



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 February 26, 2010

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

Attendance:

LAHSA Commissioners Present:

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

LAHSA Commissioners Absent:

Moctesuma Esparza
 Antonio Manning
 Louisa Ollague

Attorneys Present:

Aleen Langton, County Counsel

LAHSA Staff:

Michael Arnold, Executive Director
 Stephen Lytle, Funding Manager
 Geoffrey Emery, Director of Programs
 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 Review and approve Commission minutes from January 22, 2010.

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

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Adamson and seconded by Commissioner Ripston to approve the minutes.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Consent Calendar

2.1 Authorize the acceptance of CRA owned real property located at 8224 S. Broadway for a purchase price of \$1 and authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute the appropriate documents with the CRA to effect the sale and transfer of said property.

2.2 Review and approve LAHSA policy and procedure.
 • Grant Management Policy (Revised).

2.3 Approve quality evaluation results for the A-133 Single Audit Request For Proposals (RFP).

2.4 Authorize the Executive Director to retain independent auditor services as recommended by LAHSA staff to perform the financial statement and A-133 Audit for LAHSA for fiscal years ending June 30, 2010, 2011 and 2012. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with approved firm for fiscal year 2010; audit fees contingent upon funding availability.

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

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

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

3.0 Executive Director's Report

Michael Arnold, Executive Director, gave the report:

- **HPRP:** LAHSA is seeing greater participation in the program, especially with respect to assessment and use of benefits. LAHSA will continue to report back relative to the status of the HPRP.
- **2010 SuperNOFA:** The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has not yet announced the 2009 New Project Competition Awards. LAHSA has approximately \$11.2M in projects submitted with the application, and staff anticipates that HUD should announce the new project awards within 30-60 days. LAHSA has begun the 2010 SuperNOFA application process and is coordinating meetings throughout the Continuum of Care (CoC) to discuss each area's project priorities. LAHSA is actively soliciting coalitions and collaborative involvement in establishing priorities to drive the RFP process. A summary calendar of the SuperNOFA application process was presented to the Policy & Planning Committee on February 19, 2010.
- **LAHSA Operations:** This month, Los Angeles hosted the National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Conference. Many of the leaders from various cities participated in tours around Skid Row as well as many of the permanent supportive housing projects.

4.0 Approve threshold and quality evaluation results of the Community Based Development Organization (CBDO) Request For Proposals (RFP) and authorize the Executive Director to enter into contracts with select agencies as listed in attachment.

Stephen Lytle, Funding Manager, gave the report:

- In response to the CBDO RFP, a total of six proposals passed threshold and were reviewed for quality.
- LAHSA staff recommends that the Commission approve the quality evaluation results of the RFP and authorize the Executive Director to enter into contracts with select agencies as listed in attachment.
- There was an overview of the RFP, which was released on September 29, 2009. A total of \$4,191,791 is available in City of Los Angeles Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding to provide educational and vocational training, employment preparation, placement and retention services and transitional housing to homeless persons in the City of Los Angeles.
- It was noted that there was a requirement to score at least 75 points to pass the quality evaluation and receive a recommendation for funding. Four of the six proposals met threshold and were reviewed for quality. LAHSA staff made a recommendation for funding based on the stated criteria. Proposals are recommended for funding in rank order from first (highest score) to last (lowest score) until the available funding is exhausted. Because the Weingart Center proposal's final quality score placed it last on the ranking list, there were insufficient funds to fully fund it at the requested amount.
- It was noted that Lamp Community withdrew their appeal for this item. The remaining appeal is from Weingart Center.

Appeal 1: Weingart Center – an appeal letter was presented.

Public Speaker: Troy Vaughn, Vice President of Community Development & Public Policy, Weingart Center
Mr. Vaughn suggested there was a discrepancy in the data LAHSA presented at the Programs & Evaluation Meeting on February 19, 2010, and discussed how the inaccuracy of this data may have affected the outcomes and overall scoring of the Weingart proposal. Specifically, Mr. Vaughn mentioned serious concerns about flaws in the RFP evaluation process.

LAHSA staff response: Stephen Lytle, Funding Manager

Staff review of the appeal did not reveal any procedural error in the review or scoring of the application. LAHSA has established and followed standard procedures for quality review of proposals submitted for funding competition under this RFP. In response to Weingart Center's concerns: the chart with outcomes that was presented at the Programs & Evaluation Meeting on February 19, 2010 presented data for the current contract

year. The information in the Weingart proposal is for the previous year and is scored based on outcomes information in that proposal. LAHSA staff recommended the Weingart Center appeal be denied.

There was a brief discussion about the viability of the Weingart Center's programs without the CBDO award.

Public Speaker: Gregory Scott, President and Chief Executive Officer of Weingart Center
Mr. Scott reported that Weingart was awarded the CBDO grant of \$2.5M three years ago and if they do not receive the full amount requested, they will be receiving a \$1M (40%) cut in funding. The Weingart Center appeal addresses the following issues: there are flaws in the process that affected the outcome and the subsequent distribution of funding. There is a concern about the recommended funding amount, the transparency of the distribution of funding, and a suggestion to pro-rate the funding gap among all proposing agencies. There is a concern that the Weingart Center's proposal was not consistently evaluated based on strict adherence to the instructions in the RFP, with a mention of three instances in which scoring points are challenged. Mr. Scott mentioned specifically that the reviewers misunderstood the nature of the Weingart Center's programs and services, and that these misunderstandings adversely affected the score.

LAHSA staff response: Stephen Lytle, Funding Manager
Reviewers under the CBDO RFP were experienced LAHSA staff with specific, professional knowledge of the CBDO program and the RFP and its requirements. Once individual scores are generated for each proposal, a quality review panel is convened among the reviewers to discuss and review the proposals to confirm a consistent basis for review and reconcile individual scores for any proposal where the respective reviewer's scores are more than 10% different. Each reviewer reviews his/her score and if necessary, makes adjustments based on an enhanced understanding of the criteria. The process typically resolves scores that vary by more than 10% by providing common criteria in the scoring process. All reviewers sign a conflict of interest and confidentiality statement to ensure an impartial, objective review.

Public Speaker: Aleen Langton, County Counsel
Ms. Langton noted that the current discussion was including issues not addressed in the original appeal. The RFP indicates that appeals can only be a total of two pages, and the Weingart Center appeal was four pages in total.

There was a brief discussion regarding protocol within the appeal process.

Public Speaker: Gregory Scott, President and Chief Executive Officer of Weingart Center
Mr. Scott noted that the entire sum of the appeal was referenced from the first two pages.

Public Speaker: Shannon Murray, Interim Executive Director for Lamp Community
Ms. Murray acknowledged that Lamp Community recently withdrew its appeal. LAHSA staff met with Lamp Community and discussed possible alternate sources of funding for their programs. Ms. Murray expressed her appreciation on behalf of Lamp Community and thanked LAHSA for the guidance in the effort to secure funding.

Public Speaker: Anita Nelson, Chief Executive Officer for SRO Housing Corporation
Ms. Nelson reported that three years ago, SRO Housing applied for funding and was not awarded \$1.5M. She said that the agency listened to the feedback from LAHSA and focused on creating a dynamic program, which was later awarded. Ms. Nelson urged the Commission to maintain the integrity of the review process and to uphold the results that were submitted.

Public Speaker: Gregory Scott, President and Chief Executive Officer of Weingart Center
Mr. Scott restated that because of .8 points on the funding score, Weingart Center will be reduced \$1.5M, essentially cutting 80 beds and 15 employees due to a suggested flaw in the review process.

LAHSA staff response: Stephen Lytle, Funding Manager
LAHSA has a fiduciary duty to identify and select agencies with the limited total of award funding. While LAHSA recognizes that while one particular agency may lose funding, the goal is to measure the impact on the continuum as a whole. The impact on employment of this particular award is a net gain of 14.5 employee positions and a doubling in the minimum number of participants to be served.

Public Speaker: Steven Sanzo, President of Skid Row Development Corporation
Mr. Sanzo referenced a letter written by Skid Row Development Corporation which states that the organization believes in the transparency of the RFP process and urges the board to uphold the integrity of the process. He also welcomed community partnership with Weingart Center.

Public Speaker: Debbie Winter, Director of Development, 1736 Family Crisis Center

Ms. Winter thanked LAHSA for its partnership in supporting the agency's domestic violence shelter. Ms. Winter noted on behalf of the organization that they have respect for the competitive RFP process and urged the Commission to uphold the recommendation as presented by staff.

Public Speaker: Carrie Gatlin Siqueiros, Union Rescue Mission

Ms. Gatlin Siqueiros suggested that while she has respect for the competitive process, the scoring process seems to be subjective and she believes there is personal opinion involved.

There was brief deliberation among the Commissioners followed by a motion with an amendment and a roll call vote.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Newcomer and seconded by Commissioner Mirell to approve threshold and quality evaluation results of the Community Based Development Organization (CBDO) Request For Proposals (RFP) and authorize the Executive Director to enter into contracts with select agencies as listed in the attachment with the following amendment: LAHSA will work with the Weingart Center to identify other sources of funding to fill any potential gaps that are created by the loss of the award.

Commissioner Howard Katz: Yes

Commissioner Ramona Ripston: Yes

Commissioner Larry Adamson: No

Commissioner Douglas Mirell: Yes

Commissioner Cecil L. Murray: Not present for vote.

Commissioner Owen Newcomer: Yes

Action: The motion passed.

5.0 Authorize Executive Director to enter into lease agreement for LAHSA administrative office space starting July 1, 2010, pursuant to attached parameters.

Geoffrey Emery, Director of Programs gave the report:

- LAHSA is requesting authorization to enter into a lease with specific parameters for up to a 10 year term.
- There was a brief discussion of the parameters and the proposed cost of the move.

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

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Adamson and seconded by Commissioner Mirell to delegate to the Executive Committee the authority to authorize the Executive Director to enter into lease agreement for LAHSA administrative office space starting July 1, 2010, once actual term sheet are available.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

6.0 Report on Finance, Contracts & Grants Management Committee Meeting of January 20, 2010.

Commissioner Mirell gave the report:

- Aged Payables: 90 days past due amount relates to two contracts: \$129,000 for U.S. Veterans' Initiative and \$32,000 for the City of Covina. (1) U.S. Veterans' Initiative: the HUD local office has committed to assisting in securing funding for the U.S. Veterans' Initiative for the full amount. There are no further updates. (2) City of Covina – the \$32K was paid.

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

7.0 Report on Programs & Evaluation Committee Meeting of January 15, 2010.

Commissioner Katz noted on behalf of the Programs & Evaluation Committee Chair that there was no action to report.

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

8.0 Report on Policy & Planning Committee meeting of January 15, 2010.

Michael Arnold, Executive Director, gave the report:

- There was a presentation of the Planning Department Calendar for the 2010 Homeless Coalition Meetings and a brief discussion about Continuum of Care (CoC) planning efforts.
- Both the City of Los Angeles and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) plan to release their 10 year plans to end homelessness by May, 2010.
- There was a review of the SuperNOFA work plan, tasks and timelines and a discussion of the tasks associated with the CoC planning process and program-specific planning.
- The City and County of Los Angeles are aligned with LAHSA's effort to get homeless persons counted as part of the 2010 Census. The Count will impact federal funding and anti-poverty programs that are utilized.
- There was a presentation of local 2010 Homeless Counts for jurisdictions that count every year.

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

9.0 Public Participation (This item was heard prior to Item 4.0)

Gary Blasi, UCLA Law School

On March 23, 2010, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors will consider amendments to the current Section 8 regulations that would effectively eliminate any possible future use of federal Section 8 vouchers to provide permanent supportive housing for homeless individuals with severe mental disabilities and/or addiction disease. The amendments include: a new "one strike and you're out" rule for missed appointments and deadlines for document delivery, subject only to a one-time "counseling session" focused only on whether the applicant or tenant had "good cause" for the error; and extension of the "look back" period for past "drug related criminal activity" or "violent criminal activity" to five years, beginning from the end of incarceration or the end of any subsequent parole or probation, whichever is later. These terms are so broadly defined that possession of a marijuana cigarette, or a simple assault arising from an altercation on the street will result in exclusion from housing for more than 5 years. Mr. Blasi urged everyone who may be concerned with such an outcome to reject the amendments to the 2010 Section 8 Administrative Plan regulations and communicate their concern to the Board of Supervisors.

10.0 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.

11.0 Report on Closed Session.

Commissioner Katz, Chair gave the report:

- No reportable action at this time.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.