



Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

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

MINUTES OF THE

LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Held Friday, June 18, 2010

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission Policy and Planning Committee meeting held at 453 S. Spring Street, 12th Floor, Los Angeles, California was called to order at 9:37 a.m. by Commissioner Newcomer.

ATTENDANCE

LAHSA Commissioners Present:

Owen Newcomer
Louisa Ollague

LAHSA Commissioners Absent:

Cecil Murray

LAHSA Staff:

Michael Arnold, Executive Director
Erin Hollander, Board Liaison
Mark Silverbush, Policy & Planning Analyst
Lisa Snyder, Senior Policy & Planning Analyst
Clementina Verjan, Planning Manager

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Roll was called and a quorum was established at 9:37 a.m.

1.0 Review and approve minutes of meeting held May 21, 2010.

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

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Ollague and seconded by Commissioner Newcomer to approve the minutes.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Federal, State and local policy updates.

2.1 Federal

a. Update on status of Federal Plan to End Homelessness.

Lisa Snyder, Senior Policy & Planning Analyst gave the report:

- The Federal Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness will be released next week, Tuesday, June 22 at the White House – titled *Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*.
- The Plan will serve as a roadmap for joint action by Council agencies to guide the development of programs and budget proposals towards a set of measurable targets.
- LAHSA staff will present the Federal Plan for Commission review at the meeting of the full Commission on Friday, June 25, 2010.

b. Update on status of proposed changes to homeless definition.

Lisa Snyder, Senior Policy & Planning Analyst, gave the report:

- On April 20, 2010, HUD released HEARTH Act draft regulations with a new definition of homelessness. This new definition affects those who are eligible for various HUD-funded homeless assistance programs.
- Last month, LAHSA staff outlined the proposed changes and has since drafted a response letter which will be submitted to HUD by the May 21st deadline.. The primary concern with the expansion of the homeless definition to include unaccompanied youth and families with children is that there is no corresponding increase in funding to support this expansion. LAHSA's response letter asked HUD to provide guidance on how this group of homeless people will be incorporated into HUD's Homeless Count.

2.2 State**a. Report on state budget revisions and potential impact on homeless programs.**

Mark Silverbush, Policy & Planning Analyst, gave the report:

- Staff reviewed the expected impact of proposed cuts in the state budget: (1) There is a proposal to eliminate the CalWORKs program, which provides cash assistance to the homeless – a \$1.3 billion cut locally. (2) There is a proposal to reduce Medical benefits, to increase the number of fees, and to eliminate over-the-counter drugs. (3) There is a proposal to reduce SSI payments to the minimum benefit allowable, which will affect one million Californians. (4) There is a proposal to cut in-home supportive services, which could have a major impact on elder homelessness in the state.
- There was a presentation and brief discussion regarding state bills and the impact of this new legislature on homeless populations.
 - AB 1177: Creates a state interagency council on homelessness.
 - AB 2033: Requires the state Department of Housing and Community Development to require for "balance of state" federal homelessness funds for geographic areas of the state that currently do not receive funding. Status: Passed Assembly, will be heard next in Senate Transportation and Housing Committee.
 - AB 2536: Makes permanent supportive housing an eligible use in the competition of Emergency Housing and Assistance Program-Capital Development (EHAP-CD) bond funds administered by the state Department of Housing and Community Development.
 - AB 2064: Establishes an urgency measure requiring the state Department of Housing and Community Development to issue a Notice of Funding Availability for all Emergency Housing and Assistance Program funds (totaling \$4.2 million) rather than transfer these funds to the state's general fund.

3.0 Report on status of specific policy and planning projects.**3.1 Review and approve the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (CoC) Funding Guiding Principles and Project Selection Criteria.**

Clementina Verjan, Planning Manager, gave the report:

- As part of the SuperNOFA planning process for the Los Angeles CoC, funding principles and project selection criteria were developed and discussed with the various planning groups and homeless coalitions in the Continuum from February to April 2010. In May, LAHSA staff incorporated additional feedback from the County of Los Angeles Homeless Deputies.
- The purpose of the Los Angeles CoC Funding Principles and Project Selection Criteria is to develop aligned principles and guidelines that support funding and prioritizations of programs that: (1) represent community priorities to support their efforts in reducing and ending homelessness, and (2) support the Los Angeles CoC's ability to be competitive in the nationwide SuperNOFA competition.
- Staff presented and reviewed the five guiding principles and project selection criteria based on Continuum-level response for funding priorities for 2010.

- Commissioner Newcomer requested that staff add to the funding principles and project selection criteria that projects must increase homeless permanent housing or permanent supportive housing bed capacity to the Los Angeles CoC.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Ollague and seconded by Commissioner Newcomer to approve the Los Angeles Continuum of Care Funding Guiding Principles and Project Selection Criteria with the amended change.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

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

5.0 **Public Participation**

There were no requests for public participation.

Adjournment

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