



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 June 4, 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:

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

LAHSA Commissioners Absent:

Louisa Ollague
Moctesuma Esparza

Attorneys Present:

Teresa Lujan, City Attorney

LAHSA Staff:

Steve Andryszewski, Chief Financial Officer
Michael Arnold, Executive Director
Scott Chamberlain, Funding Manager
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 Approve the quality evaluation results and hear potential appeals of the 2010 Year-Round Program (YRP) Emergency Shelter and New City Emergency Program (NCEP) Request For Proposals (RFP) and authorize the Executive Director to enter into contracts with select agencies as listed in attachment.

Scott Chamberlain, Funding Manager, gave the report:

- On March 26, 2010, LAHSA released the 2010 Year-Round Emergency Shelter Program RFP. In response to the RFP, fifteen proposals for Part A: 24-Hour Shelters and eight proposals for Part B: 14-Hour Shelters, for a total of 23 proposals were received prior to the deadline.
- The 23 proposals were reviewed for satisfaction of the threshold criteria as specified in the RFP, of which, 21 proposals passed threshold and were moved to quality review..
- This RFP made available approximately \$8,187,762 in funding from the City of Los Angeles. Approximately \$1,742,875 will be available for 24-hour shelters under Part A of this RFP, and approximately \$6,444,887 will be available for 14-hour shelters under Part B of this RFP.
- LAHSA staff gave a brief overview of the quality evaluation and ranking process.
- At the Meeting of the Commission on Friday, May 28, LAHSA presented and responded to formal appeals from three agencies: (1) Weingart Center Association (2) People Helping People and (3) SRO Housing.

- At the Commission's request, LAHSA staff was directed to report back with an analysis of several options that the Board identified at the previous meeting on May 28, 2010. While the original LAHSA recommendations have not changed, staff was asked to report back on requested items.

The report back included analysis on two options discussed at the June 25, 2010 meeting.

Option 1: 10% reduction of funding on all recommended awards.

There was a discussion regarding the impact of the 10% change and corresponding revised bed count based on the reduction for each agency. This option would allow People Helping People to provide 60 beds of the 110 requested, a 28 bed increase from their current status. This option would also allow SRO Housing to provide 70 of the 125 beds requested. This option would maintain the current total bed count of 1,069 beds in the Continuum.

Option 2: Fund existing programs first and reduce the number of new program beds awarded under this RFP.

There was a discussion regarding the impact of not funding new beds in the Continuum and reducing the number of proposed additional beds in established agencies. Under this option People Helping People could provide 95 beds and SRO Housing could provide 100 beds. In addition, this option keeps the total bed count constant at 1,069 in the Continuum. There was a brief discussion regarding the standards used in the performance and evaluation process with a suggestion from the Board that going forward the family and single shelter criteria be evaluated separately.

There was further discussion regarding Weingart's appeal: if the funding rate is changed from the 24-hour shelter rate to the 14-hour shelter rate (a reduction of \$198,925), it would preclude Weingart from serving its full 66 bed capacity. Weingart stated that they are not able to operate their current program design with job placement and intensive support at the 14-hour shelter funding rate. Weingart has requested a restoration of the full funding request (\$602,250), or requests the reduction of the bed numbers from 66 14-hour beds to 53 24-hour beds.

LAHSA staff response: LAHSA has reserved the limited funding under Part A: 24-hour shelters for family programs and programs serving special needs populations. Reducing the funding from the 24-hour shelter rate to the 14-hour shelter rate does not preclude Weingart from providing the additional services. Under the 14-hour program, requirements will be reduced according to RFP Section 3. Increasing Weingart's funding to Part A shelter rates would mean fewer dollars to other programs serving singles/individuals, thus reducing bed numbers under this RFP.

The Commissioners discussed the quality evaluation process for future awards and Michael Arnold, Executive Director noted the importance of using the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) as a metric for occupancy and performance.

Public Speaker: Ruth Schwartz, Shelter Partnership

Mr. Schwartz made a recommendation that the Commission choose the second option as presented by LAHSA staff and encouraged LAHSA to release the RFP again in one year.

Public Speaker: Harrison Soberanis, Founder and Executive Director of People Helping People

Mr. Soberanis stated that People Helping People would be able to sustain programs and services if the Commission approved the second option as presented by LAHSA staff, and recommended that 14 hour and 24 hour beds be procured separately in the future.

Public Speaker: Kristine Askew, Family Case Manager, People Helping People

Ms. Askew thanked the Commission and LAHSA for their support of People Helping People.

Public Speaker: Claude King, Assistant Program Manager, People Helping People

As a former client and current employee of People Helping People, Mr. King commended LAHSA staff and the Commission for their support of the agency.

Public Speaker: Roy Carter, People Helping People

Mr. Carter discussed the funding process and made recommendations to LAHSA and Commission going forward.

Public Speaker: Deborah Villar, Vice President of Development and External Affairs, Weingart Center

Ms. Villar noted that this is the second time that Weingart has appealed to the Board. The first time, \$1M in funding was not renewed based on a .8 point difference in the evaluation process. This time, Weingart is 11

points above the lowest score. Ms. Villar urged the Commission to uphold Weingart's request to fund the agency at the 24 hour rate.

Public Speaker: Carrie Gatlin- Siqueiros URM, EIMAGO

Ms. Gatlin-Siqueiros urged the Commission to uphold the first option as presented by LAHSA staff.

Public Speaker: Yana Plasters, Vice President of Programs & Services, Weingart Center

Ms. Plasters noted the difference between 14 hour and 24 hour programming as well as the cost of beds. She suggested that decreasing the number of beds will also decrease performance outcomes.

Motion 1: Commissioner Mirell moved and Commission Adamson seconded the motion to modify staff recommendations (Item 1.0) and approve awards pursuant to Option 2 that would fund existing single programs and reduce the number new or additional beds proposed in this procurement process.

Motion 2: Commissioner Adamson moved and Commissioner Ripston seconded the motion to authorize the Executive Director the power and authority to work with agencies; if additional funds are made available, to authorize the Executive Director to fund agencies at the 24 hour rate.

Commissioner Newcomer voiced concern that such an action discourages the development of new programs and maintains the status quo. He further noted that it reduces LAHSA's ability to ensure the most effective programs are funded.

Commissioner Larry Adamson: Yes
Commissioner Howard Katz: Yes
Commissioner Antonio Manning: Yes
Commissioner Douglas Mirell: Yes
Commissioner Cecil L. Murray: Yes
Commissioner Owen Newcomer: No
Commissioner Ramona Ripston: Yes

Action: The motions passed.

Commissioner Katz noted that the Board's decision was based on the recognition that to displace employees and defund existing agencies that had cleared threshold and had a good track record of performance was not in the best interest of the program. Furthermore, that in choosing to fund existing agencies prior to the funding of new agencies, some agencies still experienced a reduced number of beds, but the action reduced the potential of losing any agency capacity through closing due to insufficient funding. He noted that it also maintained a total bed count approximately equivalent to last year's.

The Commission instructed LAHSA to evaluate the existing shelter requirements and update those requirements based on current best practices, and to re-procure the program based on the updated requirements next year.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.