

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

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023
MARK TWAIN NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY
1401 E ANAHEIM ST, LONG BEACH, 90813,
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 3:33 p.m. at Mark Twain Neighborhood Library.

ROLL CALL

Also present: Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Bureau Manager; Jeffrey Proctor Jr.; Homeless Services Administrative Operations Officer; Stephanie Sosa, Contracts and Grants Associate.

Chair Julie Lie presiding

Commissioners Sarah Bedy, Pam Chotiswatdi, James Howat, Ray Morquecho,
Present: Mary Simmons and Julie Lie

Commissioners Jeffrey Johnson, Susana Sngiem and Desiree Rew

Excused:

Commissioners Diego Castaneda

Absent:

REGULAR AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. [23-052HS](#) Recommendation to approve the minutes of the Homeless Services Advisory Committee meeting on Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

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

Yes: 6 - Sarah Bedy, Pam Chotiswatdi, James Howat, Ray Morquecho, Mary Simmons and Julie Lie

Excused: 3 - Jeffrey Johnson, Susana Sngiem and Desiree Rew

Absent: 1 - Diego Castaneda

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- N/A

MAYOR'S FUND APPLICANT GP CARE PACKAGES AND BLANKETS OF LOVE

Jim Howat, Mayor's Fund Sub Committee Chair, presented

- The Subcommittee reviewed the application, had no issues, or follow up and decided to move it forward. The application is for \$5,000, half of that to be issued as advanced payment.
- Executive Director Eloise Parker was present and available to answer questions.
- Eloise Parker introduced herself, gave a brief history of her own personal story of homelessness and why she decided to create a non-profit. She spoke to how this is the first time she has every applied for any type of grant funding.
- To help the members see what they would be funding she also brought in a few care packages and left them to be shared with the unhoused as they see fit.
- Member Ray Morquecho asked if she would like to respond to people that say that giving gifts to the unhoused make the situation worse.
- Eloise Parker responded, people that have never experienced homelessness do not know what it feels like to feel invisible and like they do not matter. Even though no one is exempt from homelessness, she believes that most do not treat it as such. The generosity of strangers can often ignite the unhoused to feel better but to take additional actions so that they to can give back to the community, like she did.

2. [23-054HS](#) Recommendation from the Mayor's Fund Subcommittee to approve \$5,000 in funding to GP Care Packages and Blankets of Love

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

Yes: 6 - Sarah Bedy, Pam Chotiswatdi, James Howat, Ray Morquecho, Mary Simmons and Julie Lie

Excused: 3 - Jeffrey Johnson, Susana Sngiem and Desiree Rew

Absent: 1 - Diego Castaneda

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Mayor's Fund Subcommittee Update

- Member Jim Howat has spoken with staff to see how we can increase funding, they have reach out to the Utilities Department Liaison to find additional options.
- Chair Julie Lie has requested that staff reach out to the Long Beach Community Foundation for options.

Policy Subcommittee Update

- Vice- Chair Desiree Rew provided a written update, read by Chair Julie Lie
 - On May 8, 2023, the Policy Subcommittee met and welcomed Sarah Bedy as a new member. During the meeting, the committee focused on the HSAC Annual Report, which is listed as a board responsibility.
 - Going forward, the Policy sub-committee will oversee producing the report, starting with the 2023 edition. The committee will review past reports and determine what information should be included in future ones and will seek guidance from the board as well. The board will be surveyed to submit recommendations.
 - The next meeting is scheduled for 9 am on July 10, 2023.

Continuum of Care Update

- Vice- Chair Desiree Rew provided a written update, read by Chair Julie Lie.
 - The Long Beach CoC has been awarded \$5.1 million in funding from Unsheltered NOFO (Notice of Funding Opportunity) for various projects, including HMIS, UFA, Rapid Rehousing, Outreach, and Coordinated Entry.
 - Additionally, the CoC requested \$10.5 million in funding for Homeless Services and was selected to receive it.
 - The City of Long Beach has provided Measure H funding to support the acquisition and rehabilitation of the former Long Beach Rescue Mission at 702 W. Anaheim, which will serve as a permanent year-round shelter.
 - All Emergency Housing Vouchers have been utilized.
 - Lastly, the CoC has two vacant board seats. Interested applicants can access the application on the CoC website and must submit it by July 4th.
 - Not an update but for your information; Current Co-Chairs are Kimberly Wee and Jamie Shuford
 - The next General Body Meeting will be held September 19, 2023

3. [23-053HS](#) Recommendation to receive and file all subcommittee updates

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

Yes: 6 - Sarah Bedy, Pam Chotiswatdi, James Howat, Ray Morquecho, Mary Simmons and Julie Lie

Excused: 3 - Jeffrey Johnson, Susana Sngiem and Desiree Rew

Absent: 1 - Diego Castaneda

REPORT ON THE GATEWAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Jeffrey Proctor, Homeless Services Operation Officer, reported

- The Gateway Cities COG is made up of 25 cities, the largest in the County and it is their own recipients of Measure H (.25 sales tax) funds.
- Current goals within the COG are to have the County revisit the allocation methodology, which should be expected to be heard and approved early 2024.
- Out of the \$600 million, the City of Long Beach received about \$4 million and we are expected to receive a small increase.
- There has been a direct ask from Mayor Rex Richardson to the COG to have more support in building and increasing services for the unhoused in their cities. The ask has not been met with ideal responses.
- Members asked about safe encampments/sanctioned encampments, the ability to put upwards pressure of the County and the Metro drop-in center.

4. [23-055HS](#) Recommendation to receive and file the report on the Gateway Cities Council of Governments

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

Yes: 6 - Sarah Bedy, Pam Chotiswatdi, James Howat, Ray Morquecho, Mary Simmons and Julie Lie

Excused: 3 - Jeffrey Johnson, Susana Sngiem and Desiree Rew

Absent: 1 - Diego Castaneda

HOMELESS PROCLAMATION UPDATE

Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Bureau Manager, presented.

- The City of Long Beach has entered into an agreement with the Long Beach Rescue Mission for the purchase of 702 West Anaheim, the current Emergency Shelter Site.
- Half of the purchase and renovation of the site was covered by the County, the site will require major renovation to be able to be used as a permanent shelter location. It will need A/C, upgrades to the heating system, additional construction of bathrooms and showers.
- It is expected to be able to offer 100+ beds, currently operating 85 beds. The goal is phase out bunk beds.
- Staff is still searching for a long-term safe parking site, the current space is available for 3-4 months, up to 6 months but hopefully looking to secure a more permanent site soon.
- Governor Newsom visited Long Beach last week to walk the MacArthur Park area. The Encampment Resolution Funding was 1 of 2 communities that was able to house many hotel voucher recipients into permanent housing.
- The Intergovernmental Group has established 3 policy pathways in which they will focus their efforts on with are Transitional Aged Youth homeless solutions, Tenant Protections and Livability.
- There was a presentation to Council that provided rendering and project plans for the upcoming homeless service and shelter sites.
 - Luxury Inn
 - Best Western, the Project Homekey
 - Youth Navigation Center
 - Tiny Homes at the Multi-Service Center
- Members had questions regarding ERF Round Two, prioritization of people into new shelter sites, request about new project sites that could be focused on families, cost of construction for the Luxury Inn and other units.
- Paul Duncan responded.

5. [23-056HS](#) Recommendation to receive and file the Homeless Proclamation Update

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

Yes: 6 - Sarah Bedy, Pam Chotiswatdi, James Howat, Ray Morquecho, Mary Simmons and Julie Lie

Excused: 3 - Jeffrey Johnson, Susana Sngiem and Desiree Rew

Absent: 1 - Diego Castaneda

HOMELESS SERVICES STAFF REPORT

Paul Duncan, Homeless Services Bureau Manager, presented

- Outreach direct phone number, 562-470-4672(4MSC) is live and taking calls
 - 440 requests for Outreach
 - 242 recorded contacts
 - 15 tidelands/weekend outreach
 - 390 first-time visitors to the MSC
 - 3701 total visits in April
 - 168 average daily visits
 - 783 phone calls answered
 - 111 Mobile Access Center Enrollments
- For the staffing update
 - 2 new people started
 - 3 positions are currently in the background process
 - 5 positions are in recruitment/interview phase
 - 3 positions will be open in the future
- The HSB extend the contract for Illumination Foundation for the Project Homekey at the Best Western.
- The other two Project Homekey Sites in Long Beach will start renovations soon, these are County operated and shelter sites.
- HSB is in very early stages of adding a 2nd MAC and the MAC will be visiting new spots this month and they will look to build a more consistent schedule.
- The Interfaith Convening will happen on Thursday with many Faith Leaders in the City of Long Beach.
- Housing Authority was awarded 78 stabilization vouchers
- 582 Emergency Housing Vouchers and we are at 100 percent utilization rate
- Members had questions regarding the stabilization vouchers and Project Homekey.
- Paul Duncan responded.

6. [23-057HS](#) 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: 6 - Sarah Bedy, Pam Chotiswatdi, James Howat, Ray Morquecho, Mary Simmons and Julie Lie

Excused: 3 - Jeffrey Johnson, Susana Sngiem and Desiree Rew

Absent: 1 - Diego Castaneda

CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR REPORT

- Vice-Chair Desiree Rew was not present but provided a written report, read by Chair Julie Lie.
 - She attended the Continuum of Care General Body Meeting on June 20, 2023. Will continue to attend the meetings until an HSAC Liaison is identified.
- Chair Julie Lie ask the Members to try to join a Subcommittee or see if they have time in their schedule to become the HSAC CoC Representative.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Natalie Swit spoke, she had questions regarding the Interfaith Convening.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Member Jim Howat wanted to bring light to a study from the University of San Francisco that looked at correlating factors to homelessness, aging, mental health issues and incarceration. Asking that we have someone from LA County Department of Mental Health
- Metro or County Supervisor Staff to discuss Metro Policy
- Long Beach City Housing Element

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None

ADJOURNMENT

At 5:32 p.m. Chair Julie Lie adjourned the meeting.

