



## WESTSIDE CITIES

· BEVERLY HILLS  
· CULVER CITY  
· LOS ANGELES  
· SANTA MONICA  
· WEST HOLLYWOOD

Homeless Issues Committee Meeting  
**October 18, 2007 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

Meeting was called to order at 12:45 by Co-Chair Richard Bloom. All present were asked to introduce themselves and note their affiliation.

#### II. Follow-up comments to items discussed at the WSCCOG Board Meeting of 9/20/07

**A. Proposed Meeting with Senator Boxer RE “Federal Assistance Needed to Address Homeless Issues”:** Jody Hall Esser advised that COG member staffs are preparing lists of their activities to house, serve and support services for the homeless. These lists will be combined and this information and the Congressional Briefing Packet prepared by the County and City of Los Angeles earlier in the year will serve as a base for discussing this topic at the next Committee Meeting.

Flora Gil Krisiloff referenced talking points prepared and sent to Assemblyman Waxman as part of the spring packet. It was noted that the homeless count can now be updated. She noted that HUD is proposing to consolidate its three competitive funding programs. Under the proposed new program, local continuums would approve individual projects and service providers. She noted that in other legislation pending various definitions of homelessness, affecting the eligibility of program recipients and housing set-aside requirements are being considered. To some degree, she noted legislation will codify actions already in practice. Co-Chair Bloom commented that the transition to new programs must be smooth to ensure no one is left behind.

Ms. Gil Krisiloff also noted that the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development wants to reduce supportive service funding to put more money into housing. Various previous forms of federally-funded housing assistance were discussed. The fact that the real need is that not enough housing units are coming on line was noted. Co-Chair Bloom referenced the “scattered site concept” being discussed. Stacy Rowe commented on the project based versus scattered site concept. Jody Hall Esser reflected that the scattered site concept is one that goes back to the 1970’s when she started Culver City’s housing program, and that the keys to success were reasonable rent maximums, landlords willingness to participate, and the availability of rental units.

**B. Planning for Annual Issues Conference:** Jody Hall Esser advised that a decision as to topic is pending. This subject is expected to be discussed by the Board in January with the conference to take place in the spring of 2008

**C. Proposed Homeless Issues Advocacy Packet:** Jody Hall Esser commented that it is recognized that a WSCCOG leave-behind advocacy packet on Homeless Issues will be more difficult to prepare than the one put together RE the COG’s agreed transportation and infrastructure improvement projects because the member organizations

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perspectives/programs are not necessarily in sync. An effort will be made to find common ground and philosophies. The COG Facilitator will meet with City staff to pursue this topic and come back to the Committee with a report and D recommendations.

- D. SM Homeless Community Court Presentation Rescheduled:** Jody Hall Esser advised that at the request of the City of Santa Monica, this presentation to the Governing Board has been rescheduled for the Board meeting of Nov. 15, 2007.

### III. Update: CARES Process

Flora Gil Krisiloff reported that the program has been disbanded. Prior to leaving office, Secretary Nicholson adopted an approach to modernize the hospital but the plan does not address some 200 acres on the VA site. She advised that Congressman Waxman has sent a letter to the Acting Secretary recapping what has happened to date with this process and urging the Secretary to initiate a 10-year master plan process.

### IV. Update: West Los Angeles VA Proposal for Homeless Vets Therapeutic Housing and Discussions with Administrators at the West LA VA Regarding Enhancement of Programs and Services for Homeless Veterans Region Wide and on the West LA VA Campus (Combined agenda items IV and VIII from Agenda.)

Flora Gil Krisiloff reported that Bill Daniels may be working on this, heading homeless programs for the region as part of Vision 2020. Mr. Daniels plans to convene interested parties to discuss reuse of three buildings for therapeutic housing; meeting to include developers and operators.

She added that the county will not be able to make a dent in the real homeless need/numbers unless and until everybody in the region steps up to the plate; similarly, we need the VA to look at a regional plan.

### V. Update: Efforts to Provide Year Round Emergency Shelter for Families to be located in Culver City

Shelly Wolfberg noted that the project in question will be before the Culver City Planning Commission on October 24<sup>th</sup>. That the Cities of Beverly Hills, Los Angeles and the County have already committed money to the project and Stacy Rowe noted that funding for the project will be before the Santa Monica City Council on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>.

Neighbor concerns/support and sensitivity regarding how you bring a project like this one to the public was briefly discussed. Having faced similar issues in Santa Monica, Co-Chair Bloom offered his assistance the Culver City electeds.

### VI. Update: Homeless Services and Housing Development Subcommittee of the League

There has been no meeting of the committee – nothing to report at this time.

**VII. Prop 63 LA County Allocation and Westside Allocation**

Jennifer Ma-Pham summarized her memo to the COG Governing Board dated Sept. 12, 2007 which assured cities in LA County are getting their fair share of Prop 63 funds. Flora Gil Krisiloff added that the Dept. of Mental Health operates in terms of Service Planning Areas and that the Supervisors have scrutinized distribution to assure an even distribution of resources.

**VIII. Update: Psychiatric Urgent Care Facility at Brotman Hospital, Culver City**

Kathy Shoemaker, Exodus Recovery Urgent Care Administrator, passed out a sheet containing current service stats and provided a synopsis of typical services. Suggestions were made regarding chart improvements if possible: add stats for referral organizations and/or list the "other" organizations and provide a cumulative average column. Handout received and filed for reference.

**IX. Update: Homeless Community Court**

Stacy Rowe reported on progress/statistics of this program and new collaborative activities being provided with the County. 64 unduplicated individuals have participated as of October. New services available include referral links with OPCC, CLARE Foundation and St. Joseph's Center. She noted they are working to get the psychiatric service links in place. She added that of those served to date, 32% have been placed in transitional housing; 30% referred for alcohol dependency support/services and 7% for mental health follow up. Only 8 of the 64 clients failed to appear.

**X. Pending Legislation Including Cedillo's Package of Homeless Measures**

It was noted that SB 2 had passed the legislature and was signed into law by the Governor.

**XI. Discussion RE Confirmation of December 2007 and 2008 Meeting Dates and Future Agenda Items**

Jody Hall Esser asked all to review the proposed meeting dates for 2008 and advise of potential conflicts at the Committee meeting in December.

**XII. Public Comment RE Items Not On the Agenda**

An (unidentified) member of the public noted his concern that non-profit group's efforts to assist the homeless in the Venice area are not receiving the support they need from LAPD. He was referred to Councilman Rosendahl's office.

Ed Edelman referenced a recent article in the LA Times referencing involvement and successes in working with/serving the homeless by faith-based organizations in Denver. He suggested we have not sufficiently tapped into this resource.

Co-Chair Bloom referenced an Interfaith Community "Call to Justice" to take place Nov. 11-12. More information is available at [www.call-to-justice.org](http://www.call-to-justice.org). He commented that it is very important for cities and service providers to hear what interfaith organizations have to say, he recommended that bringing the faith-based community into the discussion of homeless

issues be a focused and organized effort; and that bringing the moral authority of the faith-based community to bring their communities to the table.  
Julie Kahn noted that a meeting of the Ecumenical Round Table will take place in Beverly Hills on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **XIII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1: 10 PM. (Next meeting: December 13, 2007 at 12:30 PM, SM Main Library)

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#### **In Attendance:**

Co-Chair Richard Bloom

WSCCOG Facilitator Jody Hall Esser

#### **City Staff:**

Beverly Hills	Julie Kahn
City of Los Angeles	Jennifer Ma-Pham (CM Rosendahl's Office)
County of Los Angeles	Flora Gil Krisiloff (Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky)
Culver City	Shelly Wolfberg, Armando Abrego
Santa Monica:	Ed Edelman, Stacy Rowe

Other: Kathy Shoemaker, Exodus Recovery, Urgent Care  
Samantha O'Neil, SM Chamber