



Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

a joint powers authority of the city & county of los angeles

MINUTES OF THE

LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY COMMISSION

Held December 18, 2009

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission meeting held in the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority office, located at 453 S. Spring Street, 12th floor, Los Angeles, California, was called to order at 9:11 a.m. by Commissioner Ripston, Vice Chair.

Attendance

LAHSA Commissioners Present:

Howard Katz
 Ramona Ripston
 Douglas Mirell
 Cecil L. Murray
 Owen Newcomer
 Louisa Ollague
 Larry Adamson

LAHSA Commissioners Absent:

Antonio Manning

Attorneys Present:

Aleen Langton, County Counsel

LAHSA Staff:

Michael Arnold, Executive Director
 Steve Andryszewski, Chief Financial Officer
 Kim Thompson, Director of Communications
 Geoffrey Emery, Director of Programs
 Rhonda Johnson, Program Specialist
 Erin Hollander, Board Liaison

Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of Quorum

Roll was called and quorum was established at 9:12 a.m.

1.0 Consent Calendar

1.1 Review and approve Commission minutes from November 20, 2009.

1.2 Approve the release of the 2009-2010 LAHSA A-133 Single Audit Request For Proposals (RFP).

Public Speaker(s): There were no public speakers.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Mirell and seconded by Commissioner Newcomer to approve the consent calendar.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Executive Director's Report

Michael Arnold, Executive Director, gave the report:

- **HPRP:** The Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program is designed to support people who have low and temporary barriers to housing. As of December, there is beginning to be greater participation in the program. There was a brief discussion about the criteria of the program; LAHSA will continue to report back relative to the status of HPRP.
- **2009 SuperNOFA:** The SuperNOFA application was completed and filed on November 22nd, three days before the due date of November 25th. Based on the estimated allocation of funds to the Los Angeles Continuum of Care, LAHSA expects to receive approximately \$11.2 million in new funding. Eight projects were submitted for which, if the application is successful, will add 270 new units and 358 new beds of permanent supportive housing, with projects in Los Angeles City, San Gabriel Valley and West Hollywood.
- **Continuum Planning Efforts:** The San Gabriel Valley is moving forward with their plan to end homelessness. The County has provided seed funding to promote collaborative development in terms of service providers and connectivity.
- **LAHSA Operations:** To date, all of the emergency shelters including the Winter Shelter Program are using the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), which provides LAHSA with live, on-time data relative to utilization of services by individuals and families. Currently, all of the Westside agencies are now integrated as part of the HMIS database. In addition, the outreach module, which is a handheld device used in tracking and registering encounters, is ready to go live.
- There was a brief discussion of LAHSA's current initiatives. LAHSA is working closely with the Union Rescue Mission (URM) to address the issue of families residing on Skid Row, with an emphasis on relocating as many as possible this month. Additionally, LAHSA is working with the County Skid Row Assessment Team and County 211 to redirect families to resources in their local communities, including Winter Shelter Program rather than referring them to Skid Row. 211 has reported a significant decrease in shelter inquiries/requests for families. October 2009 reported a 39% drop in family requests for shelter information, from 1,779 inquiries in 2008 to 1080 requests in 2009, and 46% decrease between November 2008 and November 2009 from 1,786 to 955 inquiries.
- The Executive Director expressed his appreciation of the Commissioners for their assistance in the important work LAHSA does – and he wished the Commissioners and their families Happy Holidays.

Public Speaker(s): There were no public speakers.

3.0 Update on status of Winter Shelter Program (WSP).

David Martel, Programs Unit Manager gave the report:

- **Winter Shelter Program:** The Long Beach Shelter is opening tonight after resolving issues identifying a new site. City Council approved the new Long Beach Winter Shelter site on December 8th. All the shelters (with the exception of Long Beach) have been in operation since December 1. As of this evening, the Winter Shelter Program will be operating in its full 1642 bed capacity. Occupancy has increased slightly from last year – currently the WSP is operating at 70-75% capacity.
- **Report on homeless families:** So far this season, WSP has served 87 unduplicated families as compared to the total number of families last year: 620 unduplicated families. The agencies are not seeing as many families in need of services as compared to last year.

Public Speaker(s): There were no public speakers.

4.0 Report on Finance, Contracts & Grants Management Committee Meeting of December 9, 2009.

Commissioner Mirell gave the report:

- **Aged Payables:** The 90 day past due amount relates to a contract with U.S. Vets that has been deobligated by HUD. An appeal to HUD is still pending with no further updates.
- Staff reported that City CDBG funding in the amount of \$15,000, originally awarded to EIMAGO, will be reprogrammed to other CDBG funded service providers based upon need. EIMAGO declined the original award citing the amount of the award as compared to the associated administrative burden.

Public Speaker(s): There were no public speakers.

5.0 Report on Programs & Evaluation Committee Meeting of December 11, 2009.

Commissioner Newcomer gave the report:

- The Committee approved threshold on three items: 2009 Year Round Emergency Shelter Program RFP for Downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood, the 2009 Assistance to Skid Row Families and Rent to Prevent Eviction Programs RFP, and the Community Based Development Organization (CBDO) RFP.

Public Speaker(s): There were no public speakers.

6.0 Report on Policy & Planning Committee meeting of December 11, 2009.

Commissioner Newcomer gave the report:

- There was an update on the County Department of Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Innovations Plan. LAHSA Policy & Planning staff will advise LAC-DMH on development of the program design and RFP for the two models of the Plan which specifically address the homeless population within the Los Angeles CoC.
- There was an update on the status of the Regional Coalition and Leadership Council, which will consist of the Chairs of the various regional homeless coalitions and council of governments planning bodies. LAHSA will collaborate to strengthen the Continuum membership base and build local leadership at the SPA and/or COG level in order to set strategic funding direction and to coordinate legislative and policy advocacy efforts.

Public Speaker(s): There were no public speakers.

7.0 Public Participation

There were no requests for public participation.

8.0 Notice of Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9)

LYDIA ZERNE, ET AL. v. THE LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY, ET AL.
Case Number: CV 09-05146

This lawsuit arises out of the American With Disabilities Act.

9.0 Notice of Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9)

BARBARA COLEMAN v. COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, ET AL.
Case Number: BC 421061

This lawsuit arises out of an alleged breach of contract and related tort action.

10.0 Report on Closed Session.

Commissioner Katz, Chair gave the report:

- Item 8.0 - Notice of Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9) LYDIA ZERNE, ET AL. v. THE LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY, ET AL. Case Number: CV 09-05146

Action: The Executive Director was authorized to execute the settlement agreement as meets the terms described by counsel.

Public Speaker(s): There were no public speakers.

- Item 9.0 – Notice of Closed Session – Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing litigation (Subdivision (a) of Government Code Section 54956.9) BARBARA COLEMAN v. COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, ET AL. Case Number: BC 421061

Action: No reportable action was taken.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.