

**PROGRAMS & EVALUATION COMMITTEE
OF THE
LOS ANGELES HOMELESS SERVICES AUTHORITY**

Meeting Minutes from
December 12, 2008

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority Commission Programs and Evaluation Committee meeting held at 453 S. Spring Street, 12th Floor, Los Angeles, California was called to order at 9:12 a.m. by Commissioner Ollague. Commissioner Katz joined the meeting in progress.

ATTENDANCE

LAHSA Commissioners Present:

Louisa Ollague
Howard Katz
Cecil Murray

LAHSA Commissioners Absent:

None

LAHSA Staff:

Rebecca Isaacs, Executive Director
Michael Arnold, Chief Operating Officer
Carletta Woods, Contracts Unit Manager
David Martel, Contracts Unit Manager
Kamaiya Bourne, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Roll was called and a quorum was established at 9:12 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF PROGRAMS MEETING HELD OCTOBER 17, 2008

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

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

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

2.0

OUTCOMES UPDATE

Carletta Woods provided the monthly Outcomes Update on U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Supportive Housing Program (SHP) funded programs to the Committee. The report addressed three priority HUD goals, and the progress that sponsor agencies have made toward meeting them. The reported outcomes are based on all programs who have filed Annual Progress Reports (APRs) for programs ending May 2008 and later.

HUD's first goal that was discussed, Permanent Supportive Housing Retention, is to have at least 71.5% of formerly homeless individuals housed in HUD permanent housing projects for at least six months. Ms. Woods reported that LAHSA program sponsors have met or exceeded that goal, housing 80% of formerly homeless individuals for at least six months. All five reporting permanent housing programs within the Los Angeles Continuum of Care (CoC) have met and surpassed HUD's goal.

HUD's second goal is to ensure movement of at least 63.5% of persons served from Transitional to Permanent Housing. Program sponsors did not meet this goal, achieving only 25% of households served that move from transitional to permanent housing. Of the thirteen programs reporting, only two transitional housing programs within the L.A. CoC achieved this goal.

The third goal that was discussed is employment at program exit. Ms. Woods explained that HUD's goal for this category is to have at least 19.7% of persons exiting HUD homeless assistance projects employed. LAHSA program sponsors currently exceed this goal with 21% of people employed upon program exit. Permanent and transitional housing programs reported 19.7% and 30.9% of people employed upon program exit, respectively. However, Supportive Services Only projects did not meet the goal, reporting only 17.1% of clients served were employed at program exit.

Ms. Woods next discussed LAHSA's Performance Outcomes Action Plan, which will work to assist sponsors to meet HUD's goals. LAHSA will meet with low performers to help identify where best practices can improve program performance, and foster interagency mentoring by hosting best practices workshops to give low performing sponsors the opportunity to improve their program performance.

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

3.0 **APPROVE THE RELEASE OF 2009 – 2010 SHELTER AND SERVICES PARTS A AND B, AND FAMILIES HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

Michael Arnold requested approval to release the 2009 Shelter and Services and Families Housing Assistance Program RFP's. The Shelter and Services Program has been redefined as a highly leveraged program to encourage sponsors to leverage other funds with any awards from this program to maximize the value of the awarded funding. The program is one of the first administered by LAHSA where City and County ESG and CDBG funds are released under one request for proposal (RFP). The funds support Emergency, Transitional Housing, and Supportive Services Only programs. Part A is for City of Los Angeles ESG and CDBG funding and Part B of the RFP is for County of Los Angeles ESG funding.

The Families Housing Assistance Program focuses on families with moderate barriers to obtaining and maintaining housing and provides case management and rental assistance for one year while they regain economic and housing stability. The program addresses a segment of the family homeless populations where there is very little existing capacity – low need families. Most providers within the CoC focus on families with significant barriers to obtaining housing, and have not developed programs that can provide rapid assistance, case management and limited rental assistance to families who only need modest amounts of support. Re-issuing this program in its current design is intended to seek to build capacity in this underserved area.

During the course of the discussion, Commissioner Ollague inquired whether families that were affected by the foreclosures of their homes would be eligible for this program. Mr. Arnold stated that the family must meet the definition of homeless and not have significant barriers to obtaining housing to be appropriate candidates for this program.

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Katz and seconded by Commissioner Murray to approve staffs' recommendation.

ACTION: The motion passed unanimously.

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

4.0 **WINTER SHELTER PROGRAM**

David Martel reported that the Winter Shelter Program provides 1700 extra beds throughout the County of Los Angeles during the winter. Mr. Martel noted that there are 13 sites around the county operating the Winter Shelter Program and 40 pick-up locations where participants can be picked up to be transported to the shelters. Twelve of the sites opened on December 1, the City of Pomona program started on December 5 due to Armory issues. He reported that the shelters are reporting approximately 50% use of their capacity in the first two weeks of the program. This is normal when the weather is nice, and also reflects that many people receiving their benefits at the beginning of the month and will be homeless later in month.

Rebecca Isaacs reported that the Winter Shelter Program continues to be a very difficult program to administer. This year may be additionally challenging if there is a large influx of homeless families. The WSP shelters are single adult shelters and families who show up are provided hotel vouchers. She noted that LAHSA has implemented a system to monitor voucher utilization, and we don't want shelters to turn homeless families away. LAHSA staff will report back monthly on family voucher use, and the implications to the program.

Ms. Isaacs further discussed the issues that make the program difficult, including lack of local agency support, the use of armories where beds are set up and taken down daily, the short duration of the contract period (3 ½ months), the relatively low levels of funding available to operate the programs each year, including the loss of State EHAP funds for the next year, and difficulty associated with transportation pick-up sites.

The program is designed to be a low barrier open-to-everyone shelter system, and we are seeing increasing erosion of these principles as communities seek to limit access to or set pick-up site criteria that would limit or exclude homeless individuals and families from participation. The elimination of \$120,000 in EHAP funding which funds the armories utilized for the program will create even more challenges for the program next year.

Mr. Martel advised the Committee that the Winter Shelter Program data will be closely monitored and reported.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.