

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

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2023
LONG BEACH CITY HALL- CIVIC CHAMBER
411 W.OCEAN BOULEVARD, 3:30 PM**

Julie Lie, Chair
Desiree Rew, Vice Chair
Sarah Bedy, Member
Pat Chotiswatdi, Member
James Howat, Member



Jeffrey Johnson, Member
Ray Morquecho, Member
Mary Simmons, Member
Susana Sngiem, Member

**HOMELESS SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
REGULAR MEETING**

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

**FOR INFORMATION ON HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, PLEASE VISIT:
<https://www.longbeach.gov/homelessness/volunteer-donate-and-get-involved/#committee>**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Homeless Services Advisory Committee of the City of Long Beach convened at 3:37 p.m. at City Hall Civic Chambers.

ROLL CALL

Also present: Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Bureau Manager; Stephanie Sosa, Community Program Specialist; Jennifer Santana, Homeless Services Bureau Secretary.

Chair Julie Lie presiding.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [23-093HS](#) Recommendation to approve minutes for Wednesday, August 2, 2023

A motion was made by Member Sarah Bedy, seconded by Member Mary Simmons, to approve the recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Sarah Bedy, Pam Chotiswatdi, Jeffrey Johnson, Mary Simmons, Susana Sngiem and Julie Lie

Excused: 3 - James Howat, Ray Morquecho and Desiree Rew

Absent: 1 - Diego Castaneda

PRESENTATION ON SAFE OUTDOOR SPACES FROM COLORADO VILLAGE COLLABORATIVE

Cuica Montoya, Safe Outdoor Space, Program Director, presented via zoom.

- She provided a brief overview of the homeless data in the Metro Denver area. The Point- in- Time Count identified 7,000 individuals experiencing homelessness, 2,000 of which were unsheltered.
- Common causes were due to job loss, high housing cost and familial issues although the public perception revolved around substance usage, chronic health conditions and sever mental health disorders.
- Safe Outdoor Space, SOS, is temporary outdoor, individual model of shelter that includes available resources and a service rich environment. Sites are staffed and managed 24/7.
- Individuals that prefer to stay in the SOS sites are couples, those with pets, workers. Since its inception, 20% of sheltered residents have transitioned into more stable housing.
- There were considerations when selecting SOS sites and unlike some cities Denver did not require City Council approval for this type of permit.
- She explained program guidelines, intake and selection process, service and resources availability, and what infrastructure would be required to run a similar program.
- Members asked questions regarding health/cold weather concerns, cost for this type of programming, relationship and partnership building, community engagement, usage of public and private land and relationships with developers.
- Cuica answered, since the program inception there have not been any medical events that relate to extreme weather conditions, per year each site cost an average of \$900,000, relationships are made through those running the site and a collaborative effort of city and non-profit organizations. As she represents the service provider, she had built various relationships with other organizations and was able to bring those relationships into support the SOS site. Engagement was rough at first but has since gotten better with success of different sites around the area. The usage of private and public land depends on the availability of land.
- Public comment was heard on the presentation regarding the average cost per year.

2. [23-098HS](#) Recommendation to receive and file the Safe Outdoor Spaces Presentation.

A motion was made by Member Susana Sngiem, seconded by Member Pam Chotiswatdi, to approve recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Sarah Bedy, Pam Chotiswatdi, Jeffrey Johnson, Mary Simmons, Susana Sngiem and Julie Lie

Excused: 3 - James Howat, Ray Morquecho and Desiree Rew

Absent: 1 - Diego Castaneda

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Mayor's Fund Subcommittee Update

- Mary Simmons provided the update.
 - The annual utility envelope campaign design was approved and expected to go out for the month of October.
 - Provided the updated available balance.
 - Staff advised there are a few organizations that have not spent down their approved grants, all grants have a contract of 1 year and it is expected that if they do not request an extension the funds will be available after November.

Policy Subcommittee Update

- Chair Sarah Bedy provided the update.
 - The subcommittee did go on a field trip to visit the Culver City Safe Outdoor Camping site on 08/12/2023, 4 of the members attended.
 - The site will temporarily house 40 individuals, tents are ADA compliant, is a low barrier to entry program and security is on site.
 - The setup time once approved was 3 months and it cost \$3 million, which includes staffing cost.
 - Next meeting will be on Monday, September 18 at 1 pm.

Continuum of Care Update

- Member Pam Chotiswatdi provided the update.
 - Two new members on the CoC Board, one is part of Long Beach Unified school district and the part of US Vets
 - CoC annual NOFO competition is happening now, more updates to come after Sept 12th meeting.

3. [23-094HS](#) Recommendation to receive and file all Subcommittee Updates.

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

Yes: 6 - Sarah Bedy, Pam Chotiswatdi, Jeffrey Johnson, Mary Simmons, Susana Sngiem and Julie Lie

Excused: 3 - James Howat, Ray Morquecho and Desiree Rew

Absent: 1 - Diego Castaneda

MAYOR'S FUND APPLICATION FOR URBAN COMMUNITY OUTREACH, INC

Stephanie Sosa, Community Program Specialist, introduced the item and the organization's team.

- Cherry Bush, Executive Director and Kimmel Conway, senior volunteer at Urban Community Outreach, UCO, were present.
- UCO is a Non-profit organization, open on Sundays, provides hot meals and groceries to working poor, they have a housing specialist that assist with housing, volunteer nurse that provides basic first aid and volunteer doctor that provides basic medical needs.
- The grant is for a total of \$8,521, \$5,000 of which has been requested to go to an advanced payment. Funding is expected to help support and augment the Sunday drop-in hot meals program.
- The subcommittee had additional questions that had been sent to the representatives in preparation to answer at the larger meeting. Questions regarding volunteer stipends and plans for funding outside of the 3 months that had been requested.
- Cherry and Kimmel took turns answering, the volunteers that are receiving stipends are formerly unhoused individuals. They initially came in as guests and have slowly transitioned into part of the volunteer staff as they help clean and work the donation drive. UCO operates solely on grants and donations; most recently UCO was awarded funding from Kaiser Permanente and are constantly looking for grants to continue providing services.
- Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Bureau, added that the subcommittee felt in support of providing funding they wanted to make sure that if we are supporting volunteers that they are in an economic challenge and sustainability need.
- Members had questions regarding funding volunteer stipends, staff cost, food.
- Staff responded.

4. [23-095HS](#) Recommendation from the Mayor's Fund Subcommittee to approve up to \$8,521 in funding to Urban Community Outreach, Inc

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

Yes: 5 - Sarah Bedy, Pam Chotiswatdi, Jeffrey Johnson, Mary Simmons and Susana Sngiem

Abstain: 1 - Julie Lie

Excused: 3 - James Howat, Ray Morquecho and Desiree Rew

Absent: 1 - Diego Castaneda

HOMELESS PROCLAMATION UPDATE

Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Bureau Manager, presented.

- The next council update will be on Tuesday, September 12 and it will include a large overview of items and reports on legal issues regarding enforcements along with staff recommendations. He encouraged all to attend.
- He went on to discuss a few of the highlights that pertaining to progress on goals, increase and access to services, engagement community in data planning and assistance, building capacity to address the homelessness crisis and data.
- Members had questions regarding data specifics, services that will be provided at the Port of Long Beach and a request to look outside of the Westside for additional projects.
- Staff answered.

5. [23-096HS](#) Recommendation to receive and file the Homeless Proclamation Update

A motion was made by Member Susana Sngiem, seconded by Member Sarah Bedy, to approve the recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Sarah Bedy, Pam Chotiswatdi, Jeffrey Johnson, Mary Simmons, Susana Sngiem and Julie Lie

Excused: 3 - James Howat, Ray Morquecho and Desiree Rew

Absent: 1 - Diego Castaneda

HOMELESS SERVICES STAFF REPORT

Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Bureau Manager, presented.

- Outreach direct phone number, 562-570-4672(4MSC) is live and taking calls.
 - 452 requests for Outreach
 - 220 newly enrolled people in outreach
 - 0 tidelands/weekend outreach
 - 434 first-time visitors to the MSC
 - 3559 total visits in April
 - 155 average daily visits
- For the staffing update
 - 3 new permanent staff that were reassignments.
 - 3 positions are currently in the background process.
 - 5 positions are in recruitment/interview phase.
 - 8 positions will be open in the future.
 - Somatra is no longer with the Bureau.
- Long Beach received notice of approval for the Encampment Resolution Funding Round 2 proposal. The grant will provide \$5.3 million over 2 years to serve 160 people in the downtown area.
- Long Beach CoC Admin Team has started working on the NOFO application that is due at the end of the month.
- The Lived Experience Advisory Board has received over 100 applicants and the selection process has started.
- The City has received the initial FY 23-24 Measure H statement of work and are reviewing now.
- MSC in partnership with AADAP hosted an education awareness day with over 50 people present on August 30th.
- 2024 Homeless Count Planning Efforts have begun.
- Hurricane Hilary update, mobilized as fast as we could, additional outreach provided. This included outreach to the wash, opening up the MSC as an overnight shelter site, partnering with LBRM for additional beds.
- Members had no questions.
- Members of the public provided public comment.

6. [23-097HS](#) Recommendation to receive and file the Homeless Services Bureau Staff Report.

A motion was made by Member Sarah Bedy, seconded by Member Susana Sngiem, to approve the recommendation. The motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Sarah Bedy, Pam Chotiswatdi, Jeffrey Johnson, Mary Simmons, Susana Sngiem and Julie Lie

Excused: 3 - James Howat, Ray Morquecho and Desiree Rew

Absent: 1 - Diego Castaneda

CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR REPORT

- Chair Julie Lie informed the Committee that she toured the Salvation Army's Adult Rehabilitation Center on Alamitos Ave. and found that there were beds available for men however they are hard to fill due to the strict program rules.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- N/A

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Member Sarah Bedy requested that we work to connect with Metro.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:29 p.m. Chair Julie Lie adjourned the meeting.

