



WESTSIDE CITIES

- BEVERLY HILLS
- CULVER CITY
- LOS ANGELES
- SANTA MONICA
- WEST HOLLYWOOD
- COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Homeless Issues Committee Meeting
December 18, 2008 12:30 PM
Santa Monica Main Library
Staff Meeting Room, 2nd Floor
601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, CA

DRAFT Meeting Notes

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Co-chairs Bloom, and O'Leary called the meeting to order at 12:40 PM

II. Follow-up Announcements: Governing Board Meeting of November 20, 2008

Jody Hall Esser provided a brief overview of the Board meeting of November 20, 2008, highlighting items related to the Committee's purpose and current activities.

III. Continued Discussion and Review of Draft Components of Homeless Issues Advocacy Packet

Item deferred to the February meeting.

IV. Report Back:

A. Request of Mayor Pro Tem Bloom that the City Councils urge the State Legislature and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to restore full funding for the Emergency Housing and Assistance Program (EHAP) to the 2009-2010 state budget

Chair Bloom advised that given the state's current fiscal position, no one is sure where money may be coming from to address this issue-- restoration of funds is not on the table at this time.

B. WSCCOG Governing Board Letter to LAHSA RE Winter Shelter Pick up in Santa Monica Pilot Program

Santa Monica City and LAHSA staff noted that they are closely monitoring the system put in place and it seems to be going well. OPCC staff is also keeping an eye out for any homeless who may be too frail to use public transit to access the Winter Shelter.

Rebecca Isaacs, Executive Director of LAHSA, noted that all Winter Shelters were operating at less than capacity and that LAHSA is closely tracking family vouchers as well.

C. Status of Other COG-Supported Projects and Programs Directed to Serve Homeless Individuals and Families

It was noted that the Access LA trip is planned for March, and that advocacy information will be helpful to take along. LAHSA representatives noted they would be happy to share their statistics.

Kate Vernez noted that Iao Katagiri, VP External Affairs and Director of Community Relations for RAND, has been appointed to the Homeless Veterans VA Senate Committee

V. Discussion 2009 LAHSA Homeless Count

Rebecca Isaacs commented on the upcoming Jan 27-29 Homeless County. She advised that the number of individuals counted on the street would be separated from the number counted in shelters.

Council Member O'Leary asked when staff would get back to the jurisdictions regarding the issue of liability coverage from volunteers. Leslie Wise said this matter had been referred to legal counsel and she would check with them and report back as soon as possible.

Discussion ensued about how quickly the results of the count would be available; full enumeration versus extrapolation; the fact that if more cities participate in full enumeration, the more accurate the count results will be-- 20 cities have opted in. The concept of the "hidden homeless" and the fact that no other count in other counties/states includes this number and that it may work against the County was noted. It was explained that the "hidden homeless" number is not added in at the street/community level but is available at the regional level view.

It was noted that significant progress has been made in improving the Homeless Count process and outcome, and that it is unrealistic to expect the process to ever be perfect.

VI. Discussion RE Delineation of COG Boundary

Jody Hall Esser explained the reason for suggesting the COG formalize its boundaries and advised of the guides to establishing those boundaries suggested by the Transportation and Sustainability committees. Gordon Anderson elaborated on the input from Council Member McKeown regarding the rather unique broad-based boundary.

Mrs. Esser noted that the Transportation Committee suggested the following points to guide this effort which will be presented to the City Managers/Executive Staff committee for input and then the Board for approval:

1. Avoid boundaries that will change, use major streets
2. Consider including the 6 Westside planning areas included in the Workforce Housing Study
3. Use census maps
4. Determine how much stakeholder interest the COG wants the (new) Supervisor Ridley-Thomas to take
5. Consider where our clout is coming from
6. What involvement do we want in the development of the Lincoln Corridor and future development at LAX and Playa Vista
7. Buy-in and comfort level by the City and County of Los Angeles representatives to the COG is crucial
8. Consider Mulholland as the northerly boundary as it is the top of the watershed and an area of potential future development
9. Include Westwood

Co-Chair Bloom asked that the Palisades be added to the list. The Members agreed.

VII. Suggested Topics for WSCCOG Annual Issues Conference 2009

Jody Hall Esser advised that in January, the Board would be asked to select a topic for the Annual Issues Conference to be held mid-year; that the other two topics of main focus to the COG had been addressed at the conferences in 2007 and 2008. Therefore, this year the

topic would be suggested to be Homeless Issues. Brief discussion ensued. It was suggested that the conference reflect on what was learned in the 2009 Homeless County, include Best Practices in homeless services and programs and potentially also include affordable housing. Mrs. Esser noted that conference planning would likely be directed to the Homeless Committee and staff, and that planning should commence in earnest at the February Committee meeting in order for the conference to take place in early summer.

VIII. Receive and File

A. Meeting Notes from October 16, 2008 Homeless Issues Committee Meeting

A correction was noted to page two, section VIII fourth line. The number should read #209 (not #29)

B. LAHSA Homeless Count 2009

C. Draft 2009 Meeting Dates

All items were received and filed as presented or corrected (note above).

IX. Public Comment RE Items Not On the Agenda

Leslie Wise spoke briefly regarding restoration of EHAP funding, affordable housing efforts, LAHSA's legislative platform and priorities for the coming year.

X. Announcements and Discussion of Future Agenda Items

It was requested that a debrief on the 2009 Homeless Count be scheduled for the February meeting.

Chair Bloom inquired as to the status of the League's Committee on Housing. Teresa Acosta said she would look into that and report back.

Flora Gil Krisiloff commented that unless the necessary infrastructure, established networks of service providers and public health officials is in place, it is difficult to resolve homeless issues. She suggested a future agenda topic be a discussion regarding the kind of infrastructure it will take for the County to proceed to end homelessness.

Mrs. Esser thanked the Committee and staff for the opportunity to have worked with them and introduced Mr. Gordon Anderson who will assume the position of Interim Executive Director, effective January 1, 2008.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM. The next meeting scheduled to take place on February 19, 2008

Meeting Attendance: The sign-in sheet is on file with the Secretary to the COG