

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Homeless Services Task Force (Zoom Meeting)

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Meeting Notes *(submitted by Laurie Jacobs)*

Welcome & Introductions

Elected officials/representatives in attendance: Council Member Christian Horvath (Redondo Beach); Council Member George Chen (Torrance); Mayor Drew Boyles (El Segundo); Amy Gebert, Gabriela Medina (Council Member Joe Buscaino, CD15); Janet Turner (Representative Ted Lieu)

Others in attendance: Brett Feldman (MSPAS, PA-C, Director, Street Medicine, USC Keck School of Medicine); Renee El-Khoury, DO (Family Medicine Physician, Harbor UCLA); China Gerstner, Deborah Prochnow, Jeff Newman (Caltrans District 7); Amanda Valorosi (Carson); Yarenis Slater (Gardena PD); Kimberly Mack, Von Norris (Hawthorne); Cherry Bush, Lori Jones, Robert Chavez (Inglewood); Michael Reyes (Lawndale); George Gabriel (Manhattan Beach); John LaRock (Redondo Beach); Michael Dyberg, Wayne Windman (Redondo Beach PD); Jeannie Naughton (Rolling Hills Estates); Viet Hoang, Zulma Gent (Torrance); Saira Cooper (LAHSA); Trevor Yee, Claudia Garcia, Erin Ennis (PATH); Shari Weaver, Lisa Gray (Harbor Interfaith Services); Laurie Ramey (Mental Health America Los Angeles); Richard Wise (St. Margaret's Center); Jesse Ramirez (St. Margaret's Center/Hawthorne); Nancy Wilcox (South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness); Matthew Zarro (Street Watch LA South Bay); Jacki Bacharach, Grace Farwell, Laurie Jacobs, David Leger (SBCCOG)

Redondo Beach Council Member Christian Horvath opened the meeting.

September 2, 2020 meeting notes – Received and filed

Overview of Street Medicine – Brett Feldman, MSPAS, PA-C, Director, Street Medicine, USC Keck School of Medicine

Details and missions are provided in the slide presentation – [link](#)

Street medicine is direct delivery of healthcare specifically to the unsheltered homeless who are living on the streets, not in shelters and work is done through walking rounds by various methods. Meeting people in the place where they are most comfortable. This does not include RVs.

Originally this was “transitional” with intention to treat and then transitioning to a brick-and-mortar clinic, but that is not how it is working. No clinics, all care is performed on the street. The philosophy is to be patient led, and reality based, with unconditional respect no matter how many times a participant may try to push the care givers away. What is learned with street medicine becomes a tool of advocacy.

The vision is for all unsheltered homeless in LA to have access to basic healthcare through building capacity starting with hospital-based consult service, street-based care, workforce development (education) and research. Street medicine has been able to connect the unsheltered and provide on-going primary care to 70% of the patients. Street medicine has been able to reduce the length of hospital stays and have had success with avoiding discharge to the streets through service provider partnerships.

Questions:

Q – Council Member George Chen: What is the source of your funding?

A - Brett Feldman: A patchwork of funding; some from the university and also from grants

Q - Gabriela Medina: How are encampments selected and how do you collaborate with service providers?

A - Brett Feldman: One team starts at LAC-USC and picks up patients at the hospital

Q – John LaRock: Is there a best practices toolkit for this program to emulate this program?

A – Brett Feldman: There is not an official toolkit available just yet so suggested John reach out to him directly for more information

Q – Council Member George Chen: Is there a connection strategy to get people out of substance abuse to stop the cycle?

A – Brett Feldman: They do have a drug and alcohol counselor on the team as well as other ways to address this issue. Ultimately as long as they are on the street, it is hard to stop this cycle.

Q – Yarenis Slater: Are they able to do a referral or, do they have to work with an outreach person to obtain services for someone in need?

A – Brett Feldman: If within the area they serve, then can receive referrals from anyone working in the area, including the police department.

Street Medicine Outreach - Renee El-Khoury, DO, Family Medicine Physician, Harbor UCLA
Details and missions are provided in the slide presentation – [link](#)

The importance of street medicine to un-housed individuals is to treat them where they are at on the streets. This program is not as established as the USC program just yet. There are still many barriers to housing and services so this program will push for more collaboration to break down those barriers. Renee reviewed data on mortality rates for the un-housed. When people are not medically treated, earlier mortality increases for people at a much younger age than housed individuals.

There are challenges with providing care through street medicine, with earning trust at the top of the list. It takes many times reaching out to earn trust to accept care. Many are at advanced level of diseases. Ultimately housing is the best way to offer needed resources. The program is innovative, cost effective, and can improve health outcomes. Also, it is important to collaborate with multiple disciplinary teams. Centered care model focuses on the whole person to provide care beyond just the health issues.

Questions:

Q - Zulma Gent: What relationship do you have with other medical institutions in SPA8?

A – Dr. Renee El-Khoury: Outside of affiliation with Harbor UCLA health systems, not sure if they do have a direct affiliation but the hospital might. We are very interested in connecting with schools in the area.

Q – Matthew Zarro: What is the goal for turn-around rate?

A – Dr. Renee El-Khoury: The goal is to go out weekly with the street teams but may realistically need to start out on a monthly basis.

Caltrans Protocols for Homelessness During COVID-19 – China Gerstner, MA, Liaison,
Coordinated Interagency Homeless Services, Deborah Prochnow, Jeff Newman, Caltrans District 7
Details are provided in the slide presentation – [link](#)

China shared a presentation on Caltrans's protocols for unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness during COVID-19. She reviewed Caltrans operations and how they can best partner with various cities and counties that have encampments that are on Caltrans properties. Directives state they will follow all

established guidelines and will refrain from cleaning homeless encampments unless there is an immediate safety concern. Direct request for relocations must be elevated through district maintenance chain of command. Emergencies are assessed and prioritized with safety of unsheltered individuals, traveling public and Caltrans workers and meeting COVID guidelines. Caltrans partners with 80+ cities in LA and Ventura Counties. It is important to identify all government agencies that are responsible for the health and safety of unsheltered individuals.

Encampment prioritization that designates as an emergency include occupants connected to high voltage wires impacting system operations, people in travel lanes and confined bridge cells, active fires and Caltran's need to perform emergency inspections. Illegal dumping is also a continuous issue that can be a safety issue.

Questions:

Q - Matthew Zarro: Is there any transparency or process for deciding which encampments get swept?

A - China Gerstner: Safety is top priority so if something happens on a highway or in an encampment; the supervisors will address dangerous situations first. The maintenance crew supervisors make the decisions on priority.

A: Deborah Prochnow: Bridge cells are a top priority due to safety concerns. Electrical issues are another priority, and clear recovery zone which requires guardrails.

Redondo Beach Update: Pallet Shelter – Christian Horvath, Councilmember, City of Redondo Beach

The city has moved very quickly with unanimous council direction to explore a temporary transitional a shelter site in Redondo Beach using Pallet Shelter as a provider. This went into a study phase, and then a look at city sites, and reported back to council decided to create this program for 13 months at one and/or two locations. 16 pallet shelters will be delivered with one to be used for programmatic elements and the other 15 to house individuals. This program will work in tandem with the Enhanced Response Pilot Program (homeless court) and also with individuals coming from Project Room Key. Program funding sources have been provided from several sources (Federal and County) to make this happen. Cares Act money must be employed before December 30th so someone must be living on site before the end of the year.

Los Angeles CD 15 Update: Pallet Shelter, Interim Housing, and Safe Parking – Gabriela Medina, District Director, Council District 15

[Link to complete presentation.](#)

Gabriela reviewed the housing solutions in the CD15 Action Plan which includes many very aggressive programs. The goal for everyone is to improve the lives of those living on the streets and a goal was set to build a safe shelter system that can support at least 60% of the unsheltered population at any given time. For 2020, this translates to a target of 1,400 individuals with a system that is responsive to and reflective of the unique characteristics of CD15's homeless population. Programs include: a navigation center to store belongings, safe parking for vehicles and RVs, A Bridge Home shelter, rapid re-housing, permanent supportive housing and affordable housing. In addition, ABH 2.0 interim housing will be designated using pallet shelters at the Harbor Sports Complex with at least 75 units. CD15 has participated in Project Room Key and is now looking at acquiring two hotels for Project Home Key.

SBCCOG Updates: Launch of Home Share South Bay and other SBCCOG activities – Grace Farwell and Jacki Bacharach, SBCCOG

Jacki Bacharach advised the group about the introduction of the Fiber Network connecting all of our city halls to allow better services to constituents. A special zoom celebration will be at 10:30am on November 17th.

Grace presented information on the Home Share South Bay program which was launched on October 15th. We are partnering with Silvernest, an online platform to match South Bay homeowners who have an extra room to rent with home seekers. Our focus for home seekers is to reach those who are on the verge of homelessness or recently homeless, and who have low acuity scores and gainfully employed. Our first efforts are to reach homeowners to build that base. These could be people with a variety of reasons to want to share a room, from wanting financial assistance, companionship, or those who just want to be altruistic by helping others in need. We have marketing materials for our cities to help promote the program. Home Share South Bay landing page: <https://silvernest.com/southbay>

Legislative Update - Janet Turner, Representative Ted Lieu

Janet announced new legislation introduced by Representative Lieu. Bill HR8674, called the Prevent Homelessness Act, is designed to help stop people from becoming homeless. The bill creates a \$500 million stabilization fund to help struggling Americans who may be just one month away from losing their home, or one utility bill away from having their lights shut off. It is primarily for low-income families to meet housing related obligations, such as rent, utilities, possibly legal services, short term payments, and it also does include counseling.

PATH Update – [link](#) to PATH report.

CES Update – [link](#) to CES SPA 8 report.

Next Steps and Follow-up Actions

None at this time

Adjournment – next meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2021

