

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Homeless Services Task Force

Wednesday, November 6, 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), Councilmember Hildy Stern (Manhattan Beach), Steacy Trinidad (Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi)

Others in attendance: David Roberts, Keith Bennett (Carson), Marco Lemus (El Segundo PD), Jackie Coppa (Gardena), Von Norris (Hawthorne), Scott Nichols (Hawthorne PD), Roberto Chavez, Cinder Eller, Lori Jones (Inglewood), Daniella Knighton (Lomita), George Gabriel (Manhattan Beach), Wayne Windman (Redondo Beach PD), Keith Turner, John LaRock (Redondo Beach), Meredith Elguira (Rolling Hills), Katie Wand (Torrance), Denise Fiedler (Torrance Library), Ashlee Oh, Ivan Sulic (County of Los Angeles), Steven Yu (LAHSA), Courtney Reed, Haley Fischer (PATH), Breanna Jajairam, Shari Weaver (Harbor Interfaith Services), Nancy Wilcox (South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness), Ryan Macy-Hurley (Shelter Partnership), Garrett Dunbar, Denise Gosoinski-Espinoza (Mental Health America Los Angeles, Double Secret Project), Kevin Hirai (Flyaway Homes), Gabriela Garcia (Everyone In, United Way), Jacki Bacharach, Grace Farwell, Chandler Sheilds (SBCCOG)

Redondo Beach Councilmember Christian Horvath opened the meeting.

September 4, 2019 meeting notes – Received and filed

LA County Housing Innovation Challenge Awardee: Flyaway Homes – Kevin Hirai, Chief Operating Officer, Flyaway Homes

- Come from a social service agency (like PATH)
- Agency has provided successful service to 100s of clients
- 6 developers in this cohort, looking to broaden collaborative efforts/opportunities
- Costs \$800 (\$750 for services) per person to house with Flyaway Homes
- Stakeholders met to determine a different approach to tackle housing challenge
- “Shared Housing” is not covered under HUD guidelines (1 person per unit to be eligible for vouchers)
- Cost, quality, speed are guidelines for providing housing
- Targeting the 20,000 chronically homeless (most difficult demographic to address) of the 60,000 total homeless population
- “Modular building” (e.g. shipping containers) is an innovative approach being utilized for housing
- Short-term goal: use \$65 million in 2 years to build 200 2-bedroom units

- Long-term goal: 20,000 homeless housed by 2028
- Income producing asset for communities where housing is being delivered, delivering 4.5% return on capital (social impact equity)
- Not “warehousing” inhabitants, adequate space allocated for living quarters
- Housing priority is based on need (e.g. disabled, families, etc.)
- Link to presentation: [Flyaway Homes](#)

Mental Health Issues on the Street – Garrett Dunbar, Personal Service Coordinator, Mental Health America Los Angeles

- High healthcare rates contribute to spike in disabled homeless population (340% increase seen in the last year)
- Difficulty in contacting mentally disabled homeless is a major challenge
- Services for servicing homeless are costly under existing system
- Billable system is not effective for staff providing services as well as homeless receiving those services
- The “missing link” is customized service provided to homeless where they are at (field-based team, “Double Secret Project”)
- More than 70% of serviced individuals are from the South Bay
- Leading principal: “treat people the way they want to be treated”
- Goal is to become a “benefit” corporation (vs. non-profit), allows organization to support a political activity and secure investment to develop/support housing; bound to additionally release annual “outcome” statements regarding goal setting
- Currently independently funding and pursuing opportunities for work (e.g. GoFundMe)
- Link to presentation: [Mental Health Issues](#)

Spotlight on a South Bay City:

Gardena – Jaclyn Coppa, MSW, Community Services Counselor, Human Services & Recreation, City of Gardena

- Hosting “Weekend to End Homelessness” was a great opportunity to get the community involved by leveraging attendance at Heritage Festival
- “Cardboard Origami” vendor demoed innovative shelter structures that are given to homeless
- Faith-based organizations have connected with community through Ministerial Association quarterly meetings
- Will be creating a Homelessness Plan in partnership with SBCCOG
- Link to presentation: [Gardena Spotlight](#)

LACHI/COG Innovation Funds: Develop South Bay Cities wish list – Grace Farwell, SBCCOG

- 2 priorities for how money will be spent:
 - Increasing supply of permanent and interim housing
 - Enhance community service systems
- Ideas for spending the money:
 - Safe parking
 - Emergency shelters

- Overcoming zoning impediments (e.g. vacant warehouses that can be repurposed for housing)
- Mobile showers
- Individual motel room (not entire establishment, just select units) conversion into permanent housing
- Home sharing (e.g. SilverNest)
- Social hour/networking for potential roommates
- Sub-regional approach to establish a shelter in the South Bay
- Container homes
- Leverage faith-based organizations with property for low-income housing development
- Regional advocacy
- Following up on state voucher for Section 8 housing

Update of PATH Services – Courtney Reed, Associate Regional Director and Haley Fuselier, Regional Director, PATH

- Team participated in a clean-up of large homeless encampment on Lomita & McCoy
- 24 total LA-HOP requests in the South Bay since July (large amount of calls came from Torrance)
- Recently relocated a homeless individual in Redondo Beach back to his home in Virginia
- Link to presentation: [PATH Update](#)

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

- Partnering with the City of Carson, PATH, and SBCCOG for Carson Homeless Resource Fair (10/23/2019)
 - City of Carson provided the aquatic center as a space for folks to take a shower
 - 171 Individuals/Families Served
 - 38 providers on hand to provide services
 - Link to presentation: [Carson Resource Fair](#)
- New Programs:
 - A new pilot with LA County Adult Protective Services in which they refer APS involved seniors or adult dependents to CES for either homeless or prevention assistance
 - One dedicated staff to work with the at-risk senior population
 - There are funds available to keep seniors referred to CES by APS in housing
 - Beach Cities Outreach, which is a collaboration between Manhattan Beach, Hermosa Beach & Redondo Beach in which HIS will employ:
 - 2 Beach Cities/Outreach Housing Navigators
 - 1 Beach Cities Outreach Coordinator
 - These staff will work collaboratively with each city and as a collective Beach Cities to ensure adequate outreach coverage and access to the CES

- Redondo Beach (success story):
 - Staff worked extensively and collaboratively with City of Redondo Beach staff including: police department, city attorney's office, public defender's office, RBPD MET, Torrance MET, Torrance PD & St. Andrew's in Redondo to reach out to an individual who had made his home in front of the library/city hall
 - This individual had mental health issues along with a traumatic brain injury due to a severe car accident
 - He was originally homeless on Skid Row following a trip to LA from Texas
 - He has family in TX who were extremely worried about him
 - Eventually staff and PD were able to make contact the individual's mother who really wanted him home in TX so that she could care for him
 - Through the collaboration of the aforementioned entities, the client's mother was able to meet him in Redondo Beach
 - This meeting took place after the client went to court, and then the client agreed to get on a plane with his mother, and is back in TX now, reunified with his family including his wife and young daughters and continues to get treatment for his mental and TBI

Homeless Count 2020 – Steven Yu, Supervisor, Community Engagement, LAHSA

- Upcoming Homeless Count: January 21 – 23, 2020
- Will need 550 volunteers in the South Bay

Next Steps and Follow-up Actions

- Possibly have a short meeting in December with city staff to continue discussion of innovation funding

Adjournment