



Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority

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

MINUTES OF THE

LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE

Held Friday, August 19, 2011

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission Policy and Planning Committee meeting held at 811 Wilshire Blvd, 6th Floor, Los Angeles, California was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by Commissioner Murray.

ATTENDANCE

LAHSA Commissioners Present:

Louisa Ollague
Cecil Murray

LAHSA Commissioners Absent:

Elise Buik

LAHSA Staff:

Michael Arnold, Executive Director
Stephani Hardy, Director of Policy & Planning
Erin Hollander, Board Liaison
Lisa Snyder, Senior Policy & Planning Analyst

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

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

1.0 Review and approve minutes of Special Meeting of the Policy & Planning Committee held May 25, 2011.

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

Motion: It was moved by Commissioner Murray and seconded by Commissioner Ollague to approve the minutes.

Action: The motion passed unanimously.

2.0 Update on status of homeless-related federal, state and local policy.

Lisa Snyder, Senior Policy & Planning Analyst, gave the report:

- **Federal**

- On August 2, President Obama signed the Budget Control Act of 2011 into law. The bill allows the government to raise its debt ceiling and requires major spending cuts over the next decade.
- Maximum caps are set on discretionary spending beginning in FY2012 through FY2021. Together, these caps are estimated to reduce the federal deficit by \$917 billion. All HUD and USDA low income housing programs are on the discretionary side of the federal budget; none are entitlements.
- The bill establishes the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction to reduce the deficit by an additional \$1.5 trillion over the same ten years.

- **State:**

- On July 5, 2011, the Senate Transportation and Housing Committee passed a bill to create a state Interagency Council on Homelessness.
- The Council would act as the State lead for coordinating and planning the state's response to homelessness and would require the state to seek all available federal funding. It would facilitate collaboration between agencies, resulting in more effective policies and more efficient use of existing resources.

- The CA Medicaid Section 1115 Waiver known as the Bridge to Reform establishes a framework for the transition to federal Health Reform implementation in 2014. The Waiver allows the state to expand Medicaid income eligibility to up to 133% of the federal poverty level for uninsured seniors and persons with disabilities ages 19 to 64. It will also help increase provider payments for uncompensated care, which could have a significant impact on care for the homeless.
- **Los Angeles City:**
 - The City has been working on an ordinance to amend its zoning code to address community concerns around poorly operated sober living homes. The proposed Community Care Facilities Ordinance redefines the definition of “family” as a “single housekeeping unit” which is further defined as “household members all living under a single lease” for homes located in low density zones.
 - LAHSA has opposed the proposal as it has potential to impede the development of permanent supportive housing and undermine the City’s comprehensive efforts to reduce and end homelessness.

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

3.0 **Report on National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Conference and the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Conference.**

Stephani Hardy, Director of Policy & Planning, gave the report:

- Ms. Hardy noted a list of elected officials that LAHSA staff met with during the visit to DC for the National Alliance to End Homelessness Conference.
- Ms. Hardy is a member of the Board of Directors for the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. It was noted that NCHV was instrumental in the budget approval for 350 additional vouchers and two, 50-unit project-based vouchers. At the NCHV Conference, there was focus on solutions including housing first for chronically homeless veterans, expanding the view of permanent supportive housing and homeless prevention. Additionally, there was emphasis on data integration between the VA and local Continuums of Care (CoC) and their HMIS systems, as well as community collaboration between CoC’s, the VA and veteran programs.

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

4.0 **Report on LAHSA’s meetings with each Service Planning Area (SPA) in the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (CoC).**

Stephani Hardy, Director of Policy & Planning, gave the report:

- Ms. Hardy reported that LAHSA started conducting continuum level SPA meetings three months ago, and recently completed the second round of meetings.
- There was a discussion of the purposes of the quarterly meetings, discussion of the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (CoC) funding principles for 2011, and national perspective. Additionally, there was discussion regarding targeting/ prioritizing specific populations, identifying people and families with the highest barriers targeting, and addressing these barriers by providing appropriate housing with the types and intensity of services needed.

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

5.0 **Public Participation**

There were no requests for public participation.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 a.m.