

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

## Services for Seniors Working Group

Tuesday, May 23, 2017 Meeting Minutes

By Aaron Baum

In Attendance: Britt Huff, Chair, Rolling Hills Estates Council Member, H.E.L.P.; Kari Bell, Lawndale; Diane Brown, Hawthorne; Jan Buike, Manhattan Beach; Evan Coates, Torrance Public Library; Norma Burns, PVE-CARES; Maria Cantoria, A Better Care for You & Pacific Sunrise Homes; Colleen Cotter, Palos Verdes Peninsula Village; Tara Guden, Beach Cities Health District; Cynthia Kennedy, Affordable Living for the Aging; Jane Long, Coast to Coast Seniors; Lao Moua, PATH; Marianne Propst, Belmont/Coast to Coast Seniors; Deb Ripley, Palos Verdes Library District; Krishna Tabor, Butterfli; Bea Virobik, Torrance Commission on Aging/South Bay Village; Fran Wielin, Palos Verdes Peninsula Village; Jacki Bacharach, Aaron Baum, Steve Lantz, SBCCOG

1. Welcome and Self Introductions
2. Minutes from the March 28, 2017 meeting - Minutes received and filed.
3. Butterfli – Krishna Tabor shared the work and updated the status of Butterfli (documents on file)
  - Butter”fli” – Freedom Leading to Independence
  - A business model conceived to transport people with limitations
  - To provide these individuals with the same mobility choices that other people without limitations might have.
  - Butterfli does not own any vehicles; rather, it provides a “network of drivers” to provide mobility assistance.
  - Butterfli, unlike local transit options for seniors, is not limited by geography or destinations.
  - Currently, Butterfli is operating all over Southern California – including the South Bay
  - Partnerships include working with AAA to assist those that “can’t get into a tow truck;” Butterfli provides a solution to AAA to be ADA compliant.
  - Butterfli is expanding its business nationally and seeks to work with home health care agencies.
  - It distinguishes itself from transit services like Access by being “on-demand” rather than a “two-hour pick-up window”
  - Rates based on passenger’s ambulatory capabilities:
    - ability to walk = \$11.50 pick-up + \$1.90 per mile
    - wheelchair rider = \$25.00 pick-up + \$3.00 per mile

Questions from Workgroup attendees included:

Q: Are the drivers vetted?

A: *Yes, driver’s licenses are checked; drug testing; insurance is required; and, drivers are required to take medical (CPR) and sensitivity training.*

Q: Is Butterfli a competitor to Access and other Metro Services

A: *Yes, perhaps. Butterfli provides an “on-demand” service and may be seen as filling a gap for Metro*



- To the last point, Butterfli has been in conversation with Metro’s Office of Extraordinary Innovation regarding pilot programs in LA County.
  - Jacki suggested that the South Bay would be an ideal test site for such a pilot.
4. Affordable Living for the Aging (ALA) - Cynthia Kennedy shared information about a non-profit organization that provides “home-sharing” services for seniors (pamphlets on file)
- ALA provides a needed resource for seniors to match those looking for affordable housing with those that have “extra rooms” in their homes.
  - ALA is a “hands-on” matching service with staff (like Cynthia) who work with Seniors who may need extra income from renting spare rooms and/or companionship or services to assist their lifestyles.
  - Because the Los Angeles rental market is so tight and rent is so expensive, ALA provides a niche for individuals looking for affordable housing.
  - Surprisingly, seniors with reverse mortgages are a population “at risk” for losing their homes – ALA’s service is an opportunity for home owners with reserve mortgages to make additional income to remain in their homes.
  - On the renter side, there is pressing demand for affordable rental housing. The average rental in Los Angeles County is \$1800/month for a 1 bedroom; ALA has rental rooms beginning at \$600-\$800/month.
  - “Housing seekers” need only have an income of \$1200/month to qualify for the program – making it an affordable option for those who may be on fixed or low incomes; alternative “in-kind” barter arrangements (i.e. providing assistance to the senior home owner as compensation for rent) are also possible.
  - ALA’s service vets both renters and home owners to find a match. One person – either renter or home owner must be a senior.
  - ALA is at work here in Los Angeles County and the South Bay.
  - Currently, the ALA’s market reflects the housing shortage: 16 renters per available rental home.

Questions from Workgroup attendees included:

Q: What is the ALA’s relationship with J.P. Morgan/Chase?

A: *They perceived a need to help seniors remain in their homes; to see that reverse mortgages are successful.*

Q: What is ALA’s advantage vs. Craig’s List?

A: *ALA’s process would mitigate any problems that might result in eviction; they provide a “living together arrangement (contract); and, there is flexibility for “side agreements” – services in exchange for rent.*

Q: Are there any costs to participate?

A: *There is a \$15 background check fee for renters but no cost to home owners.*

Q: Who does the vetting and placement for ALA?

A: *ALA’s vetting placement staff are trained social workers (aka “housing facilitators”); vetting is done through an extensive background check of potential renters (i.e. no criminal history) as well as in-home meetings with home owners; placement “takes more than one touch”*

5. PATH Homeless Update - Lao Moua provided an update and report:



Over the last 2 months PATH has engaged and enrolled an additional 18 new seniors as well as 40 new individuals that are over 18 years of age. To date, over ½ of those individuals in the South Bay PATH program are 55 years of age, or older. During the last 2 months, 2 seniors have been placed in housing.

In terms of marketing, Lao reported that the “Hot Line Cards” continue to be a successful resource, “Homeless folks know about the Hotline” through the cards. Additionally, PATH will be participating in a “Resource Fair” in July (dates TBD) in Redondo Beach; the goal, of which, is to bring resources like PATH to the attention of business owners, churches and other groups who interact with the homeless population; the “Business Survey” has been finalized and will be distributed to Beach Cities businesses beginning on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

June 2016 - May 15, 2017

**122 total registered clients**

City	55 + Client Registered
Carson	41 (2)
Gardena	6 (2)
Harbor Gateway	5
Hawthorne	4 (1)
Hermosa Beach	1
Inglewood	6
Lawndale	5
Lomita	2
Manhattan Beach	2
Redondo Beach	35 (5)
San Pedro	5 (1)
Torrance	21 (5)
West Carson	5 (2)
Wilmington	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>122 (30)</b>

*Note: ( ) Registration Increase from 12.01.2016-05.15.2017*

**26 (2) Senior Clients Permanently Housed (55+)**

- Shared Housing
- SSI / Pension (Source of Income)

**PATH Outreach Hotline Report:**

4.27.16-4.28.17

	Total calls	Total days	Average calls per day	Type of Caller					Avg. response time
				Individual	Agency/ Business	City/ gov't official	Law Enforcement	Other	
<b>4.27.16 – 04.28.17</b>	2205	339	6.5	57%	6%	3%	1%	33%	48 hours

6. Legislative Update

- Assembly Member Mike Gipson’s office provided information on AB 286 – Medi-Cal: beneficiary needs: home upkeep allowances: transitional person needs funds (document on file)
7. Update on Purposeful Aging Los Angeles Initiative  
Adriana Mendoza was unable to attend. Updates will be provided at a future meeting.
  8. South Bay Sustainability and Technology Follow-up Discussion – Staff led a “focus group” discussion as follow-up to Wally Siembab’s March 28<sup>th</sup> presentation of the “South Bay in 2030 and the Strategies to Get There”. The following are excerpts regarding the technology needs of seniors:
    - List of Technologies that Seniors are using:
      - Cell phones; iPad; Laptops; Direct TV; Kindle
    - Programs to help seniors use phones
      - Led by volunteers
      - Both iPhone as well as Androids are being used
      - Oldest person in one group was 98 years old
    - Possible Gender Issues for seniors using technology
      - “Men are more technology savvy”
      - Women are lacking in experience using technology: “my husband took care of (using technology)”
    - Interest in using new applications include:
      - Social Media (mostly Facebook)
      - Skype (technologies to conference call)
      - Senior Designed Hardware/Software (i.e. Grandpad)
    - Issues impeding technology use include:
      - Visual – can’t see the keyboard
      - Physical Challenges:
        - Hand tremors
        - Flexibility
        - Hearing
        - Security/Trust for transactions; Seniors like the idea of services that can be provided (i.e. delivery of goods) however they are wary of providing credit card information via the internet.
    - Services/Alliances to Assist Seniors:
      - Libraries are an “important asset” – training; access to technology
      - SBCCOG could post information on our web site
      - High School and/or College students as a partner to help train and assist seniors
      - New Apps that might help seniors on the verge of homelessness. Similar to: <https://www.ourchildrenla.org/win-app/>
  9. Announcements
    - No announcements were noted.
  10. Next meeting
    - **Tuesday, July 25, 2017 @ 9:30 am**

