

**LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY  
"SPECIAL" COMMISSION**

Minutes of Commission  
October 31, 2008

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 9:09 a.m. by Douglas Mirell, Chair.

**ATTENDANCE**

LAHSA Commissioners Present:

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

LAHSA Commissioners Absent:

None

Attorneys Present:

Teresa Lujan, City Attorney

LAHSA Staff:

Rebecca Isaacs, Executive Director  
Michael Arnold, Chief Operating Officer  
Steve Andryszewski, Chief Financial Officer  
Dan Fisher, Contracts Unit Manager  
Leslie Wise, Director of Policy and Planning  
Clementina Verjan, Planning Manager  
Kamaiya Bourne, Administrative Assistant

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

Roll was called and quorum was established at 9:09 a.m.

1.0 **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1.1 **REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 19, 2008**

1.2 **AUTHORIZE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO NEW CONTRACTS WITH THE CONTRACTORS SPECIFIED BELOW:**

- a) Little Tokyo Services Center  
Contract amount - \$268,123  
Contract period – January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009 (1 year)
- b) McCoy Plaza  
Contract amount - \$750,000  
Contract Period – January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011 (3 years)
- c) Watts Labor Community Action Committee  
Contract amount - \$1,000,000  
Contract Period – January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2011 (3 years)
- d) A Community of Friends  
Contract amount - \$1,000,000  
Contract Period – December 1, 2008 to November 30, 2011 (3 years)
- e) United Friends of the Children  
Contract amount - \$650,000  
Contract Period – November 1, 2008 to October 31, 2010 (2 years)

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

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

**ACTION:** The motion passed unanimously.

**2.0 UPDATES FROM CITY, COUNTY AND HUD PARTNERS**

Leepi Shimkhada provided a report to the Commission regarding the City of Industry Fund. She reported that the Community Development Commission is working to obtain \$16 million of capital development dollars to provide services and housing for the homeless population. \$8 million will be utilized to assist special needs individuals and families, and the remaining \$8 million will be utilized for providing affordable family housing. This bill will be approved by November 20, 2008. At this time, several proposals have been received.

Ms. Shimkhada further reported that this will be her final meeting until after next year due to the fact that she is expecting and will be out on Maternity Leave. Maureen Fabricante and Tiffany Galvez are available to provide assistance as needed during her absence.

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

**3.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Rebecca Isaacs reported that Helmi Hisserick's Presentation on the City's Housing Plan will be postponed until the next Commission Meeting.

Regarding SuperNOFA 2008, she reported that LAHSA's application was submitted several days earlier than the deadline.

Ms. Isaacs reported that there are continuing issues with the Winter Shelter Program. The Winter Shelter Program continues to be very difficult to run. One major problem with the program is that the EHAP funding, which fund the use of armories, have been terminated by the Governor for next year. She raised the possibility that perhaps the State could reserve the armories for LAHSA at no charge. Another continuing problem are the pick-up sites. Ms. Isaacs went on to say that in the future LAHSA should consider the related communities' commitment to the program. Ms. Isaacs requested that time be set aside in the future for conversations resulting in solutions.

Next, she reported that HomeWalk 2008 will take place on November 15<sup>th</sup>, in collaboration with the United Way.

She also reported on the progress of the 2009 Homeless Count. 3,000 volunteers will be needed in order to ensure the most favorable results are achieved.

Ms. Isaacs ended her report with a summary of her trip to Seattle and which was focused on the joint participation of the City and County in the Supporting Housing Programs, and a joint NOFA between the City and County of Los Angeles. The County in Portland has already been successful at conducting a joint NOFA; conversely, it has not yet been done in Los Angeles. Ms. Isaacs went on to say that it is very time-consuming for operators to obtain funding before the start of their programs, but if LAHSA's funders could work collectively on the NOFA in advance, the time it takes to obtain funding could be streamlined. Housing dollars would be provided by the City and service dollars would be provided through the County.

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

**4.0 PRESENTATION ON THE CITY'S HOUSING PLAN**

This presentation was postponed until the next Commission Meeting.

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

**5.0 FINANCE, CONTRACTS AND GRANTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Katz reported that at the FCGM Meeting on October 15, 2008, Steve Andryszewski advised the Commission of the stability of LAHSA's bank, the National Bank of California. There is nothing unusual or alarming occurring at this time. LAHSA's financial systems are operating properly and systematically. Commissioner Mirell ended this portion of the meeting by commending LAHSA on its Aged Receivables Report.

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

**6.0 PROGRAMS AND EVALUATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Ollague reported that at the Programs & Evaluations Committee Meeting of October 17, 2008, Carolyn Cosentino provided a thorough analysis of LAHSA's programs. Self-reported data was presented. Commissioner Ollague questioned the appropriateness of self-reported data, and Michael Arnold explained that LAHSA is resolving the issues related to self-reported data by conducting a more aggressive monitoring program, as well as increased use of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Brenda Wilson, the President and CEO of New Image reported that the transition to swipe cards in Emergency Shelters was initially challenging, but that they work great. Ms. Wilson went on to commend LAHSA for implementing such a helpful tool. Commissioner Katz commended LAHSA on its effort in moving forward.

**Public Speaker(s):** Brenda Wilson, New Image

**7.0 CLOSED SESSION – PUBLIC EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATION****7.0 OPEN SESSION SUBSEQUENT TO CLOSED SESSION**

Rebecca Isaacs, the Executive Director of LAHSA, was commended by the Commission for her outstanding performance. Commissioner Mirell stated that she is doing a great job and has exceeded expectations. Commissioner Figueroa stated that Ms. Isaacs has done stellar work for LAHSA, and expressed deep gratitude on behalf of the Commission. A 3% increase in Ms. Isaac's salary was authorized. The Commissioners stated that it is desirable to provide a substantial amount more, however due to the current status of the United States' economy, this is the most reasonable decision.

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

**MOTION:** It was moved by Commissioner Newcomer and seconded by Commission Katz to approve the increase.

**ACTION:** The motion passed unanimously.

**8.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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