

**POLICY & PLANNING COMMITTEE
OF THE
LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY**

“Unofficial” Meeting Minutes from
December 11, 2008

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission Policy and Planning Committee meeting held at 453 S. Spring Street, 12th Floor, Los Angeles, California was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Owen Newcomer, Chair.

ATTENDANCE

LAHSA Commissioners Present:

Owen Newcomer
Ramona Ripston

LAHSA Commissioners Absent:

David D. Figueroa

LAHSA Staff:

Rebecca Isaacs, Executive Director
Steve Andryszewski, Chief Financial Officer
Keshia Douglas, Director of Administration
Leslie Wise, Director of Policy and Planning
Mark Silverbush, Policy and Planning Analyst
Syd Peterson, Communications Manager
Kamaiya Bourne, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Roll was called and a quorum was established at 9:10 a.m.

1.0 REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 6, 2008

MOTION:

ACTION:

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

2.0 2009 GREATER LOS ANGELES HOMELESS COUNT UPDATE

Leslie Wise reported that LAHSA has contracted with the Survey Research Unit of University of North Carolina for the 2009 Homeless Count. It is estimated that 3,000 volunteers will be needed for this count. New this year, LAHSA is offering an “Opt-In Program” to cities within the County to participate and conduct city/region specific counts to improve the data’s applicability to their city. City Managers will receive printed material regarding the count so that they understand the “Opt-In Program”, the methodology of the event, and can coordinate their participation.

Syd Peterson reported that LAHSA will participate in and have a booth at the 2008 HomeWalk. Approximately 7,000 Homeless Count 2009 (HC09) palm cards will be placed inside bags given to volunteers at the event which will take place on Saturday, November 15. We will also begin recruiting volunteers for HC09 during the walk.

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

3.0 POLICY OVERVIEW – 2009 SUPERNOFA APPLICATION, EXHIBIT 1

Leslie Wise provided a presentation titled: HUD McKinney Homeless Assistance Program 2008: Scoring and Policy Trends. The presentation outlined important scoring and policy trends for the program that include an emphasis on housing related activities, addressing chronic and family homelessness, 10-Year Plan completion, HMIS implementation, etc.

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

4.0 POLICY UPDATE – FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION

In reference to Federal Legislation, Fran Hutchins reported on the Hearth Bill that has passed the House, and is now awaiting passage through the Senate.

Regarding State policy, Ms. Hutchins reported that a Medi-Cal program that would allow reimbursement for case management was recently approved by the Legislature, however, it was vetoed by the Governor. She explained that this would have instituted a new funding source for services linked to permanent supportive housing. Ms. Hutchins further reported that the Governor's veto of \$1 million in EHAP funding for Los Angeles will affect LAHSA next year.

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

5.0 WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM UPDATE

David Martel provided an update on the Winter Shelter Program. The program began on November 1 in Lancaster due to the fact that the weather becomes colder in that area sooner, and shelters in the remaining areas of Los Angeles County will begin operating on December 1.

Mr. Martel also discussed the difficulties of the Winter Shelter Program. He explained that it is a challenge to operate in a community when the community does not have the desire to operate and support the program. Furthermore, the Winter Shelter Program began as a "walk-in," type of program for the homeless, but has developed, into a bus in/bus out system. Mr. Martel advised the Committee that a bus in/bus out system is not the optimal design for this program, as the homeless population congregate at the bus stop sites.

Rebecca Isaacs recommended that LAHSA develop a workgroup to study some of the policies regarding the Winter Shelter Program. The Committee agreed with this solution.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.