

# South Bay Cities Council of Governments

## Senior Services Working Group Meeting Notes

Tuesday, December 7, 2021 @ 9:30 am, Zoom Meeting

Link to Meeting: [Meeting Zoom Video](#)

1. **Welcome** – Britt and Ronson mentioned we invite various members to present at future Senior Services Working Group meetings who are part of an organization they would like to share with the group.

### **Elected officials/representatives in attendance:**

Council Member Huff, Chair (Rolling Hills Estates, H.E.L.P); Janet Turner (Representative Congress Member Ted Lieu; Erick Ponce (Representative Assembly Member Muratsuchi)

**Others in attendance:** Catherine Hetzer (Harbor Interfaith); Diane Brown (Hawthorne); Thomas Uwal (Inglewood); McKenzie Bright (Rancho Palos Verdes); Mayra Gomez, (Redondo Beach); Harriet Chase (League of Women Voters Beach Cities); Jacqueline Hernandez (Palos Verdes Library District); Bea Virobik (Focal Point on Aging Torrance); Ana Abril-Urias (PATH); Karen Pryor (Priority Lending); Joanna Franco (Your Caring House); Ronson Chu, Laurie Jacobs, Jacki Bacharach, Steve Lantz (SBCCOG)

2. **Previous meeting notes** – posted on SBCCOG Senior Services Working Group webpage
3. **PATH Update - Ana Abril-Urias, Program Manager, SPA 8**  
PATH currently has 11 seniors in SD4 area and 6 seniors in SD2. All seniors enrolled have a housing voucher or are in the process of completing the application for a housing voucher.
4. **Presentation on SPA 8, APS Home Safe – Catherine Hetzer, Harbor Interfaith Services**  
Cathy gave an overview of the program along with a review of general case studies to illustrate various scenarios and how the program offers assistance. Home Safe started 2 years ago using \$2.5 million of state funding as a pilot program broken up in the 8 SPA areas. Referrals come from WDACS with Adult Protective Services (APS). Social workers first access each case to identify clients that have a potential of becoming homeless. Cathy then accesses best method of assistance which may include keeping them in housing, send them to legal aid when necessary, or to have to relocate them. Future state funding has been increased. **CATHERINE HETZER CONTACT EMAIL: [chetzer@harborinterfaith.org](mailto:chetzer@harborinterfaith.org)**

Q: Bea Virobik – We can never find people who will share their homes. Does Cathy have a lot of home shares? Some churches offer assistance with home sharing. She also mentioned LINC Love in the Name of Christ in San Pedro who offer services in the South Bay.

A: Cathy Hetzer – No, they do not have many shared housing locations. Many seniors are reluctant to go into a shared situation, so Cathy has to present the various options. Laurie is helping with sharing through Home Share South Bay. Barriers are the low senior income. Cathy needs lease documentation to be able to access subsidized funding.

- 5. Overview of H.E.L.P. Program and Services (Helping Elders Live Productively) – Britt Huff, Executive Director of H.E.L.P. and Council Member of Rolling Hills Estates**  
Britt gave an overview of all the programs H.E.L.P offers to the seniors in the South Bay as an education and counseling center. They reach seniors through community classes and their website. She walked through the various services that are detailed in the Aging Preparedness Kit which addresses many issues realized by seniors who may not have a plan for retirement and other aging issues for their future. Currently they are addressing issues related to the pandemic such as scams, meal deliveries, transportation, and other essential services. And they transitioned to zoom during the pandemic.

**LINK: [AGING PREPAREDNESS KIT](#)**

**LINK: [H.E.L.P. Website](#)**

Q: Ronson asked about what territories the program covers

A: Britt advises covers the entire South Bay for hands on classes and now making an effort to expand to senior centers in low-income areas. They get calls from all over the country because many communities do not offer all these programs.

**6. Update from Legislative Offices**

**Janet Turner (Representative Congressmember Lieu)**

Janet advised they are awaiting the Build Back Better bill that has passed the house and now waiting for a vote in the house. The bill does include great provisions for seniors. A lot of work is going on behind the scenes to help seniors such as Medicare expansion. There is a new hearing aid component that Janet will report more next month.

**Erick Ponce (Representative Assembly Member Muratsuchi)**

Eric had to leave early. Britt reported Assembly Member Muratsuchi recently held a town hall meeting.

**7. SBCCOG updates, Jacki Bacharach**

The big announcement I the March 24<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. We are planning to do an in-person event with the title as “Back to the Future? Reimagining the South Bay”. We working on a strong private sector presence where we will have venture capitalists to talk about how they make their future predictions. The event is free because we have sponsors who get their own table in our exhibit hall for a \$2,500 sponsor fee. She asked that they all Save the Date and help find sponsors.

**8. Senior Services Updates – Ronson Chu, Senior Project Manager, SBCCOG**

He is looking organizations to promote their senior programs at future meetings. Email Ronson with your ideas.

Laurie Jacobs mentioned the Assistance League of San Pedro – South Bay is looking for senior volunteers.

HOME SHARE SOUTH BAY Laurie also mentioned we need help in finding homeowners for Home Share South Bay. Great program to help seniors. And we just launched a PSA commercial on Spectrum.

FLYER LINK: [HOME SHARE SOUTH BAY](#)

WEBSITE LINK: [HOME SHARE SOUTH BAY - LANDING PAGE](#)

LINK TO PSA VIDEO: [HOME SHARE SOUTH BAY PSA](#)

**9. Announcements and Follow-up Actions**

Harriet Chase added comments about the Equity in Aging Advisory Committee which will meet on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 12 for revamping how the Master Plan for Aging programs and funds will be coordinated. Input can be made to this group. The next meeting will include emerging best practices for preventing homelessness among older adults and those with disabilities.

Link: [State Equity in Aging Website](#)

**2022 Meeting Schedule – January 25, March 3, May 21, July 26, September 9**

*Notes submitted by Laurie Jacobs*