

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2023
VIA TELECONFERENCE, 3:30 PM**

Julie Lie, Chair
Desiree Rew, Vice Chair
Sarah Bedy, 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:
<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 3:31 p.m. via teleconference.

ROLL CALL

Commissioners Sarah Bedy, James Howat, S. Jolene Hui, Jeffrey Johnson, Ray

Present: Morquecho, Desiree Rew and Julie Lie

Commissioners Diego Castaneda, Sylvia Guerrero and Susana Sngiem

Absent:

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Chair Julie Lie presiding

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [23-013HS](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Homeless Services Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday, January 4, 2023.

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 - Sarah Bedy, James Howat, S. Jolene Hui, Jeffrey Johnson, Ray Morquecho, Desiree Rew and Julie Lie

Absent: 3 - Diego Castaneda, Sylvia Guerrero and Susana Sngiem

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Mr. Ramirez is the Senior Vice President of EDCO solid waste a collection company, and they heard about the Homelessness Proclamation and wanted to make their services known. They would like to aid the City of Long Beach and the Mayor like they do with the City of San Diego.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Mayor's Fund Subcommittee Update

- Member James Howat provided an update
 - There is a second Mayor's Fund to Action that he believed was competing with the Fund to End Homelessness. Chair Julie Lie, clarified that the Mayor's Fund has been renamed by the Mayor Richardson and is indeed the same fund. At this point in time, the Homeless Services Advisory Committee is reviewing overseas Mayor Fund proposals but that is subject to change.
 - Member Howat was still a little bit confused as there was an article that featured the new fund and did not state the renaming of it. A brief history was provided by staff and there was a request to provide an update on the current Mayor's Fund balance, and how the December solicitation envelope was performed.
 - Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Bureau Manager, agreed that there should be an update and will add that to the next agenda.

Policy Subcommittee Update

- Vice-Chair Desiree Rew provided an update
 - The Policy Subcommittee met and were able to get some questions answered about the Homelessness Proclamation. The proclamation does have to be re-certified every 2 weeks and will be presented on during City Council meetings due to the City Charter.
 - They also discussed the mayor's initiatives and the new appointment of Deputy City Mayor for Homelessness and informed the members of the newly updated Homeless Services Website.

Continuum of Care Update

- Member Sylvia Guerrero was absent and Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Bureau Manager, provided the update.
- The Board met the day before and there was a new Co-Chair voted in, Jai Shuford.
- There is a slight delay in the HUD awarding this year, the HSB is expecting to hear about it later this month.

2. [23-014HS](#) Recommendation to receive and file all subcommittee updates.

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

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

Absent: 3 - Diego Castaneda, Sylvia Guerrero and Susana Sngiem

REPORT ON THE HOMELESS PROCLAMATION

Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Bureau Manager, presented.

- On the adopted Emergency Proclamation on Homelessness that was brought forth to Council on January 10th. He provided an overview that included a timeline, metrics, changes in staffing, procurement, finance, and the streamlining of city processes for property owners, mental health care providers, planning and building codes, permanent supportive housing, and capital improvement projects that would allow for a quicker more efficient response to homeless related items.
- He went through the structure of the Emergency Response and the Incident Command System (ICS) that is a FEMA approved standard approach to the command, control, and coordination of emergency response.
- The City's response team convenes weekly and includes about 100 City Staff members and various City Departments that work under the same mission statement.
- There are nine work groups with separate objectives some are, the dissemination data, building community partnerships, increasing housing opportunities and inform residents and business about strategies and resources provided by the city to name a few.
- He went through actions taken since the Proclamation and some forthcoming that will assist the homeless community that include a new safe parking site and RV service dump station.
- He then introduced Teresa Chandler, Deputy City Manager, as the Co-lead for the Community Partnerships work group.

Teresa Chandler, Deputy City Manager, provided her background in Homeless Services as a former Bureau Manager presented on the Community Partnerships Work Group.

- She went through the five subgroups and the SMART objective and tasks. This presentation has been given to the Homeless Services related Boards and Commissions because of the partnership effort already underway in these groups.
- As part of the Presentation, there was a request from staff to review the list of focus areas and voice what members felt was needed and or missing from the focus area list.
- Member Ray Morquecho asked if there is the capacity to streamline all the best practices used during the Emergency Proclamation past the 6-month period. Teresa Chandler answered that yes there is. A portion of the Proclamation is to identify best practices and use them to transition into standard practices that work.
- There was a request for an extension on the Second Winter Shelter. Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Bureau Manager, responded that will be addressed in the Press Release once it is formally announced.

- There were two public comments heard that requested a method in which the public could provide services or input in what they feel would be positive actions. Staff advised although still in the early stages, they are looking at methods to leverage external partnerships.

3. [23-015HS](#) Recommendation to receive and file the report on the Homeless Proclamation.

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: 6 - Sarah Bedy, James Howat, S. Jolene Hui, Ray Morquecho, Desiree Rew and Julie Lie

Abstain: 1 - Jeffrey Johnson

Absent: 3 - Diego Castaneda, Sylvia Guerrero and Susana Sngiem

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
 - 248 requests for Outreach
 - 136 recorded contacts, this number is lower due to the specialized count t month
 - 20 tidelands/weekend outreach
 - 363 first-time visitors to the MSC
 - 3388 total visits in January
 - 185 average daily visits
 - 723 phone calls answered

Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Program Officer, provided an update.

- For the staffing update
 - A new Public Health Nurse has been hired
 - There are a few people in background and some additional positions in various stages of recruitment and interviewing.
- The Point-in-Time Homeless Count was conducted on Jan. 26th with nearly 300 people that participated. There was a high number of interests in volunteering.
- The City received \$4 million in Capital Improvement Funds from the State of California through Senator Lena Gonzalez's Office that will be used for facility upgrades needed at the MSC.
- Mobile Access Centers operating 3 days a week in the downtown area and look to make it more widely known.
- Measure H and ESG funds RFPs have closed and will be reviewed.
- Second Winter Shelter site and a RV Dump Site will be announced
- HSB is working with interested agencies for the CoC supportive housing project- Healthy Homes
- Longitude Service Analysis was submitted to HUD
- HHAP Round 4 allocations have been announced, City of Long Beach has received a total of \$13,188,443.
- Emergency Housing Vouchers:
 - Confident that Long Beach will reach full utilization before the September 30 date.
- Member Sarah Bedy asked about the Safe Parking Program and why the HSB is looking to create another if there is low usage and if they knew why there was reasoning behind vehicle dwellers not enrolling.
- Chair Julie Lie, also asked about the Safe Parking Program requirements of update

date license, registration, and insurance.

- Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Bureau Manager, responded that the program is often requested but unsure the reasoning behind the low turnout and will look to conduct a survey in the future. The HSB is hoping to get more people enrolled in the program by making it more widely known. The requirement for the program does allow for some leeway but they do need to be able to confirm that the person in the vehicle is licensed to drive and the owner of property.

4. [23-016HS](#) Recommendation to receive and file the Homeless Services Bureau Staff Report.

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

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

Absent: 3 - Diego Castaneda, Sylvia Guerrero and Susana Sngiem

CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR REPORT

- Chair Julie Lie reminded members that the March meeting will be in person and the location will be announced later.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Natalie Swit asked for an update on the status of the first winter shelter.
 - Staff responded, things are going well; restrooms are up and going, porta pott are outside, the County brought in mobile shower trailers, and showers are available on site. The water is drinkable and has been tested by the Water Department, for those who prefer bottled water it is available. Lastly, First to Serve has been responsive to request.
- Doug Killion, Long Beach Resident, requested to get information about the supply and demand of shelter beds. One being the utilization rate of them and how often are people turned away.
 - Staff responded that a shelter bed app is being worked on, but it would only be for public shelters. Additionally, the Winter Shelter is not turning 80 people away daily, but it is believed that the bed space would be filled if it were available.
- Mark, Long Beach Resident, requested to know the process in which a person could apply for Cal AIM services.
 - Staff responded, the city itself is not looking to provide all the services under Cal Aim but they are working to become a Cal Aim certified service provider through community support which is part of the Medi-Cal waiver. This would allow services for housing. People do not apply per se, you are eligible if you are under Medi-Cal, and you are homeless. Services that are included are recuperative care, step-down beds and enhance care management for those who have high complex and high need care case management.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Another Emergency Proclamation Update
- New Awarded Funding
- Winter Shelter Update

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:15 p.m. Chair Julie Lie adjourned the meeting.