

LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY  
COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission  
January 23, 2009

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission meeting held in the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority office, located at 453 S. Spring Street, 12<sup>th</sup> floor, Los Angeles, California, was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Douglas Mirell, Chair.

**ATTENDANCE**

LAHSA Commissioners Present:

Douglas Mirell  
Howard Katz  
David D. Figueroa  
Cecil L. Murray  
Owen Newcomer  
Antonio Manning  
Louisa Ollague

LAHSA Commissioners Absent:

Larry Adamson  
Ramona Ripston

Attorneys Present:

Aleen Langton, County Attorney

LAHSA Staff:

Rebecca Isaacs, Executive Director  
Michael Arnold, Chief Operating Officer  
Steve Andryszewski, Chief Financial Officer  
Keshia Douglas, Director of Administration  
Daniel Fisher, Contracts Unit Manager  
Carletta Woods, Contracts Unit Manager – Outcomes Management  
Kamaiya Bourne, Administrative Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Roll was called and quorum was established at 9:10 a.m.

1.0 **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1.1 **REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES OF MEETING HELD DECEMBER 19, 2008**

1.2 **APPROVAL OF LAHSA'S 2007 – 2008 INDEPENDENT AUDIT**

1.3 **APPROVAL OF LAHSA'S UPDATED 2008 – 2009 BUDGET**

**MOTION:** It was moved by Commissioner Mirell and seconded by Commissioner Katz to approve the consent calendar.

**ACTION:** The motion passed unanimously.

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

2.0 **PRESENTATION OF THE DOWNTOWN HOUSING PLAN**

Please see the attached plan: *Downtown Community Affordable Housing Plan*.

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

**3.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Regarding the 2009 Homeless Count, Rebecca Isaacs reported that several cities within the County have opted-in, and will participate city/region specific counts. Approximately 3,000 volunteers have signed up to participate in the Count.

LAHSA presented the results of its 2007 – 2008 Independent Audit to the Finance, Contracts, and Grants Management Committee Meeting on January 21. She commended the Fiscal department for being very well prepared for the audit, which resulted in no findings.

All sites of the Winter Shelter Program are operating as scheduled. Operators have noted an increase in the number of families seeking assistance this winter. LAHSA monitors the agencies' voucher spending on a weekly basis.

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

**4.0 FINANCE, CONTRACTS, AND GRANTS MANGEMENT COMMITTEE (FCGM) REPORT**

Commissioner Katz reported that LAHSA's financial systems are operating properly and systematically. He reported that LAHSA had a clean audit, and that no findings were observed.

Next, Commissioner Katz advised the Commission that at the FCGM Meeting of January 21, 2009, Steve Andryszewski informed the Committee of a possible issue regarding a 2002 Supportive Housing Program (SHP) contract with the U.S. Veterans Initiative, Inc. (US Vets).

- US Vets has been providing services for the above mentioned contract since March 2008.
- In November 2008, LAHSA received informal notification from HUD that the contract was de-obligated
- LAHSA immediately notified US Vets of the issue and instructed them to phase out the program, ending operations by December 31, 2008.
- LAHSA received formal notification on January 19, 2009 indicating that HUD would not fund the contract because the original award had expired.
- LAHSA is appealing the decision to HUD.

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

**5.0 PROGRAMS AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Katz reported that HUD regulations were discussed at the Programs & Evaluation Committee Meeting on January 16, 2009. The Continuum is achieving HUD goals on two of three initiatives. The Continuum did not meet the HUD goal of moving 63.5% of those served from Transitional to Permanent Housing. Carletta Woods advised the Commission that the shortage of permanent supportive housing factors heavily into the inability of the Continuum to achieve a higher placement rate due to a lack of permanent housing availability.

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

**6.0 POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Newcomer reported that at the Policy and Planning Committee Meeting of January 8, 2009, Leslie Wise prepared a presentation on Los Angeles's Mixed Income Housing Policy. In December 2008, LAHSA sent letters to Senators and California Congressmembers regarding parts of the stimulus package that will affect housing and homelessness. Commissioner Newcomer requested that Congresswoman Sanchez be included in correspondence

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

**7.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Casey Horan of LAMP Community spoke about homelessness in Skid Row.

Casey also stated that new permanent supportive housing should be the cornerstone of the Downtown Housing Plan. She commended the developers of the plan for creating a plan that promotes advocacy for funding and developing supportive housing. She recommended that 15 – 25% of the new housing be set up in a scattered site model, and that hundreds of homeless families and individuals be moved into that housing.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

