

**LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY
COMMISSION**

Minutes of Commission
February 27, 2009

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission meeting held in the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority office, located at 453 S. Spring Street, 12th 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
Larry Adamson
Louisa Ollague
Owen Newcomer
Ramona Ripston

LAHSA Commissioners Absent:

Antonio Manning
Cecil L. Murray
David D. Figueroa

Attorneys Present:

Aleen Langton, County Attorney

LAHSA Staff:

Rebecca Isaacs, Executive Director
Michael Arnold, Chief Operating Officer
Steve Andryszewski, Chief Financial Officer
Carletta Woods, Contracts Unit Manager – Outcomes Management
Syd Peterson, Communications Manager
Mark Silverbush, Policy & Planning Analyst
Erin Hollander, Executive Assistant
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 JANUARY 23, 2009

Minutes were revised to reflect the absence of Commissioner Ripston at the Commission Meeting of January 23, 2009.

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

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

1.2 AUTHORIZE THE COMMISSION CHAIR TO DELEGATE SELF AND/OR OTHER COMMISSIONERS TO SIT ON COMMITTEE MEETINGS IN THE ABSENCE OF THE ALTERNATE

This item was tabled and will be addressed at a future meeting.

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

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

LaCheryl Porter of the County of Los Angeles Community Development Commission (CDC) announced that the housing commission is soliciting homeless and/or formerly homeless individuals to join a twelve (12) member panel to discuss housing authority matters once a month.

The CDC has consistently been involved in homelessness issues such as working on the integration of capital and services.

The CDC has been seeking a permanent Director to lead the organization.

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

3.0 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

On February 19, 2009, The United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (LACoC) a total of \$73.4 million under the SuperNOFA Competitive Award Program. This is the largest award in the history of the LACoC. The award will be used to support the Emergency Shelter Grant Program, Supportive Housing Program, and Shelter + Care housing vouchers. Included in the award was over \$12 million to provide new units for homeless individuals and families within the LACoC.

The federal stimulus bill will leverage funding for homelessness and housing programs.

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

4.0 APPOINT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AS SECRETARY OF THE COMMISSION

In order to support the normal conduct of LAHSA business, staff recommends that the Executive Director be appointed as Commission Secretary. Banks, regulatory filings, and other documentation which require certification will be signed by the Executive Director.

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

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Mirell and seconded by Commissioner Katz to approve the staff's recommendation.

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

5.0 FINANCE, CONTRACTS, AND GRANTS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

Commissioner Katz reported that LAHSA's financial systems are operating properly.

After consulting with the National Bank of California (NBC), LAHSA has decided to take advantage of a provision under the Troubled Assets Relief Program (TARP), which insures 100% of LAHSA's cash deposits. This decision will be reassessed when the TARP provision is set to expire on December 31, 2009.

There is a possible issue regarding a 2002 Supportive Housing Program (SHP) contract with the U.S. Veterans Initiative, Inc. (US Vets). LAHSA received formal notification on January 19, 2009, indicating that HUD would not fund the contract because the original award had expired. Presently, LAHSA is consulting with City and County Counsel in its appeal of the decision to HUD.

LAHSA initially received notification from the CDC that LAHSA subcontractor GLASS had filed Chapter 11 (Reorganization under the IRS Bankruptcy Code). Then, LAHSA received a letter from the United States Bankruptcy Courts disclosing that GLASS had filed Chapter 7 (Liquidation). GLASS operates two transitional housing for youth programs. Commissioner Katz reported that in order to ensure uninterrupted services to clients, they have been moved and placed into alternative programs.

LAHSA has prepared and submitted its 2009- 2010 City Budget to the Mayor.

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

6.0 PROGRAMS AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE REPORT

On behalf of Commissioner Ollague, 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. Outcomes Manager 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.

Commissioner Katz reported on the threshold results of the recent Request for Proposals (RFP) which LAHSA released on December 23, 2008. All proposers received positive results. Presently, proposers' conferences are being held until final decisions have been made.

Commissioner Adamson reported that the Winter Shelter Program (WSP) is experiencing difficulties in Burbank. There have been complaints from neighbors regarding the clients seeking assistance. The City Council is supportive of the program in Burbank, but is concerned about the reports of loitering and the criminal backgrounds of some of the participants. Carrie Gatlin of EIMAGO is working on the resolution of these problems.

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

7.0 **POLICY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Commissioner Newcomer reported that the goals and targets which LAHSA will require subcontractors to meet and exceed in 2009 – 2010 directly reflect the goals and targets of HUD LACoC. Standards have been refined and language has been revised to better reflect HUD's objectives. The new targets will be adopted at the Commission Meeting on March 27, 2009.

8.0 **PRESENTATION OF 2009 GREATER LOS ANGELES HOMELESS COUNT PROGRESS TO DATE AND PLAN FOR COMPLETION**

Policy and Planning Analyst Mark Silverbush reported on some of the major accomplishments of the 2009 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count (HC09). LAHSA recruited approximately 3,000 volunteers to help with the Unsheltered Count on the nights of January 27 – 29, 2009. 13,000 miles of road and 754 census tracts were covered. Further, fifteen separate counts were conducted for various cities within the LACoC in order to provide a better comparison of region to county homelessness in Los Angeles County and surrounding areas.

To ensure the most accurate results, LAHSA will conduct a Youth Count, a Demographic Street Survey, and a Hidden Homeless Telephone Survey in addition to the Unsheltered Count. LAHSA is working with individuals from the University of North Carolina (UNC), who specialize in performing hidden surveys for rare occurrences.

Syd Peterson, Communications Manager, provided the report of the advertising and media relations for HC09. HC09 was advertised via several websites, outdoor advertisements, palm cards, and interviews before, during, and after the event.

LAHSA's complete HC09 report will be released in summer, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

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