

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Homeless Services Task Force

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Meeting Notes *(submitted by Chandler Sheilds)*

Welcome & Introductions

Elected officials/representatives in attendance: Councilmember Christian Horvath (Redondo Beach), Councilmember Alex Montero (Hawthorne), Mayor Nancy Hersman (Manhattan Beach), Councilmember Mike Griffiths (Torrance), Steacy Trinidad (Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi)

Others in attendance:

Sharon Landers, Keith Bennett, David Roberts (Carson); Jackie Coppa (Gardena); Nico De Anda-Scaia (Hermosa Beach); Lori Jones and Roberto Chavez (Inglewood); George Gabriel (Manhattan Beach); Kyle Shea (Palos Verdes Estates PD); Keith Kauffman and Wayne Windman (Redondo Beach PD); Katie Wand and Jan Wierzbicki (Torrance); Saira Cooper and Clementina Verjan (LAHSA); Courtney Reed (PATH); Breanna Jaijairam (Harbor Interfaith Services); Nancy Wilcox (South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness); Hector Frenes (Harbor UCLA); Manis Ofoegbu (CSUDH); Jacki Bacharach, Grace Farwell, and Chandler Sheilds (SBCCOG)

Redondo Beach Councilmember Christian Horvath opened the meeting.

May 1, 2019 meeting notes – Received and filed

2019 Homeless Count – Saira Cooper, Coordinator, Community Engagement, SPA 8 and Clementina Verjan, Associate Director, Community Engagement, LAHSA

- National homeless count is completed during the last 10 days of January
- LAHSA homeless count uses sampling strategy to undertake geographical and diversity challenges posed by the expansive region (6,000 unsheltered homeless were sampled)
- An increase in homeless count statistics could be the result of homeless becoming more trusting/comfortable with county surveyors
- Currently partnering with USC to conduct demographic survey and will be releasing a RFP in 2021
- Rely on other partnerships for accessing homeless populations
- SPA 8 data will be shared with Cities before it is publicized
- Will be providing specific demographic data for South Bay communities/cities (only accounts for unsheltered homeless)
- “Chronically” homeless includes people experiencing homeless for the first time identified in LAHSA system (but may have been homeless prior/elsewhere) and have been consecutively homeless over the course of a year or repeatedly homeless
- Recruiting volunteers for 2020 homeless street count

- Link to presentation: [Greater LA Homeless Count 2019](#)

Update of LA County Homeless Initiative (Measure H) – Grace Farwell (providing update on behalf of Ashlee Oh, LA County CEO Office)

- 30 cities will be funded for implementation of homeless plans (including 4 cities in the South Bay)
- Planning for contracts to be executed in September (18-month contract to run through February 2021)
- SBCCOG will continue to work with the County and Cities to apply for implementation funds
- SB2 planning grants available to increase affordable housing stock
- PlaceWorks will make a presentation about SB2 at upcoming Planning Directors meeting

Spotlight on a South Bay City

Beach Cities Implementation Grant – George Gabriel, Senior Management Analyst, City of Manhattan Beach and Nico De Anda-Scaia, Assistant to the City Manager, City of Hermosa Beach

- One of only a few multi-jurisdictional proposals, which was granted highest amount of funds
- Homeless issue was not always a priority in Manhattan Beach (grant funding via Measure H helped change that)
- Interested in enhancing existing services
- By submitting a multi-jurisdictional proposal, Beach Cities able to maximize opportunities because there was no funding cap limitation
- Cities matching funds include “soft costs”, which can be difficult to explicitly quantify
- 237 homeless population across all 3 Beach Cities
- “Homeless in the South Bay looks very different than Skid Row in LA”: Beach Cities is looking to customize its approach to South Bay homeless population
- Beach Cities hosting its own Homeless Roundtable has been helpful in addressing local issues and consolidating duplicated efforts; first time that many champions in these communities have had a chance to communicate with each other
- Point in time count in Hermosa Beach has always been small (20)
- Outreach to the business community is important because they do not always know how to treat/deal with the homeless
- Looking to leverage contracted homeless service provider leadership as a model for Cities to build from in years to come
- Link to presentation: [Beach Cities Implementation Grant](#)

Inglewood Implementation Grant – Lori Jones, Grants Coordinator, City of Inglewood

- Getting Section 8 housing is difficult solution for homeless due to lengthy waitlist
- Employment packets available for homeless
- Fiscal year 2019-2020 goal is to assist 20 homeless
- City is matching \$50,000 (with contributions from a local provider)
- City will hire staff for this position (part-time, 32 hours)

- City implemented rent-control ordinance to help stabilize housing issue amid fears of displacement; changes to federal public housing assistance may have unintended consequences for homeless across the county

Update of PATH Services – Courtney Reed, Associate Regional Director, PATH

- Torrance residents reached out to LA-HOP the most in the South Bay
- Lack of shelters/housing has contributed to PATH not reaching 2018-2019 housing goals
- Will provide regional breakdown of LA-HOP calls for next meeting
- Link to presentation: [PATH Update](#)

Redondo Beach Pilot Project – Christian Horvath, Council Member and Keith Kauffman, Chief of Police, Redondo Beach

- Faith-based organizations have been vilified by residents for the perception of providing refuge to 3 homeless group demographics that residents fear (mentally ill, substance abusers/addicts, crime opportunists)
- Challenges in getting mentally ill to accept need for services
- Need to advocate local legislators to address homeless issues (e.g. mental health cases)
- Pilot is going to experiment with a prosecutorial approach to see if City can prevent “revolving door” cycle of targeted homeless demographic returning to the streets
- Portion of the City Attorney’s time to be devoted to attending mental health courts in LA and drug courts in Inglewood when local homeless offenders are due in court
- Looking into purchasing beds (temporary housing) for these individuals to facilitate preventative treatment services
- Borrowed against City’s CalPERS funds to finance this pilot initiative
- Police departments continue to appeal for Measure H funding
- Looking to create dialogue for addressing the guidelines for Measure H funding
- Received \$1 million via LA County Supervisors split between all cities in LA County
- Public has low engagement level with police regarding homeless issues
- Current reorganization of police department is aligning to prioritize homeless issues
- Surveys discovered that only 9% of residents felt like homelessness was an issue the police department should be prioritizing
- Santa Monica’s police department has a model tracking system for dealing with local homeless population

Update of CES Activities – Breanna Jajjairam, Regional Coordinator for Adults, SPA 8, Harbor Interfaith Services

- South Bay Housing & Health Fair on May 29th in collaboration with SBCCOG, Janice Hahn’s office (SD\$), and San Pedro United Methodist.
 - Over 75 participants at the fair and over 25 vendors in attendance
 - Everything provided by DPSS, DPH, hairdressers/barbers, including mobile showers (secured by SD4), etc.
 - Currently working to plan next fair
- New Programs
 - Problem Solving: work to look at alternatives to homeless services prior to entry into CES

- Shallow Subsidy: for individuals in RRH who need minimal case management, but ongoing rental supports due to at least 60% rent burden
- Slots are based on the SPA's homeless count numbers and 20% of slots are set aside for seniors, 62 and older who are enrolled in a homelessness prevention program who need ongoing rental assistance
- CES Goal Attainment (Individuals & Youth): 7/1/18 - 6/30/19
 - 416 Assessments (Goal 264)
 - 54 Moved through RRH (Goal 40)
 - 99% Retention Rate (RRH)
 - 78 Housing Placement through HN (Goal 50)
 - High acuity – chronically homelessness

Update of SBCCOG Homeless Coordination Work – Grace Farwell, SBCCOG

- Jacki Bacharach and Grace Farwell, along with PATH staff, visited the Access Center, operated by The People Concern, in Santa Monica on July 1st.
 - Serves approximately 225 people per day and provide showers, laundry with commercial washers and dryers on site, lockers, medical care (foot care and wound care are prevalent issues), mail and message service, sack lunches, case management and “group” case management through art therapy classes, movies, or other type of group activities, and many more services
- Jacki Bacharach and Grace Farwell meet on a quarterly basis with deputies from Supervisor Districts 2 and 4
 - Are there any issues that need to bring up and share with the supervisors and their deputies?
 - Please respond before the next scheduled meeting on August 15th
- Today is the last time the Homeless Services Task Force will meet in the Client Theatre.
 - SBCCOG offices will be moving in November, but after this week, we will no longer have access to the Client Theatre
 - Would anyone like to host next meeting on September 4th?
 - SBCCOG Chair and City Council Member Christian Horvath will look into the meeting being held at the Redondo Beach library

Other

- City of Hawthorne has an acre of land to be allocated for affordable housing – Hawthorne will be the September Spotlight city

Adjournment