



WESTSIDE CITIES

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

Homeless Issues Committee Meeting
April 30, 2009 -- 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

The meeting was called to order at 12:40p.m. with Co-chairs Richard Bloom, Micheál O'Leary and Flora Gil-Krisiloff representing Zev Yaroslavsky present. (see attached Sign In Sheet for other attendees)

II. Follow-up Announcements: Governing Board Meeting of March 19, 2009 **A. Annual Issues Conference 2009 on Homeless Issues**

Flora Gil-Krisiloff has agreed that she and County staff will be the lead on this project. The group concurred given the economic situation and that the County already plans to conduct a workshop on homeless issues, this was not the time for a full conference. Rather it was proposed that the COG effort coordinate with the County in the format of a working session to address a specific topic and create tangible outcomes. The issue suggested was homeless veterans - particularly as it related to their access to HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing vouchers ([HUD-VASH Vouchers](#)).

Potential issues related to that topic include: 1) understanding eligibility of veterans for services and vouchers; 2) ways of addressing some veteran's reluctance to seek services at the VA – including Memorandums Of Agreement's between the VA and other providers (who may already be working with a veteran) to do case management for the VASH program; 3) the VA's position on Housing First and harm reduction; and, 4) the difficulty of finding housing units given the current HUD payment standards.

Potential participants include: COG members, VA staff and leadership, service providers, County DMH staff, County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs staff, HUD staff, and representatives from Congress member Waxman's, Harmon's and Watson's offices and Senator Feinstein's office.

The group discussed potential formats for the discussion that would lead to constructive discussion, be educational and result in deliverables (e.g., formal public hearing vs. alternative formats).

Next steps: The idea of a working session rather than a full conference on the topic of veterans will be brought to the COG Board on May 21. If there is no objection COG Board, staff will need to meet in June to start planning in earnest for a fall date.

III. Recommendation to Receive and File the 2008-2009 Homeless Issues Advocacy Packet

There was no objection to this recommendation.

IV. Report Back: **A. Brief Update on Regional Homeless Projects and Efforts by Westside Cities and Los Angeles County Staff**

West Hollywood provided an update on the recent creation of their Service Registry. Volunteers interviewed individuals found sleeping in the City, but also at a local church that handed out McDonald's vouchers in the morning. Some known West Hollywood "regulars" were subsequently interviewed by outreach workers in the

following days. Overall 135 people were interviewed, and 58 were identified as West Hollywood "regulars". This is exactly the number West Hollywood counted on the streets during the January LAHSA Count. It was indicated that many of the others were interviewed at the church giveaway program, and that they came into West Hollywood for the vouchers from all over the region. 20 of the people interviewed were identified as vulnerable. West Hollywood has a goal is to house 20 people by October 2009, and house 20 more in the next year. It is felt the Service Registry "breathed new life" into the outreach workers who now have more focus to their work.

Santa Monica gave an update on its Service Registry participants. Of the 130 vulnerable individuals, 20 are permanently housed and 37 are temporarily housed. Santa Monica is now adding an additional 100 surveys to the data base to determine vulnerability. The persons selected for interviews were high-users of Fire and Police services, as well as individuals identified by service providers. There was discussion about Santa Monica's community education efforts and ways to ["tell the story" of homelessness](#) more effectively.

Culver City shared that they now have a new police officer assigned to help City staff and the outreach provider on the issue of homelessness. City staff and outreach providers are doing a ride-along with the newly assigned police officer once a month. This is proving to be very helpful to the outreach provider. Culver City staff is also working closely with Councilman Rosendahl's office and LAPD because many folks in Culver City move in between jurisdictions.

Culver City shared that the National Guard had indicated that the Culver City Armory would not be available for the coming year's Winter Shelter Program and that negotiations are underway. A general discussion of next year's Winter Shelter program ensued. It was agreed that now was the time to start planning for the upcoming season including: armory availability; funding given EHAP cuts; and, pick-up sites. It was decided to put this item on the June 18th, Homeless Issues committee agenda and invite LAHSA to participate.

V. Receive and File

A. Meeting Notes from February 19, 2009 Homeless Issues Committee Meeting

There were no modifications to the Meeting Notes of February 19, 2009.

VI. 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.

There was no public comment.

VII. 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. Winter Shelter Program

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55pm. Next meeting scheduled to take place on June 18, 2009

