



## **WESTSIDE CITIES**

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

Homeless Issues Committee Meeting  
June 19, 2008 12:30 PM  
Santa Monica Main Library  
Multipurpose 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 12:41 by Co-Chair Bloom. Co-Chair Bloom initiated round-the-table self-introductions.

### **II. Follow-up Announcements: Governing Board meeting of May 15, 2008**

Kate Vernez gave an update on the adoption of the 2008-09 Legislative Platform that included a policy statement regarding the issue of homelessness. Ms. Vernez thanked all the member cities who gave input to the platform. She cited the formula which was used to distribute Mental Health Services Act dollars as an example on the state level of an issued the COG could address through the platform.

### **III. Continued Presentation by LAHSA RE Homeless Count and Super NOFA**

LAHSA representative Mike Arnold gave an overview of the 2008 Super NOFA funding application to be submitted by LAHSA on behalf of the City and County of Los Angeles, including the COG member cities. Mr. Arnold spoke about the transition that HUD would like to see made from supportive services and transitional housing to permanent housing. HUD would like to have their funds used mainly for permanent housing with the funding for services coming from other federal, state and local sources. Considerable discussion ensued regarding the transition to be expected and the problems that would arise in trying to match services to housing, and about an overall lack of funding for services from sources other than HUD. Flora Gil Krisiloff stated that it is imperative to begin addressing how services will be matched with the affordable housing that is currently underway. Ms. Krisiloff would like to begin conducting more meetings to address the issues involved.

Mr. Arnold also explained the CDBG formula used to determine the national distribution of homeless funds. He indicated that this formula put Los Angeles, and most western cities, at a disadvantage. Case in point was that the County/City of Los Angeles, with approximately 68,000 homeless individuals, was allocated 43 million dollars as their pro rata need under the formula, while New York City with approximately 45,000 homeless individuals was allocated 80 million dollars. Mr. Arnold would like to get several jurisdictions and Congressional members' follow-through with the concerns regarding the CDBG formula. Attendees from the COG concurred with Mr. Arnold's suggestion and asked to take this up in future discussions of legislative advocacy.

Rhonda Meister would like to see more dialogue between senior housing developers and member cities to allow more homeless seniors in there units.

Toni Reinis inquired whether any housing under foreclosure or that might otherwise be available because of the housing slump was being pursued for permanent housing by LAHSA.

Mark Silverbush continued his report on the 2008 Homeless Count. He indicated that LAHSA would like to work with member cities for the upcoming homeless count to identify more hot spots in order for more census tracks to be directly enumerated. Discussion ensued regarding the value of doing complete counts of all census tracks for the COG cities, with the possible exception of West LA. Mr. Silverbush indicated that it all came to down to having enough volunteers to directly enumerate all tracts. Flora Gil Krisiloff requested Mr. Silverbush to forward more specific data showing actual enumerations by census track and sorted by COG City.

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

There are four initiatives currently being proposed:

- Confirm Cold Weather Shelter sites
- West LA VA- Focus efforts on Veteran Administration regional plan and approach to homeless veterans.
- Complete Advocacy Packages- Make a case to State and Federal officials for more dollars for the region for permanent supportive housing with wrap-around services. Address inadequacies in funding formulas at the State and Federal level.
- Match supportive services with permanent housing - Getting more permanent housing projects underway and ensure that they are matched with adequate supportive services. Share “good neighbor” policies and outreach tools across jurisdictions to help address opposition to projects.

Kate Vernez and Stacy Rowe will write up the initiatives

**V. Report Back On Other COG’s Homelessness Activities/Programs (Oral Report)**

This item was continued until the August meeting.

**VI. Continued Discussion Nest Steps RE Specific Request(s) for Federal Assistance Needed to Address Homeless Issues to be Presented to Senator Boxer**

Addressed in Item IV, above.

**VII. Update: Cold Weather Shelters on the Westside**

Mr. Silverbush gave an update of the Proposer’s Conference. He indicated that no Westside provider’s attended the meeting as potential operators of shelters on the Westside. However, Carrie Gatlin of EIMAGO, Inc. and the Union Rescue Mission is intending to submit a proposal for the Culver City Armory. Mr. Silverbush also indicated that at the Proposer’s Conference it was announced

that the West Los Angeles Armory would not be available this year. Ms. Krisiloff expressed concerns regarding the West LA Armory being pulled out by the State National Guard and inquired as to why members of the COG cities and County staff were not promptly notified by LAHSA. Ms. Krisiloff made it clear that there is willingness to go to elected officials to attempt to secure location, but they needed to have timely notice and background information from LAHSA. Mr. Arnold indicated that he would follow-up regarding how to best approach the State National Guard. Jennifer Ma-Pham expressed that Councilman Rosendahl's office would like to be a part of the conversation to be able to relay the information that the Armory needs to be available. Ms. Gatlin indicated she needed assistance from COG cities with respect to the location of pick-up sites. Staff from all of the cities in attendance agreed to meet with her after the Homeless Issues Committee adjourned.

**VIII. Update: West Los Angeles VA Proposal for Homeless Vets Therapeutic Housing**

Addressed in Item IV, above.

**IX. Receive and File**

A. Meeting Notes from April 17, 2008 Homeless Issued Committee Meeting

**X. Public Comment RE Items Not on the Agenda**

Santa Monica Advocate Primo de Jesus introduced / suggested the COG Google Group to become part of a dynamic information sharing group. Mr. Primo encouraged the COG to get more involved with church's which have many volunteers resulting in free labor and free resources.

**XI. Announcements**

Jennifer Ma=Pham announced that she was leaving Council Member Rosendahl's office to accept a position with the City of Culver City. The Committee members wished her well.

**XII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

**In Attendance:**

Co-Chair: Santa Monica Mayor Pro-Tempore Richard Bloom  
Co-Chair Flora Krisiloff, Westside Senior Field Deputy for  
County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky

Elected Officials: Santa Monica Council Member Kevin McKeown

City Staff:  
City of Los Angeles: Jennifer Ma-Pham (Council Member Rosendahl)  
Culver City: Armando Abrego  
Santa Monica: Priscilla Navarro, Stacy Rowe, Kate Vernez

Other:

Mark Silverbush (LAHSA); Mike Arnold (LAHSA);  
Clementina  
Verjan (LAHSA); Rhonda Meister (Conrad Hilton  
Foundation); Kristy Finzer (Exodus Recovery); Lisa Fisher  
(WSHC); Carrie Gatlin (EMAGO, Inc. and Union Rescue  
Mission); Toni Reinis (New Directions); Rachel Feldstein  
(New Directions).