

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Senior Services Working Group Meeting Notes

Tuesday, September 22, 2020 @ 9:30 am
Zoom Meeting

1. Welcome

Elected officials/representatives in attendance:

Council Member Britt Huff, Chair (Rolling Hills Estates, H.E.L.P.); Council Member Paulette Francis (Gardena); Council Member Mike Griffiths (Redondo Beach) Erick Ponce-Furlos (Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi); Janet Turner (Representative Ted Lieu)

Others in attendance: Eric S. Daar, M.D. (Chief, Division of HIV Medicine, Harbor UCLA) ; Ryan Delgado (El Segundo); Christina Theobald (Gardena); Diane Brown (Hawthorne); Baz Devila (Inglewood); Marcelle Herrera (Palos Verdes Estates/PVE-CARES); Mayra Gomez (Redondo Beach); Cindy Snodgrass, Debbie Reed, Linda Wilson-Gray (Torrance); Theresa Babiar (Torrance Library); Melissa Andrizzi-Sobel (Beach Cities Health District); Teri Neustaedter, Harriet Chase (League of Women Voters Beach Cities); Deb Ripley, Laura Ishizaka (Palos Verdes Library District); Steve Jordan, Marianne Propst, Ann Shaw, Fran Wielin (PV Peninsula Village); Bea Virobik (Focal Point on Aging/Torrance Commission on Aging); Courtney Reed (PATH); Scott Donnelly (HELP Board Member); Laurie Glover, Howard Mation (Silverado Care Community); Asia Powell (Local Gov't Liaison, CPUC Local Gov't Liaison), Jacki Bacharach, Grace Farwell, Steve Lantz, David Leger (SBCCOG)

2. Previous [meeting notes](#) (7/23/19, 9/24/19, 1/28/20, 5/26/20, 7/28/20, 9/22/20) – posted on SBCCOG Senior Services Working Group webpage

3. PATH Update and SBCCOG Regional Coordination Activities Update Courtney Reed, Associate Director of South County PATH

Introduce new Program Manager Jasmine Loera who has been working at PATH for a little over 2 years with the outreach team. Now working now more on recovery than outreach.

Working on matching people with interim and rapid re-housing.
Not seeing many seniors out on the streets as many were already referred to Project Room Key (PRK) sites. Most 55+ are already in interim housing.

Question: What type of feedback is being received from people in PRK sites? People like these because they have their own room and three meals per day. Now PRK are demobilizing so now having to move people to other interim housing if permanent housing is not available.

People want to find locations near their current location to be near family, doctors, etc.



<https://www.facebook.com/SBCCOG/>



<https://twitter.com/SouthBayCCOG>

Question: What is the special program in Redondo Beach that uses PATH? PATH has a contract to go to Redondo Beach meal programs to connect with people to engage with services.

Question: Has the new home sharing program help place someone or keep some from being displaced from a place to live? Grace will update on Home Share South Bay.

Question: How many people are housed in the PRK programs? Everyone Courtney is working with is in interim housing, either PRK or Hotel paid by LAHSA through the recovery program.

Question: What is the next step for someone in a PRK? Those are first tied to a case manager to schedule unit viewings, goals to become sustainable in a home, get proper ID, etc. PATH case managers meet with individuals twice a week. Participants must view at least 3 housing options per week. Help them understand needs versus wants to find realistic options and expectations.

Question: How long can someone stay in a PRK? Some PRKs have exit dates to demobilize so some people had options to go to other PRKs without an exit date. Others LAHSA gave option to put some in other locations.

Question: Any update on Project Home Key? No update yet as will take a lot of renovations to get it up and running. There is a Travelodge in Gardena that PATH will convert to interim housing shelter and at some point, down the line, will be turned into a Project Home Key permanent housing. There are 44 units at this location.

Question: Will the winter shelters be opening this month? Best update can be found on LAHSA website, usually open December 1st. Many did close last year due to COVID, just changed pick up locations.

- FAQ for the [general public](#); FAQ for [city officials](#)

4. SBCCOG Regional Coordination Activities Update: Home Share South Bay Grace Farwell, SBCCOG

Home Share South Bay program has now launched, and we have a landing page. Marketing plan was an email to city managers, followed by emails to staff contacts to introduce the program, who in turn are promoting with marketing materials. Same information was sent to our other regional organization contacts.

First focus is on finding homeowners. We cannot focus on service providers until we have an inventory of homes with rooms to rent. We have had home seekers sign up. We will continue to find ways to reach out to homeowners such as presenting to city staff so they can do outreach to homeowners. We are developing a webinar. We are also creating FAQ fact sheets, much of the questions obtained through our presentations. We are looking for incentives for people to open up their homes, such as possible tax breaks.

COVID times add a bit of a challenge to starting this program, so we are working on addressing safety protocols. Home Share Oregon offered COVID safety kits but advise that people are not using them so we will not spend money on those.

Question: Are flyers available to use for outreach? Yes, we have different versions available. Grace will have these sent out. Several south bay cities have already posted on their websites and included with newsletters.

AARP can outreach to south bay residents with program information. 2018 survey showed 78% of those surveyed wanted to age in place and of those, about 50% said they might consider home sharing so this program could be considered for a variety of reasons.

Suggestion: Every senior center who has a newsletter should post Home Share South Bay. Also reach out to church community as people may have more of a sense of trust.

Question: Has Silvernest made their video of participant interviews available? On our landing page, there is a link to the Golden Girls video with interviews. Grace showed the video.

Participants must have access to the internet so we hope our senior centers can help individuals who may need computer assistance.

We have hired an intern who is helping a couple of days a week assisting with reaching out to the faith-based organizations.

Redondo Beach will have 15 pallet-shelter interim housing pilot program, first in the south bay to have an interim housing site. They also have an Enhanced Response Program in their Homeless Court working with individuals to get them document ready and get their cases expunged.

Question about meal programs: PATH and our other service providers have been helping with getting masks, sanitizer, and meals to people experiencing homelessness.

Comment: Commended Grace on all the great work.

Comment: Bea offered resources to find more church organizations.

5. City/Community COVID-19 Response for Seniors Updates

Gardena – volunteer looking to learn about more senior programs.

Karen Pryor – broker and owner of a lending group; also involved with Torrance Memorial Professional Advisory group assigned to a dept on aging.

Palos Verdes Peninsula Village – staying contact with the seniors through zoom meetings to socialize and keep informed. Also making phone calls to stay in touch.

League of Women Voters Beach Cities – working with villages to get out voting information to seniors and looking how they can assist in December and January with zoom meetings for interactive classes.

Diane Brown – teamed with Torrance YMCA for senior meals, computer room is open for seniors with social distancing, billiard room is open. Free haircuts once a month from a local barber school. Local high school student volunteers make calls to seniors to help with any issues. Doing everything possible to stay in touch outside of gathering in person.

Torrance - Senior centers are currently closed. Have a weekly newsletter providing updates on food programs that anyone can subscribe to. Anita Chun at Torrance Memorial puts out daily bulletins on programs, free food, etc.

PV Library – Buildings are closed but services are available for curbside pick-up and computer hot spots.

Torrance Memorial Hospital update – have plenty of PPE equipment and supplies and are fully operational. Still a no visitor policy until vaccines are readily available.

South Bay Village – currently have about 50 members with average age over 85; helping seniors stay active. Call members every week to provide resources on food, transportation, etc. Have a fundraiser on Facebook and sending donor letters. Putting together Christmas gift bags to the seniors from volunteers.

Palos Verdes Village – trying best to serve all members close to 100 with zoom fun programs such as book clubs, writing groups, happy hours, etc. Have had social distancing walks. Teams of 4 call on seniors to stay in touch and build relationships. Hoping the Home Share South Bay program will create interest. Weekly newsletter is sent with resource information.

Beach Cities Health District – still no in-person services other than COVID testing 7 days a week; have assistance and referral line Mon – Fri open to anyone; have meal delivery and errand assistance to beach city residents; still have COVID emergency fund to subsidize cost of meals; still taking on new referrals for care management; will deliver 250 holiday gift bags in mid-December with focus on emergency kits and grocery scrips.

Torrance – had flu clinic end of October for 165 people open to all ages. Challenge in reaching seniors online; working with AARP on a tax program to seniors; Pickle ball still continues to be okay for outdoor activity; In January working with the police dept for a “Seniors don’t be scammed” program on zoom, Man phone lines Mon – Fri for wellness and check-up calls averaging about 800 calls per week. Newsletter expanded to free. Cindy Snodgrass is retiring after 31 years.

PVE Cares – Palos Verdes Estates continues to offer shopping and errand assistance for their seniors as well as in-home COVID testing. Looking at creating a new “buddy” program with COX one call a day program and tech assistance.

Steve Lantz – Big news from Metro is trying to recovery service back to what is was pre-COVID. Transit operators are not charging fares yet. Green Line EIR is moving forward after first of year will have public meetings. 2 possible routes – one going through Lawndale, Redondo, and Torrance and the other using Hawthorne Blvd down past the Galleria.

Rolling Hills Estates – City Council have a senior page on their website with regular updates on local services; In September initiated a RHE senior care package similar to an emergency kit; Instead of an in-person holiday parade, will host a parade of lights drive through at a local park; Also, a holiday house decorating contest;

HELP senior education and counseling center in Old Torrance is closed for walk-ins. Some volunteers social distance together to help offer services and referrals. Some staff are working from home. Now more involved with Meals on Wheels are connected to seniors. Continued classes via zoom.

Amy Phillips, Little Tokyo Service Center – Providing services but because of COVID have added meal service programs. They can provide Asian food for anyone with those needs from their pantry. South Bay office has 9:30 – 12:30 Monday – Thursday staff in the office. 310.819.8659.

7. Update from Legislative Offices

None

8. SBCCOG Updates – Grace Farwell

Grace mentioned the November fiber network kick-off. If missed, the video of the meeting and ribbon cutting is available. Steve Lantz explained how the fiber network operates offering increased bandwidth.

Grace announced the annual General Assembly is scheduled as a virtual assembly on March 18th. Councilmember Christian Horvath is heading up the plans.

9. Next meeting – January 27, 2021

Notes submitted by Grace Farwell