

**CITY OF LONG BEACH
HOMELESS SERVICES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2022
VIA TELECONFERENCE, 3:30 PM**

Julie Lie, Chair
Desiree Rew, Vice Chair
Diego Castaneda, Member
Sylvia Guerrero, Member
James Howat, Member



S. Jolene Hui, Member
Jeffrey Johnson, Member
Ray Morquecho, Member
Susana Sngiem, Member

**HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING VIA TELECONFERENCE
PURSUANT TO ASSEMBLY BILL 361**

**THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE THE OPTION TO PROVIDE LIVE TELEPHONIC PUBLIC
COMMENT BY JOINING THE VIRTUAL MEETING. IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE
LIVE PUBLIC COMMENT, PLEASE EMAIL HOMELESSSERVICES@LONGBEACH.GOV
WITH YOUR NAME AND THE AGENDA ITEM.**

**WRITTEN COMMENTS MAY ALSO BE SUBMITTED BY EMAIL TO
HOMELESSSERVICES@LONGBEACH.GOV**

**FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, PLEASE VISIT:
<http://www.longbeach.gov/homeless-services/hsac/>**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Homeless Services Advisory Committee of the City of Long Beach convened at 3:32 p.m. via teleconference.

ROLL CALL

Also present: Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Bureau Manager; Joel Reynoza, Homeless Resource Coordinator; Alvin Teng, Special Projects Coordinator; Stephanie Sosa, Contracts and Grants Associate; Anita Lakhani, Deputy City Attorney

Chair Julie Lie presiding

Commissioners Sylvia Guerrero, James Howat, S. Jolene Hui, Jeffrey Johnson,

Present: Ray Morquecho, Desiree Rew and Julie Lie

Commissioners Susana Sngiem

Excused:

Commissioners Diego Castaneda

Absent:

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [22-099HS](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Homeless Services Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday, August 3, 2022

A motion was made by Vice- Chair Desiree Rew, seconded by Member Sylvia Guerrero, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote

Yes: 7 - Sylvia Guerrero, James Howat, S. Jolene Hui, Jeffrey Johnson, Ray Morquecho, Desiree Rew and Julie Lie

Excused: 1 - Susana Sngiem

Absent: 1 - Diego Castaneda

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- None

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Community Capacity Building Subcommittee Update

- Member Jolene Hui provided an update
 - She requested that we move the update over to the Mayor's Fund Update item given that we will be combining the Community Capacity Building subcommittee and the Fundraising Subcommittee into the creation of the Mayor's Fund Sub Committee.

Policy Subcommittee Update

- Vice- Chair Desiree Rew provided an update
 - The Policy Subcommittee has a scheduled meeting on Monday, September 12th and will provide updates for the next meeting.

Continuum of Care Update

- Member Sylvia Guerrero provided the update.
 - The CoC Board voted and reviewed the new Ranking & Scoring Policy and Procedures document.
 - Paul Duncan, the Homeless Services Bureau Manager, confirmed this is a new document that was voted on and is public information available on the Long Beach Continuum of Care website.

2. [22-100HS](#) Recommendation to receive and file all subcommittee updates.

A motion was made by Vice- Chair Desiree Rew, seconded by Member Guerrero, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Sylvia Guerrero, James Howat, S. Jolene Hui, Jeffrey Johnson, Ray Morquecho, Desiree Rew and Julie Lie

Excused: 1 - Susana Sngiem

Absent: 1 - Diego Castaneda

CONNECTING WITH THE FAITH-BASED COMMUNITY

Paul Duncan, the Homeless Services Bureau Manager, provided the update,

- A HSAC member requested a discussion on how to create and come together to develop solutions with the vast networks of faith-based communities working to provide services to the unhoused.
- He will be attending a conference in Paramount for the Interfaith Council, and he would like to open the discussion with the Committee to see how best to strengthen ties with these community partners, given that HSAC is a vital group and well connected. Where do we feel like members see opportunities to be active, any further recommendations, etc
- Chair Julie Lie had previously served on the planning committee for the Interfaith Council for annual events and agreed there is a lot of knowledge within faith-based partners since they often help and interact with the homeless community. She asked if it would be within HSAC's purview to organize a conference. She asked about creating a directory that could pull information about what the faith-based community does.
- Paul Duncan responded that HSAC could take the lead to create, support, endorse and be an active participant in creating an event conference.
- No formalized faith-based group meets about homeless services issues. There are groups like the Long Beach Ministers Alliance. Long Beach Rescue Mission will have an event, the Annual Breakfast that people can participate.

3. [22-101HS](#)

Recommendation to receive and file the discussion on the best methods to connect with the faith-based community.

A motion was made by Member James Howat, seconded by Member Jeffrey Johnson, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Sylvia Guerrero, James Howat, S. Jolene Hui, Jeffrey Johnson, Ray Morquecho, Desiree Rew and Julie Lie

Excused: 1 - Susana Sngiem

Absent: 1 - Diego Castaneda

MAYOR'S FUND UPDATE

Member S. Jolene Hui provided the update

- This presentation was requested since it has been a while since HSAC has received applicants, there are two new members, and the combination of two subcommittees has been approved
- The Mayor's Fund is intended to help small organizations in Long Beach that address significant service delivery needs for homeless services that are not covered by existing funding. This fund can help smaller organizations increase capacity and get more funding to serve individuals on the ground. More detailed information can be found on the Mayor's Fund website.
- HSAC's involvement comes in two forms: reviewing applicants and increasing awareness of the fund for smaller organizations. Over the last two years, HSAC and staff put together a formal application process.

Alvin Teng, Special Projects Coordinator, further explained that these funds are gap funding, not an emergency or programmatic. The fund was created as a low-barrier way to help organizations secure funds.

- On the online portal, organizations can read about the fund, view the minimum requirements, apply, and attach forms through a form, or download a PDF to complete the application form and email it back to staff.
- Staff will then receive and review the minimum threshold. A staff analysis will be completed and forwarded alongside the application to the Committee, who then reviews and decides what to deliver to the HSAC Committee meeting to be agenized. If approved, staff will create the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), secure necessary signatures, and work with the fiscal sponsor, Long Beach Community Foundation, to reimburse invoices or issue advanced payments to the approved organizations.

Member James Howat, had questions about the status of funds, requested ideas on how to best publicize the Mayor's Fund, and invite other HSAC members to join the subcommittee.

- Alvin Teng replied to Member James Howat's questions. The annual envelope is awaiting feedback from the subcommittee on any edits they may have. He was notified by LBCF, the fiscal agent, that they will now accept credit payments for donations and include a QR code on the envelopes Password
- to make online contributions easier.

Chair Julie Le will revise the HSAC Mayor's Fund flyer created by former member Jenette Barrera so that members could ask their council members to include the flyer in their district newsletters. She also requested to know the current balance of the fund.

- Alvin Teng responded current balance is \$118,219.00

Member Raymond Morquecho asked what the requirements to apply are.
Alvin Teng responded to the requirements and its current review timeline

4. [22-102HS](#) Recommendation to receive and file the discussion on the Mayor's Fund.

A motion was made by Vice- Chair Desiree Rew, seconded by Member Guerrero, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Sylvia Guerrero, James Howat, S. Jolene Hui, Jeffrey Johnson, Ray Morquecho, Desiree Rew and Julie Lie

Excused: 1 - Susana Sngiem

Absent: 1 - Diego Castaneda

HOMELESS SERVICES STAFF REPORT

Joel Reynoza, the Homeless Resource Coordinator, provided an update on Outreach

- Outreach direct phone number, 562-470-4672(4MSC) is live and taking calls
 - 300 requests for Outreach,
 - 239 recorded contacts
 - 38 tidelands/weekend outreach
 - 343 first-time visitors to the MSC
 - 2479 total visits in August
 - 169 average daily visits and have decreased from the month before

Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Program Officer, provided an update

- Five candidates are going through the background process, currently various open recruitments, and promotions
- Awarded funding for Project Home Key Round 2. This will go towards creating modular shelters at the MSC and another motel conversion from a non-congregate shelter. This will be going to City Council for approval, and it would add a little over 100 rooms between both sites. Both sites will take time and work, and we are not anticipating being up and running for about six months.
- A new lease will be signed on an office building for the admin/outreach teams Downtown, at 333 W Broadway. This is temporary as the search for a more permanent space continues. Office space at the MSC has been outgrown as new staff have been added and new partnerships with community organizations continue to increase; moving admin and outreach staff will allow a centralized place to house these service partners.
- Project Room Key 3.0 at Highland sunset on August 30. They transitioned all residents to new places; a few declined transition plans.
- Staff will continue the relationship with Highland Inn to support the Encampment Resolution Program. This is a shift in funding and often happens.
- Project Room key at the Days Inn will sunset on September 30. Many have Emergency Housing Vouchers, and staff has been working on transition plans with the residents to find other shelters.
- It is very challenging for the staff and the clients when funding ends and projects ramp down. There is no new funding for Highland and Days Inn to continue Project Room Key as rentals of hotels, motels, and associated services are costly. The City of Long Beach has maintained it for as long as possible at the same capacity when most communities ended it over a year ago.
- First will now take over ABC shelter to Serve as of this month, with MSC staff handing it over by the end of September.
- Long Beach has been awarded funding through Hilton Foundation to further efforts

around the Encampment Resolution Program, providing field-based therapy and substance abuse counseling as a new approach to mental health services.

- Homeless Services is working on the Incentive Payment Program and looking at getting certified to provide Enhanced Care Management and community support. This would help coordinate health care for those who often have challenges navigating the health care system. The focus would be on community support, Medicaid funding from the federal government to be used towards ICMS, move-in assistance, and housing location. This also includes continued efforts to work with Cal AIM and the Manage Care providers on how to work collaboratively within the CoC.
- State funding to support the Best Western conversion from a non-congregate shelter to a permanent supportive housing site, bringing on a partner developer.
- Maintain the focus on permanent housing solutions through Emergency Shelter vouchers:
 - 800+ vouchers currently issued.
 - Currently 470 active and searching, 193 leased up as of 9/6
 - 317 intensive case management
- Housing Authority increased incentives last month to try to engage more landlords. The goal is to lease up 50 percent of the voucher and 500 people into ICMS total before the end of the year. We are on par with other CoCs in the state.

Chair Julie Lie thanked the staff.

5. [22-103HS](#) Recommendation to receive and file the Homeless Services Bureau Staff Report.

A motion was made by Member James Howat, seconded by Vice-chair Desiree Rew, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Sylvia Guerrero, James Howat, S. Jolene Hui, Jeffrey Johnson, Ray Morquecho, Desiree Rew and Julie Lie

Excused: 1 - Susana Sngiem

Absent: 1 - Diego Castaneda

CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR REPORT

- Chair Julie Lie and Vice-Chair Desiree Rew met, and they are excited to have more collaboration with the CoC Board.
 - Looks forward to Mayors Fund applications and encourages involvement
 - Open to suggestions for future agenda items

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEM

- Member Raymond Morquecho would like a report back about security at the MSC

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:49 p.m. Chair Julie Lie adjourned the meeting.