



Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

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

**MINUTES OF THE
LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING**

Held November 8, 2010

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission meeting, held in the LAHSA office, located at 811 Wilshire Blvd, 6th Floor, Los Angeles, California, was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Commissioner Newcomer, Vice Chair.

Attendance:

LAHSA Commissioners Present:

Larry Adamson
Howard Katz
Douglas Mirell
Cecil L. Murray
Owen Newcomer
Antonio Manning

LAHSA Commissioners Absent:

Moctesuma Esparza
Louisa Ollague
Ramona Ripston

Attorneys Present:

Aleen Langton, County Counsel
Teresa Lujan, City Attorney

LAHSA Staff:

Steve Andryszewski, Chief Financial Officer
Michael Arnold, Executive Director
Erin Hollander, Board Liaison
Helen Lee, Funding Manager

Call to Order/Roll Call/Establishment of Quorum

Roll was called and quorum was established at 9:30 a.m.

- 1.0 **Hear testimony and determine whether clerical errors regarding information received by LAHSA to support ranking of 2010 SuperNOFA projects should result in nullification of the 2010 SuperNOFA Priorities List for new projects approved on October 28, 2010.***

** Items 2.0 – 2.4 shall be addressed only in the event that the Commission determines there should be a nullification of the 2010 SuperNOFA Priorities List for new projects approved on October 28, 2010.*

Helen Lee, Funding Manager, gave the report:

- The 2010 SuperNOFA Priorities List for new projects was approved at the Commission Meeting held on October 28, 2010 which determined which permanent housing projects would be submitted with this year's SuperNOFA application. Since the approval of the Priorities List, it was brought to LAHSA staff's attention to further examine the scoring of one of the submitted projects to the Coordinating Council.
- There was a brief review of the background of the new projects ranking process.

- Skid Row Housing Trust noted a discrepancy in their reported target population information submitted to the Coordinating Council. This had adverse affects on their rankings since this criteria is an important criteria to the Coordinating Council. Although their application to HACLA (Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles) indicated that they would serve chronically homeless individuals, the project summary information that was submitted to LAHSA for the ranking process indicated the project would serve 0% of the chronically homeless.
- The Los Angeles Continuum Coordinating Council scored the project based on the 0% number provided.
- Since the correction of this value for scoring for the target population would move the project onto the list of new projects to be submitted in the 2010 SuperNOFA, this Special Meeting of the Commission was requested to present testimony on the scoring discrepancy; and, since time is of the essence, to ask the Commission to determine whether the SuperNOFA Priorities List for new projects approved October 28 should be nullified and re-ranked based on this information.
- There was a discussion regarding the impact of re-ranking the projects: SRO Housing and St. Joseph Center would be moved down in the ranking list and their award amount would be reduced from \$2.9MM each to \$750K each.

Commissioner Newcomer inquired of Counsel as to the number of votes required to take action. City and County Counsel indicated that it requires a majority of the sitting Commissioners (not a majority of the quorum). For an action to be taken, the Commission requires 5 votes with 9 sitting Commissioners.

Public Speaker(s): Mike Alvidrez, Skid Row Housing Trust

Mr. Alvidrez thanked the Commission for the taking the time for the special Commission meeting to hear this matter. The scoring error, he noted, was the result of human error by one of his employees. Based on the application submitted in response to HACLA's (Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles) RFP, the project was intended to serve 100% or 77 chronically homeless in the project. However, the grants manager for SRHT had a short time to complete information for the Star Apartments. He noted that he and his staff didn't know the forms would be used by the Ranking Committee to rank the projects. He also noted that HACLA did not catch the error in the forms before submitting the forms to LAHSA.

The Commissioners asked Mr. Alvidrez a number of questions about the origination of the error, inconsistencies in the application submitted to HACLA, and their history on projects serving chronically homeless funded by LAHSA. They also asked LAHSA if any other detail information on the project was submitted to LAHSA that indicated the 100% chronic homeless focus. Mr. Andryszewski indicated that the only detail project information LAHSA received was the project summary forms received from HACLA.

Public Speaker(s): Kevin McCardle, Board Chair of St. Joseph Center

Mr. McCardle spoke on behalf of St. Joseph Center and urged that the funding award to St. Joseph Center should not be reduced.

There was discussion regarding the potential sustainability of the SRO Housing and St. Joseph Center projects should their award be reduced to \$750K each.

Public Speaker(s): Dr. Va Lecia Adams, Executive Director, St. Joseph Center

Dr. Adams noted the value of the work done by St. Joseph Center and the significant need in the Venice area for housing, and urged the Commission to continue the funding for St. Joseph Center.

Public Speaker(s): Kathy Godfrey, Chief of Staff, Councilmember Jan Perry, CD 9

Ms. Godfrey indicated that the SRHT project was ranked as number 1 by the Housing Authority because it is at a greater stage of project readiness. She urged the Commission to consider project readiness as a critical factor in ranking these projects.

Public Speaker(s): Ruth Schwartz, Shelter Partnership

Ms. Schwartz asked the Commission to consider that the Skid Row Housing Trust project ranked among the highest with the City and County Housing Authorities of Los Angeles. She urged the Commission, although clerical errors were made by SRHT, to authorize a re-ranking of the projects that would prioritize the Skid Row Housing Trust project for funding.

Public Speaker(s): Mike Bonin, Chief of Staff, Councilmember Bill Rosendahl, CD 11

Mr. Bonin asked the Commission to uphold the action made on Commission Meeting on October 28th. He voiced his concern about nullifying the original decision and reducing the amount of funding available to St. Joseph Center. He commented that maintaining the integrity of the process is important.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Newcomer called a recess at 10:40 a.m. and suggested the affected agencies meet and see if some compromise agreeable to all of them could be reached that could provide reduced funding but keep their programs operational.

The meeting reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

Commissioner Adamson asked if the Applicant (the Housing Authority) was present. He inquired where the projects were in the development process.

Public Speaker(s): Peter Lynn, Director of Section 8, Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles
Mr. Lynn discussed the readiness of the two projects: Gateway Project (SRO Housing), set for leasing in November 2012 and Star Apartment (Skid Row Housing Trust), set for leasing in March 2012).

Commissioner Mirell inquired why the forms transmitted to LAHSA showed no chronically homeless. Mr. Lynn indicated that the letter included in the Board materials clearly responds to that question.

Commissioner Mirell inquired whether any information was submitted to LAHSA that indicated that the SRHT project was serving chronically homeless. Mr. Lynn confirmed that no information, to his knowledge, including project narratives, indicated the project would serve chronically homeless prior to his letter to LAHSA that was included in the Board materials. There was a brief discussion regarding an error noted in the original application submitted by Skid Row Housing Trust to HACLA in which the number of chronically homeless served was 45% in one place and 100% in another.

Commissioner Newcomer asked each provider to state its minimum required amount of subsidy award for the projects to go forward.

Skid Row Housing could operate on a reduced subsidy award of \$3.1MM.
SRO Housing could operate on a reduced subsidy award of \$2.9MM.
St. Joseph Center could operate on a reduced subsidy award of \$2.5 MM.

Commissioner Newcomer noted that based on the reports from the providers, the total requested amount is \$7.6MM. The total available award amount is \$5.8MM.

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Newcomer and seconded by Commissioner Murray to deny the request to nullify the 2010 SuperNOFA Priorities List for new projects approved on October 28, 2010.

Action: Vote was taken by roll call. Commissioners Newcomer, Adamson, Katz, Murray and Manning voted in favor of the motion. Commissioner Mirell abstained. The motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.