a full range of non-housing services to those with mental illness or emotional disturbances, that emphasis employment and education.
- g. All of Hathaway-Sycamore’s staff, down to its maintenance staff, practices “trauma-informed” care.
- h. Sam said measuring outcomes is more difficult with TAY. With a harm-reduction practice in place, their successes may be defined differently as compared with programs for other populations. Seeking housing “stability” is sometimes different than tracking how many participants are in “permanent housing.”
- i. Potential clients can be referred to Carolyn Rascon, at carolynrascon@hathaway-sycamores.org, 626-395-7100 x7911. TAY can also be referred to the Service Planning Area (SPA) 8’s Youth lead, Tyrone Friend, at tyronefriend@hathaway-sycamores.org, or 302-229-8413. He can conduct the CES common assessment tool for youth called the Next Step Tool (i.e., the VI-SPDAT for youth).
- j. Members in attendance shared anecdotes about there being several TAY that attend community colleges and local 4-year colleges, including students who sleep in their cars.

5. Advocacy Committee Report Back. Advocacy’s Chair Paul Stansbury brought up the City of Los Angeles’ “HHH” ballot proposition to raise \$1.2 billion for supportive and affordable housing. A 2/3’s majority is required, and he and Tahia Hayslet encouraged the Coalition to advocate for its passage. Paul mentioned the 17 state ballot initiatives and handed out a one-page reference on where to get more information on them. He also provided information from the National Alliance to End Homelessness entitled, “Mental Health Reform: A Key Component of Ending Homelessness.” Written in July, it focuses on pending federal legislation influencing mental health reform including Senate S.2680/“Mental Health Reform Act of 2016,” and House H.R. 2646/“Helping Families in Mental Health Crisis Act of 2016.”

Janet Kelly said the need to get an accurate count of the youth in our area is critical. During next year’s Youth Homeless Count, she said it was imperative counters have safe passage through known gang infested areas. Peter Min said law enforcement agencies have maps that identify such zones.

6. Co-Chair’s Report. Nancy reported she continues to support various Los Angeles County Homeless Strategy community meetings. At a recent gathering, it was suggested provider agencies could be co-located in county departments to provide linkages to local area housing. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority recognized the limited staff capacity for such an idea, but will keep it on the table in event more funding is found to support it.

7. Member Announcements. The following announcements were made:

- a. Paul announced the annual NAMI Walk, being held on October 1st at Grand Park in downtown LA.
- b. Nick Rasmussen said Family Promise’s annual “Empty Bowls” fundraiser will be held on November 12th. This organization helps about four newly homeless families at a time, aided by 30 congregations and over 700 volunteers in its network.
- c. The City of Carson is working in conjunction with PATH to hold an outreach event for those experiencing homelessness on October 27th at Dominguez Park. Please contact Meredith Berkson for more information.

The meeting ended at 11:25 am.

Respectfully submitted by Nancy Wilcox.