



WESTSIDE CITIES

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

Homeless Issues Committee Meeting
December 13, 2007 12:30 PM
Santa Monica Main Library
Staff Meeting Room, 2nd Floor
601 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica, CA

Approved 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 Announcements: Governing Board meeting of November 15, 2007

Jody Hall Esser advised that the topic for the proposed spring 2008 WSCCOG's Annual Issues Conference had not yet been decided; that it was anticipated a decision would be made in January and she would report back for public information at the Committee meeting in February 2008.

III. Continued Discussion Next Steps/Process Necessary to Identify Specific Request(s) for Federal Assistance Needed to Address Homeless Issues to be Presented to Senator Boxer

Kate Vernez commented that it appeared we had a project we could suggest to the Senator: the three buildings that are available for reuse on the WLA VA campus; and that reuse of these buildings to serve homeless Veterans is a project being championed by Congressman Waxman. Flora Gil Krisiloff noted that Senator Feinstein is on-board regarding the subject of needing to address homelessness in general, and that she and Congresswoman Maxine Waters support can/should also be secured for this specific project and the broader need/solution.

Ms. Gil Krisiloff suggested a multi-pronged approach providing Senator Boxer with support for this specific project and a second broader policy issue: permanent supportive housing for the homeless.

Co-Chair Bloom recommended and Co-Chair Gross agreed that tours for both Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein and key staff in all of our congressional delegate's offices. It was agreed that the tour should include, among other things, Skid Row, in order for all to understand that the specifics of the homeless issue in LA are unique.

The message of the McKinney/Pinto legislation was briefly discussed.

It was agreed that the homeless situation by city and resources by city need to be further discussed.

It was suggested that a plan with short-term (perhaps 3-year) "targets" needs to be developed – a plan with both targets and strategies. Plans developed by other COGs and cities in the greater Southern California area were referenced. SB2, the "End Homelessness Now" and "HPI" plans were referenced: it was suggested that there have been lots of "plans", that funding and political will are crucial to making meaningful/measurable progress on a regional basis. It was suggested that a plan for the Westside needs to include "what if's" especially in relationship to action/inaction by the City of LA.

It was noted that it is important not to institutionalize the imbalance. Kate Vernez commented that Santa Monica is experiencing "compassion fatigue".

It was agreed that this discussion would be continued to the February meeting of the Committee.

IV. Preliminary Discussion Homeless Issues Advocacy Packet: Packet Contents

Jody Hall Esser thanked the City of Santa Monica updating homeless statistics from the summer 2007 LAHSA count. As a starting point for discussion, she suggested the proposed COGs homeless issues advocacy packet include:

1. Updated version of narrative and demographic statistics regarding homelessness in the County and Westside subregion.
2. Summary of the efforts being undertaken by WSCCOG members to address homeless issues in their communities and in subregion to date.
3. Contact information – staff knowledgeable about issues/efforts within each WSCCOG member organization.
4. Contact information and a one paragraph brief for community and faith-based organizations working with/addressing the needs of homeless individuals and families; and
5. A statement of the COG's "Commitment" to address the issue of homelessness.

Ms. Hall Esser suggested that commitment could include statements such as:

- The WSCCOG will use its voice to advocate regional solutions to homelessness
- The WSCCOG will seek opportunities to initiate and support efforts to address the needs of homeless individuals and families in the subregion.
- The WSCCOG will seek opportunities to collaborate with community and faith-based organizations to support their efforts to address the needs of homeless individuals and families in the subregion; and
- Initiate efforts to inform the public at-large about opportunities for public involvement (volunteerism) in support of programs and services to meet the needs of homeless individuals

It was agreed that the current statistics needed to be further refined and that this subject would be continued to the Committee meeting in February.

V. Presentation: Cold Weather Shelters on the Westside

Carrie Gatlin reviewed problems that had been experienced in the first week of operation and the program was quickly organized, and noted that issues were being resolved. She reviewed statistics of the first week's operation; new arrangements for food service with new Directors. She thanked Flora Gil Krisiloff and Jen Ma-Pham for their significant support and cooperation. Ms. Gatlin reviewed transportation cost issues and staff orientation efforts including noting that as staff came up-to-speed, outreach with service providers would be stepped-up.

Ms. Gatlin was asked what kind of information was being gathered about where those served called home. Follow-up between Stacy Rowe and Ms Gatlin was suggested. The Santa Monica "Project Homecoming" was referenced.

All agreed that it was important for LAHSA to address project planning early next year. Flora Gil Krisiloff noted the importance of uniformity/clarity and good demographic data coming from all shelters.

Co-Chair Gross relayed that Culver City was distressed to learn the National Guard was charging LAHSA \$390 per day for operation of the shelter in Culver City, while the City of Culver City charged the National Guard only one dollar a year for lease of this city-owned facility. She added that efforts were underway to address issue.

A general information and contact flier prepared by LAHSA as well as an EIMAGO/Union Rescue Mission announcement flier about the Culver City Shelter's operation were distributed.

Update: CARES Process

Agenda Item continued to the meeting of February 21, 2008.

VI. Update: West Los Angeles VA Proposal for Homeless Vets Therapeutic Housing.
Agenda Item continued to the meeting of February 21, 2008.

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

It was noted that the proposed project had been appealed and would be heard by the City Council on January 14th. The significance of this project and the message project denial could send and were discussed.

VIII. Update: Homeless Services and Housing Development Subcommittee of the League
Mr. Edelman reported that he had spoken to League staff, that they considered the Committee to be an Ad-Hoc committee and that no future meetings were planned. Co-Chair Carol Gross and Kate Vernez both expressed their intention to follow-up on this matter and report back.

IX. 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.

Agenda Item continued to the meeting of February 21, 2008.

X. Confirmation of 2008 Committee Meeting Dates and Future Agenda Items
Dates announced and confirmed as proposed; items continued from this meeting were agreed to be agendaized for February.

XI. Public Comment RE Items Not On the Agenda
Co-Chair Bloom reported that Mr. Edelman would be retiring at the end of the month, thanked him on behalf for the Committee for his contributions and effort, and wished him good health and happiness.

Kathy Shoemaker, Exodus Recovery, distributed Exodus Recovery program service data through October 7, 2007.

Eunice Kim, Department of Public Policy, UCLA addressed the Committee. She commented that it had been an informative meeting and noted that she was interested in input from the Committee regarding potential projects for her Master's project/policy document on homelessness. Project suggestions included dissecting what makes a good/successful project for homeless individuals/families including a policy guide for a Good Neighbor Policy; "NIMBY fact or myth" – current reality versus components of approved/successful projects.

XII. Adjournment
Next Meeting Scheduled to take place on February 21, 2008 in Santa Monica.

In Attendance:

Co-Chair: Richard Bloom
Co-Chair: Carol Gross

WSSCOG Facilitator: Jody Hall Esser

City Staff:

Beverly Hills	Julie Kahn
City of Los Angeles	Jennifer Ma-Pham (Council Member Rosendahl)
County of Los Angeles	Flora Gil Krisiloff (Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky)
Culver City	Armando Abrego
Santa Monica:	Ed Edelman, Kate Vernez, Stacy Rowe
West Hollywood	Daphne Dennis

Other: Beverly Hills Council Member and Westside Cities COG Chair, Linda Briskman
Carrie Gatlin, EIMAGO, Inc. and the Union Rescue Mission
Tony Reinis, New Directions
Kathy Shoemaker, Exodus Recovery
Eunice Kim, Department of Public Policy, UCLA