

# **South Bay Cities Council of Governments**

## **Homeless Services Task Force**

**Thursday, July 12, 2017**

### **Meeting Notes**

**By Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque**

#### **Welcome & Introductions**

Elected officials in attendance: Redondo Beach Councilmember Christian Horvath, Torrance Councilmember Heidi Ashcraft.

Others in attendance: Carson, Cecil Flournoy & Jan Topuola; Hermosa Beach, Nico DeAnda-Scaia; Lawndale, Deborah Holland; Redondo Beach, Lt. Wayne Windman; Torrance, Viet Hoang & Jan Wierzbicki; Office of Supervisor Janice Hahn, Erika Velazquez; LA County Homeless Initiative, Ashlee Oh and Michael Castillo; Harbor Interfaith Services, Shari Weaver; LAHSA, Megan Emme, Gary Mitchell, Donald Holt, & Paul Lange; PATH, Meredith Berkson & Lao Moua; SBCCOG, Jacki Bacharach, Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque & Cierra Washington

Redondo Beach Councilmember Christian Horvath gave opening remarks and announced that he would chair the meeting in Councilmember Buscaino's absence.

#### **Presentation of 2017 Homeless Count – Paul Lange, Supervisor, Regional Coordination, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)**

Mr. Lange thanked the South Bay cities involved in the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. Megan Emme of LAHSA and Nancy Wilcox of the South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness will be reaching out regarding the 2018 Homeless Count. He explained that the Homeless Count is a point-in-time count that gives a snapshot of homelessness in LA. The point-in-time count is mandated by HUD. Sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness are counted. It seeks to answer the following: number of people, demographics, distribution across the county, and where are people experiencing homelessness. Long Beach, Pasadena, and Glendale are the only cities in LA County not included. Enhancements made for the 2017 count: for the demographic survey- response cards for sensitive questions, surveys conducted at family resource centers; for the street count-improved volunteer training video, expanded collaboration with LA Metro and the County Parks Department; for the youth count-improved strategy to capture youth hotspots, decreased survey length; for the shelter count-pre-and post-count review by providers and regional experts.

Results: 57,794 people experiencing homelessness in LA County on a given night. This represents a 23 percent increase from the 2016 count of 46,874. In Service Planning Area (SPA) 8, there are 4,282 people experiencing homelessness, which represents an increase of 17 percent from the 2016 total of 3,663. There was a 91 percent increase in the number of youth experiencing homelessness with a count of 517, up from 270 in 2016. There was an 87 percent increase in Latino people experiencing homelessness in SPA 8. Two-thirds of people experiencing homelessness in the South Bay are male and one-third are female. Chronic homelessness increased by 55 percent and veteran homelessness decreased by 15 percent. Mr. Lange discussed LA County's tight rental market with a vacancy of 2.6 percent and noted that 551,807 more affordable rental units are needed for very and extremely low-income households. 14,214 people were placed into permanent housing in 2016. The 2018 Homeless Count will take place in SPA 8 on January 24, 2018.

## **Overview of PATH services – Lao Moua, PATH**

Lao Moua of PATH gave a Powerpoint presentation and answered questions from attendees. The presentation covered an overview of activities since May and what is happening in the field, statistics, success stories, LA Regional Homeless Advisory Council update, barriers/obstacles, and Measure H funding update. The presentation is available at [www.southbaycities.org](http://www.southbaycities.org)

Key points covered:

- Review of contract deliverables and updates.
- 260 Coordinated Entry System packets have been completed. 113 people have been placed into permanent housing with an additional 247 referred. 62 people have been placed into interim housing with an additional 194 referred.
- Housing success story of Leon M-housed through Rapid Rehousing after he lost his job when the company relocated to another state.
- Hotline receives 7.1 calls per day on average.
- Mr. Moua discussed how PATH works with the South Bay cities, noting a new task of connecting E6 and CBEST (multi-disciplinary) teams to the cities.
- Review of countywide Interfaith Summit and announcement of SPA 8 follow up meeting on July 26 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Redondo Beach Library. Review of Redondo Beach Business Survey.

## **LA County Homeless Initiative: Discussion of Public Safety Strategies, Michael Castillo, Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative**

Mr. Castillo presented the strategies related to public safety/criminal justice. Strategy D2 expands jail in-reach by which the Sheriff's Department and Department of Health Services are working with community-based agencies and County departments to provide services to all individuals who self-identify as homeless while incarcerated in a Los Angeles County jail. The goal is to prevent them from being released back into homelessness and to reduce recidivism. Cities can notify the County that an inmate being transferred from its jail to the Inmate Reception Center is experiencing homelessness and services will be offered.

Strategy D6 will offer criminal record clearing whereby non-violent, victimless crimes can be expunged in the field. Cities can host Criminal Records Clearing Project clinics at libraries, parks/community centers, or other facilities with ample space and include other service providers in the event. Measure H funding will support 2 mobile teams to provide this service. The goal is to help remove this barrier to housing, employment, and family re-unification. Strategy E4 establishes first responders training and directs the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department to develop a training program for law enforcement, fire departments, and paramedics throughout LA County and to develop a countywide protocol to address encampments. Trainings will be available to cities with police departments. Strategy E5 directs the LA County Sheriff's Department to develop a decriminalization policy for use by the County and cities.

## **Measure H Funding Update – Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG and Ashlee Oh, Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative**

Ms. Bacharach announced that \$2 million in grants are available for cities and COGs. \$500,000 will be allocated to COGs based on size of the COG and its homeless problem. SBCCOG will receive approximately \$79,000 for coordination services. A Scope of Work will be presented to the County for sign-off, with a goal of finalizing the details by September. Cities can apply for homeless planning grants based on the number of people experiencing homelessness in the city. The deadline is September 18.

Ms. Oh discussed the COG grants for coordination, stating that the grants are broad in scope. While the grants are one-time funding, there will be an opportunity to make a case for future funding. The County is working with the United Way to distribute an RFP to cities in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care. Cities

with 400 or more people experiencing homelessness are eligible for \$70,000, cities with 399-100 are eligible for \$50,000, and 99 or fewer are eligible for \$30,000. The only deliverable is to develop a plan that emphasizes coordination and collaboration. A webinar for cities will be held on July 24 and a technical assistance session 2 weeks later. Individual technical assistance sessions will also be available. A Cities Summit agenda is being developed.

### **CES Update – Shari Weaver, Harbor Interfaith**

Ms. Weaver reported that a 2-day outreach event is taking place in Harbor City on July 12 and 13. CalTrans and LA County Public Works have scheduled a clean up between the quadrant of Vermont Ave/ Lomita Blvd to Sepulveda Blvd/ Figueroa Street in the end of July (also known as the Pit). The second will take place at Alameda and 230<sup>th</sup> Streets (also known as the Third World) which has a scheduled clean up the end of July.

New hub location opened for families at St. Margaret Center. This hub in the north section of SPA 8 will serve the cities of Inglewood, El Segundo, Hawthorne, Gardena, and the unincorporated area of Lennox. Harbor Interfaith Services' subcontracted partner, PATH, is co-located at this site. They have also started a new partnership with 1736 Family Crisis Center which will be serving families fleeing domestic violence. Announcement of interfaith meeting for SPA 8 on July 26 from 3-5 p.m. at the Redondo Beach Library. The Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative, in partnership with LA Voice hosted an initial countywide interfaith summit in June. Each SPA is now hosting their own regional follow up summit to combine the efforts of the faith community with current homeless initiatives and services.

#### CES - Goal Attainment (Individuals & Youth) 10/1/16 to 6/30/17

168 (single adults) moved into permanent housing / Goal is 115

(Placements obtained through Rapid Rehousing & Housing Navigation)

136 (single adults) Safe & Stable – connected to interim housing or another community based organization that provides housing navigation/location / Goal is 52

22 (Youth) moved into permanent housing / Goal is 5

21 (Youth) Safe & Stable – connected to interim housing or another community based organization that provides housing navigation/location / Goal is 11

#### CES (Year 3)- Goal Attainment (Families) 7/1/16 to 6/30/17

620 families assessed / Goal is 450

136 permanent housing placements / Goal is 100

99% housing retention / Goal is 95%

23 families assisted with preventions funds to maintain housing

Ms. Weaver shared a success story in which they reunified an elderly homeless gentleman with his children in El Salvador. He was homeless for more than 20 years and was in very poor health. His son stated that he is very happy and is recuperating well. The family had believed that he had passed away many years ago.

**Next Steps and Follow-up Actions** – Jacki Bacharach and Jennifer Zivkovic LaMarque to work with Ashlee Oh to plan County Homeless Initiative strategy to be presented at next meeting. (E6 discussed as a possibility.) SBCCOG Scope of Work for homelessness coordination services to be distributed at next meeting. Ms. LaMarque to invite Mental Health America of Los Angeles staff to make a presentation on E6 teams and homeless outreach program at the next meeting.

**Adjournment – 4:50 p.m.**