

LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY  
COMMISSION

Minutes of Commission  
December 19, 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 9:16 a.m. by Douglas Mirell, Chair.

**ATTENDANCE**

LAHSA Commissioners Present:

Douglas Mirell  
Howard Katz  
David D. Figueroa  
Cecil L. Murray  
Owen Newcomer

LAHSA Commissioners Absent:

Antonio Manning  
Larry Adamson  
Louisa Ollague

Attorneys Present:

Aleen Langton, County Attorney  
Katherine Fesler, County Attorney

LAHSA Staff:

Rebecca Isaacs, Executive Director  
Michael Arnold, Chief Operating Officer  
Steve Andryszewski, Chief Financial Officer  
Keshia Douglas, Director of Administration  
Carletta Woods, Contracts Unit Manager – Outcomes Management  
Paria Kooklan, Policy & Planning Analyst  
Kamaiya Bourne, Administrative Assistant

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

Roll was called and quorum was established at 9:16 a.m.

1.0 **CONSENT CALENDAR**

1.1 **REVIEW COMMISSION MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 31, 2008**

1.2 **FISCAL POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL**

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

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

**ACTION:** The motion passed unanimously.

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

Please see the City's attached plan: *Housing That Works*

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

3.0 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Rebecca Isaacs reported that LAHSA's annual financial audit was completed as of today, December 19, 2008 and will be presented at the next Board of Commissioners meeting.

Next, Ms. Isaacs provided an update on the progress of the 2009 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count (HC09). She reported that for this Count, communities have the option to opt-in for a full enumeration of their city, and 19 cities have indicated an interest. This will enhance the data for each of these cities, improving the data for planning at the city level. She clarified that LAHSA will provide training and support to each City to ensure the methodologies used were consistent with the methods used for the larger Continuum level count, and the Cities will provide volunteers and deployment centers to support a more comprehensive count within their respective city boundaries.

She also reported that Mayor Villaraigosa went to the City Council with recommended mid-year City budget cuts, but did not recommend any cuts for housing or homelessness service providers.

Ms. Isaacs provided an update on the Winter Shelter Program. She indicated that she attended a meeting with the Westside Council of Governments (COG) on December 18, 2008, where the West Side Winter Shelters issues were discussed.

She reported that all Winter Shelters are open and operating as expected, but have not reached their maximum capacity yet. Additionally, LAHSA has implemented a reporting process to ensure that we are advised of any potential family voucher shortfalls; operators of the Winter Shelter Program must advise LAHSA when they have exhausted 50% and 75% of their family vouchers so we can obtain additional vouchers or request additional voucher funding on a timely basis.

Lastly, Ms. Isaacs introduced LAHSA's new County Council, Aleen Langton, who replaced Katherine (Fesler) Bowser. LAHSA acknowledged and thanked Mrs. Bowser for her time and service.

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

#### 4.0 **FINANCE, CONTRACTS, AND GRANTS MANGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Commissioner Katz reported that there is nothing unusual occurring at this time and that LAHSA's financial systems are operating properly and systematically. He commended LAHSA for its exemplary financial management.

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

#### 5.0 **PROGRAMS AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

In Commissioner Ollague's absence, Commissioner Katz reported that HUD regulations were discussed at the Programs & Evaluation Committee Meeting on December 12, 2008. The Continuum is achieving HUD goals on two of three initiatives. On the goal not achieved, the Continuum achieved 25% placement of participants in permanent housing whereas the HUD goal is at least 63.5% of persons served move 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.

**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 December 11, 2008, Leslie Wise provided and discussed some of the L.A. CoC priorities and policies endorsed by LAHSA. Her report included what LAHSA has done and is doing to accomplish the priorities required and will be presented to the entire board.

Next, Commissioner Newcomer disclosed that the State announced a reduction of State Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP funds), a portion of which funds the armory rentals in the Winter Shelter Program. He stated that one of LAHSA's goals for next year will be to find replacement funds for the lost grant funds. Commissioner Newcomer affirmed that the Winter Shelter Program presents a number of problems and needs to be looked at for next year.

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

#### 7.0 **PRESENTATION ON THE HUD MCKINNEY HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM 2008: SCORING AND POLICY TRENDS**

Michael Arnold's presentation provided an overview of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) goals and disclosed the CoC's strategies to achieve them and continue to receive funding. HUD made some

changes in its scoring trends for 2008 and eliminated CoC Need points and redistributed the 40 points to other categories. This resulted in an increase in the weight of scores for housing emphasis, which will require the L.A. Continuum to realign SHP funding from services to housing. Additionally, new permanent supportive housing must be created in order to reduce the numbers of chronically homeless individuals and homeless families.

HUD goals focus on housing, housing stability, and employment; the formerly homeless place in housing need to have the resources and skills to remain housed; the Continuum needs to develop capacity to support the movement of participants from transitional to permanent housing, and programs need to focus on employment and mainstream benefits to provide resources to support continued housing stability.

HUD is also focusing on data necessary to support planning within the CoC in developing services and housing programs. Mr. Arnold stated that the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) is a Continuum-level information system designed to capture data on the numbers and characteristics of homeless persons and their needs. HUD now expects 75% of Continuum beds to report at least annually to the local HMIS system and to demonstrate its sufficient utilization.

HUD has also increased the scoring weight of Continuum performance. A CoC must demonstrate that discharge planning policies are appropriate and implemented so that when people are discharged from state or local institutions, they are not discharged into homelessness. Additionally, any projects that request \$200,000 or more must demonstrate activities related to increasing employment and economic opportunities.

LAHSA plans for addressing these HUD goals include working with the CoC to increase the ratio of HUD funding for housing-related costs, coordinating activities to reduce family homelessness, completing the 10-year Implementation Strategy to end homelessness in Los Angeles, and expanding HMIS participation.

7.0 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:49 a.m.