

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

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2022
VIA TELECONFERENCE
1301 W. 12TH STREET, CONFERENCE ROOM,
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 3:34 p.m. via teleconference.

ROLL CALL

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

Chair Julie Lie presiding

Commissioners Sylvia Guerrero, James Howat, S. Jolene Hui, Ray Morquecho,

Present: Susana Sngiem, Desiree Rew and Julie Lie

Commissioners Diego Castaneda and Jeffrey Johnson

Absent:

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. [22-126HS](#)

Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Homeless Services Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday, October 5, 2022.

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, Ray Morquecho, Susana Sngiem, Desiree Rew and Julie Lie

Absent: 2 - Diego Castaneda and Jeffrey Johnson

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- None

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Mayor's Fund Subcommittee Update

- Member James Howat provided an update
 - He did some research about the Mayor's Fund for Homelessness and found that it was started in 1990 when Ernest "Ernie" Kell was Mayor. He asked staff for the status of the Mayor's Fund envelopes and wants the Committee to in the future think about how to reach constituents that receive their utility bills online. His goal is to get publicity for the Mayor's Fund.
 - Staff responded to his request for status, all departments have been notified and envelopes have been sent to the printers on track to be printed.

Policy Subcommittee Update

- Vice- Chair Desiree Rew provided an update
 - The Policy Subcommittee met on Wednesday, September 19th and they discussed their current "Ask" of their Council Members. They have requested that all HSAC members start their check-ins, share the final Values and Priorities document by which HSAC looks and works towards.

Continuum of Care Update

- Member Sylvia Guerrero provided the update.
 - There was a Continuum of Care Board meeting on October 4th, the purpose of that meeting was to vote of on the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Ranking and Priority listing. The Special NOFO application would be for 5.2 million dollars, if granted by the HUD. Also, a part of the meeting was to accept a motion to receive and file the Homeless Service Bureau Operations Presentation that discussed individuals that were part of the Project Roomkey closure and how they were re-housed and/or in need of housing.
 - Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Bureau Manager added to the update; a special meeting will be held on November 15th for the Board reviewing the application of the Round 4 Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) before its submission to the state.

2. [22-127HS](#) Recommendation to receive and file all subcommittee updates.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Diego Castaneda and Jeffrey Johnson

HARBOR INTERFAITH SERVICES PRESENTATION

Chair Julie Lie introduced Shari Weaver, the Director of Shelter Services at Harbor Interfaith.

- She introduced her team, Lindy Bell the Director for the Torrance Pallet Shelter site and Ramon Rendon the Director of the Redondo Beach Pallet Shelter site.
- She explained what each prefabricated pallet shelter includes and the optional shower arrangements available. The presentation included a overview of the number of units, staffing, shower and bathroom options and security at either location.
- The services at these locations include case management, getting the residents “document ready”, connection services to housing and supportive services, hot meals, Homeless Court Record Expungement, and community toiletry donations programs.
- Redondo Beach Outcomes
 - 54 residents entered
 - 40 have exited
 - 34 have been permanently housed
- Harbor Interfaith run both congregate and non-congregate shelters. Shari shared the notable differences in non-congregate settings. Non- congregate shelters are more inviting to people because they offer more autonomy, privacy, and personal property security. It reduces misunderstanding in residents’ personality differences. However, there are potential for residents to isolate in the units and require more additional “house rules” like periodic room checks. Which in turn are helpful because it familiarizes residents to regularly tenancy.
- Positive actions that are notable in the Long Beach CoC are coordination of resources and an establish culture of anti-criminalization with the police. Long Beach also has a positive political environment that supports housing and shelter.
- Members asked questions, about the maximum stay policy at the shelter site and if there are any congregate areas?
 - They were answered by Harbor Interfaith staff. Stays are dependent on the available resources; it would be ideal to have a term of a year, but it is a case by case. The average stay is anywhere from six months to a year.
 - There are common space areas where individuals can congregate. The laundry sites are also open and available to be used freely.
 - Guests are not allowed at the site, for the health, safety, and privacy of other residents.

3. [22-128HS](#) Recommendation to receive and file the presentation on the Tiny Home Village operated by Harbor Interfaith Services in Torrance.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Diego Castaneda and Jeffrey Johnson

SAFETY PRACTICES WITHIN HOMELESS SERVICES

Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Bureau Manager; presented.

- Within the Multi-Service Center and other shelters location there is always the hope for the incorporation of a more trauma informed design to make the space itself more inviting. At the Multi- Service Center there are variety of services available like mental health, substance use, health care, community integration and connection, conflict resolution, spirituality, food, and employment to help ease clients.
- He summarized the policies and procedures given to staff and the clients in various settings. Like access centers, shelters, and outreach that can help deescalate situations and help set expectation for safety.
- Training courses are being administer to staff to ensure that they are aware of various skills and approaches that increase effectiveness and reduces likelihood of incidents.
- Member Ray Morquecho asked a questions about the implemented of amnesty boxes at the MSC and the process when clients are deemed non approachable or asked to leave an access center?
- Paul Duncan responded. Amnesty boxes are being considered. It depends on the clients; some people can be more aggressive than others. If outreach feels like someone is too aggressive, they check in with the Quality-of-Life Officers to see what are the issues that can arise. At the access centers, it depends on what the reaction is during the initial discussion with the client. People have been asked to leave for the day and security staff has been put on notice. If needed, they have had to open the door, one by one to ensure the safety of staff and clients alike but it does not happen often at which point police is called. The is a real attempt to not cut off clients completely, instead to let them take a break and return once they have calm down. Weekend outreach consist of, Saturday's is usually around the tidelands area and Sunday's is more proactive and overflow engagement.

4. [22-130HS](#) Recommendation to receive and file the presentation on safety practices within Homeless Services.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Diego Castaneda and Jeffrey Johnson

HOMELESS SERVICES STAFF REPORT

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

- Outreach direct phone number, 562-470-4672(4MSC) s
 - 194 requests for Outreach,
 - 251 recorded contacts
 - 32 tidelands/weekend outreach
 - 466 first-time visitors to the MSC
 - 4081 total visits in October
 - 194 average daily visits and have decreased from the month before
 - 737 phone calls answered

Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Program Officer, provided an update

- For the staffing update
 - Charise Mercado is the LBRA Coordinator that will oversee the direct service implementation to homeless response items associated with intensive case management services, emergency housing vouchers, mobile outreach station and modular shelters.
 - Jasmine Guillen-Loera will oversee and support that financial side of the administrative team. Yolanda and Dora have been promoted to account for the work they do at the front desk that is client facing. There are a few additional positions in various stages of recruitment.
- The application to HUD for the Special NOFO was submitted and that would bring it an additional 5.2 million in funding over a 3-year period, along with an additional 6 million in leverage rental assistance and supportive services.
- The permanent housing program created under the application, weather funded or not, is expected to be created. The HSB in partnership with the Housing Authority and Los Angeles County of Health Services plan on moving forward even if they do have to scale back the number of units to about 100 housing units.
- HSB Staff are still working on identifying options for the 2022 Winter Shelter season, with the goal to open in early December to find a site and a provider.
- The Encampment Resolution Program has 38 people housed with case management services being provided by the HSB.
- Round 2 of the Encampment Resolution Grant will be released on December 1st and has significantly more money
- The Luxury Inn has been purchased by the City of Long Beach and construction and security are present. There will be community engagement meeting to come.
- There is an active RFP for the modular shelter manufactures for the MSC.
- Emergency housing vouchers and its progress:
 - 582 Emergency Housing Vouchers available

- 728 vouchers currently issued.
- Currently 489 are active and searching
- 239 have secured leases
- Members asked what the goal for emergency housing vouchers was and requested that staff work on the winter shelter or the creation of warming centers during the day.

5. [22-129HS](#) Recommendation to receive and file the Homeless Services Bureau Staff Report.

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

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

Absent: 2 - Diego Castaneda and Jeffrey Johnson

CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR REPORT

- Vice-Chair Desiree Rew has no updates

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Natalie Swit wants to thank staff for putting together the Homeless Count sign ups and the marketing campaign.
- Mary Simmons would like to know if there was a trend in people being dropped off at the Multi Service Center from local hospitals. Paul Duncan responded happens more often in the wintertime but no real trends with the local hospitals.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:46 p.m. Chair Julie Lie adjourned the meeting.