


**WESTSIDE CITIES**

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

Homeless Issues Committee Meeting  
 February 19, 2009 -- 12:30 PM  
 Santa Monica Main Library  
**Staff Meeting Room, 2nd Floor**  
 601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, CA

## Meeting Notes

### I. Call to Order and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 12:40p.m. with Co-chair Bloom and Co-chair O'Leary present.

### II. Follow-up Announcements: Governing Board Meeting of January 29, 2009

#### A. Lobbyists Discussion Re: Homeless Issues

#### B. Other

**(Note, the WSCCOG Annual Issues Conference 2009 on Homeless Issues will be discussed as Item V., below.)**

Staff indicated that there seems to be not issue with reauthorization of the McKinney-Vento Act. That most of the attention of the federal legislators is on the Stimulus Package. As well, staff was still waiting to learn what cities might apply for under the Stimulus Package.

### III. Continued Discussion and Review of Draft Components of Homeless Issues Advocacy Packet (This Item was continued from the meeting of December 18, 2008)

#### A. Attachment: Draft Advocacy Packet Presented to Committee on June 19, 2008.

#### B. Attachment: Revised Homeless Advocacy Packet from June 2008 Discussion Version (3)

This matter was referred to a small subcommittee to update the information and develop a final document. The subcommittee includes staff from Santa Monica, Culver City, West Hollywood and LA County Supervisor Yaroslavsky's office.

### IV. Report Back:

#### A. Debrief on LAHSA Homeless Count 2009

#### B. Request of Chair Bloom as to the status of the League's Committee on Housing. (Teresa Acosta, Regional Public Affairs Manager)

Rebecca Isaac, executive director of Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), reported that the LAHSA Homeless Count 2009 went very well. She indicated that the count was over 3 nights with 54 deployment centers which represented some 4500 volunteer nights. There were 16 opt in cities with is the most ever. With more cities opting into the count representing increased number of zip codes (about 50% more zip codes), there is a more accurate count with less need for extrapolation.

Ms. Isaac stated further that now LAHSA is moving into the Part 2 (the numbers count being Part 1, of analyzing homelessness in the County), which is a very detailed demographic survey of the homeless population. Individuals within the homeless population will be selected to complete the survey. Therefore, Ms. Isaac stressed the need for volunteers to administer the survey.

The efforts of the Westside Cities included:

- Most of the Westside Cities opted into the actual count;
- Beverly Hills was a deployment center with over 100 volunteers;
- Santa Monica conducted its own count over two nights with some 50 volunteers and over 100 have registered to attend a forum to report the count findings;
- Culver City was an opt in city, with deployment centers and local volunteers, will report its count findings from all 4 census tracts to its Council this month;
- West Hollywood was an opt in city, with deployment centers and local volunteers, on count night, and on the next night conducted a Vulnerable Index count; and
- Los Angeles is putting its agenda together to release the count data and compliment LASHA on its grass roots work.

Finally, a more accurate count will inform relative to the success of policies and efforts of many to reduce homelessness.

## **V. Discussion, WSCCOG Annual Issues Conference 2009**

Following lengthy discussion, staff concurred:

1. the focus of the Issues Conference 2009 should be Best Practices recognizing that the goal of ending homeless is to get people into housing;
2. could include a discussion of housing options for the homeless;
3. could include a session on *People Do Recover from Homeless* (some real cases where best practice have lead to good results); and
4. the Issues Conference 2009 should end with outcomes that the COG could take ownership of and move forward on.

There was also a lengthy discussion as to the target audience. It was agreed that the Conference would be an opportunity to elevate the issue to a more public discussion. It was discussed that target audience could include, large homeowner associations, business community and business community supporters such as BIDs, the faith based community, residents and other service organizations that have shown leadership in this area.

The discussion ended with the need for one city to take the lead on putting the Conference together, as has been done with the past conference, and expression by staff that given the current budget constraints that some cities are already talking about is there an alternative to a separate conference that should be considered, for example, joint partnering with another organization on an event. Given that there was unanimous support by the COG Board for the conference, this concern was referred to the Liaison/Technical Committee and the City Manager in particular for discussion.

## **VI. Receive and File**

### **A. Meeting Notes from December 18, 2008 Homeless Issues Committee Meeting**

There were no adjustments to the meeting notes.

**VII. Public Comment Regarding Items Not On the Agenda**

**NOTE: Depending on the length of the agenda and number of individuals desiring to address the Committee, the time allotted for Public Comment may be limited.**

Rebecca Isaac reported that the NOFA has been awarded to including funding for everything that was requested. She will provide further information later.

**VIII. Announcements and Discussion of Future Agenda Items:**

**A. At the December 2008 meeting, Flora Gil Krisiloff suggested a future agenda topic be a discussion regarding the kind of infrastructure it will take for the County to proceed to end homelessness.**

**B. Other**

1. Clarification from Flora on item VIII. A. above
2. Annual Issues Conference 2009
  - a. Possible dates and structure of event
  - b. Discussions, if any, on partnering possibilities
3. Culver City announced that on March 12, Upward Bound House will celebrate breaking ground on Family Shelter, which will provide 18 units of emergency housing and case management for approximately 210 children and their families for one year.

**IX. Adjournment**

**Next meeting scheduled to take place on April 23, 2009**

**(Note, was meeting later rescheduled to April 30, 2009)**

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