**South Bay Cities Council of Governments**

**Homeless Services Task Force**

**Wednesday, June 18th from 3:00 pm – 4:45 pm**

[**Meeting Link**](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLDpmJnsyVeKU7TNfP1BRaw928TSCZCU3J&feature=shared)

**(This meeting was not recorded)**

***Meeting Notes*** *(submitted by Addy Ajijolaiya)*

*These meeting notes are an overview of the meeting content.*

*We suggest watching the video and supporting document links for more comprehensive information.*

**Welcome and Introductions (45 Participants)**

**Elected officials / Representatives in attendance:**

Rodney Tanaka (Chair, Councilmember-Gardena)

Bill Uphoff (Councilmember - Lomita)

Paige Kaluderovic (Mayor Pro Tem – Redondo Beach)

Raymond Jackson (Councilmember – Hermosa Beach)

Janet Turner (Office of Congressman Ted W. Lieu)

Chris Pimentel (Mayor-El Segundo)

**Others in attendance:**

Jacki Bacharach (SBCCOG)

Addy Ajijolaiya (SBCCOG)

Miranda Werts (SBCCOG)

Ronson Chu (SBCCOG)

Kim Fuentes (SBCCOG)

Catherine Hetzer (SBCCOG)

Laurie Jacobs (San Pedro)

Joseph Moreno (Mass Liberation)

Julia Smith (Torrance)

Wendy Wolfe (Torrance)

Stehpanie Johnson (Redondo Beach)

Michael Reyes (Lawndale)

Patty Matson (Manhattan Beach)

Craig Townsend (Harbor Mental Health Center)

Lila Omura (Redondo Beach)

David Norman (BCHD)

Haley Fuselier (PATH)

Lee Phillips (Manhattan Beach)

Rita Crabtree-Kampe (MB SAFE)

Clifton Trotter (CEO-HI)

Ryan Macy-Hurley (Changewell)

Andre Thomas (SOH)

Kimberly Mack (Hawthorne)

Debra Scott (Carson)

Kristen Jo (Palos Verdes Estates)

Marlen Pomposo (SMC)

Roberto Chavez (Inglewood)

Sara Russo (Hermosa Beach)

Yvonne Golub (Blue Shield)

Shannon Murray (WLCAC)

Dulce Medina (Hawthorne)

Micky Daniel (Inglewood)

Norma Olvera (Torrance)

Richard Wise (SMC)

Ramon Rendon (HIS)

Janet Kelly (SOH)

Stepanie Marquez (SOH)

Erik Vargas (LAHSA)

Mary Agnes Erlandson (SMC)

Lori Jones (Inglewood)

Zulma Gent (Torrance)

Lila Omura (Redondo Beach)

Jonathan Said (SMC)

Ricard Wise (SMC)

Laria Breland (PATH)

Madeline deVillers (SMC)

**Meeting Summary:**

**1. Receive and File**

**2. SPA 8 System Updates**

*Grace Weltman, Chair, South Bay Coalition to End Homelessness:* Grace was unable to attend the meeting, as such updates for this agenda item will resume next meeting.
*a. SBCEH Updates
b. Family System
c. CoC/CES Policy Council*

**3. Speaker: Empowering Change Through Action**

*Joseph Moreno, Outreach Manager, Mass Liberation*

a. **Discussion of Program/Resource**

- Mass Liberation is an organization that works to house and provide assistance to justice involved, formerly incarcerated, and registered sex offenders. They offer Emergency Housing and services for “Lifers” with different options and resources depending on severity of citation. Housing can be difficult for RSOs, particularly for “hard” offenders.

-This resource is funded through a variety of resources like Medi-Cal, STOP funding, AB109, and can also be self-funded through social security/services.

-The organization accepts direct referrals via email and/or phone.

-They offer a couple of different programs the most common one being “Liberty House”. A 6-9 housing program accompanied by a form of school and/or vocational training component. Graduates of this program can go on to rent a room or shared space in one of the organization’s homes in the community for greater independence and privacy. They also have a specific home geared towards members of the LGBTQiA community.

-There is a home in Inglewood- TDD Supportive Living that also supports these individuals.

**4. Presentation: LACAHSA Updates & Feedback Session**

*Ronson Chu, Senior Project Manager, SBCCOG*

a. **Discussion on LACAHSA program guidelines and feedback session**

Housing Funding and Rental Assistance

Ronson Chu (SBCCOG) presented details on a $380 million annual funding allocation for housing and homelessness prevention, with South Bay receiving approximately $11 million, including $5.5 million for affordable housing (PPO) and $4.8 million for renter protection and homelessness prevention (RPHP). He outlined three categories of rental subsidies and income supports: **emergency rental assistance**, **flexible financial assistance** covering various expenses, and **short-term income support** of up to $1,000 or 50% of rent. The eligibility criteria were discussed, focusing on individuals earning at or below 50% AMI ($53,000) who have experienced financial hardships in the past year, with concerns raised about the parameters for dependent care and furniture expenses.

There was collective feedback from the group advocating for a change/increase for the AMI% requirement. Many stakeholders felt that having an 80% AMI limit would allow for greater resource utilization and community engagement, particularly for those who experience one off challenges like medical care or unemployment. This change would be beneficial across all interventions/eligibility criteria.

Subsidy Eligibility Criteria Updates/Feedback

The group discussed changes to subsidy eligibility criteria, focusing on the 50% AMI threshold and the 12-month timeframe requirement. They agreed to modify the language to include broader categories of violence and to consider extending the timeframe to 24-36 months, while also ensuring that self-certification remains possible for applicants. The team also decided to revert to an 80% AMI threshold, acknowledging that income alone does not fully capture the complexity of housing instability.

Housing Assistance Program Guidelines Update

The group discussed guidelines for a housing assistance program, focusing on definitions of homelessness and eligibility criteria. They agreed to expand the definition of at-risk homelessness to include those experiencing housing instability and to allow for security deposits and utility payments. The team also proposed adjusting the $15,000 cap on assistance to be based on zip code and fair market rents. They identified issues with the current legal services eligibility criteria, which they felt was too narrow, and discussed the need for broader access to legal assistance. The group reviewed the allocation of technical assistance funds and discussed potential capacity building opportunities for nonprofits in the region. They planned to submit their feedback to LACAHSA by Friday, with any additional comments due by Thursday noon.

**5. Legislative Updates**

a. **Update from Congressman Lieu’s Office by Janet Turner**

- Lieu Co-sponsored bills:

HR2410. Revitalizing Downtowns and Main Street Act— The legislation aims to revitalize downtown and main street areas by encouraging the adaptive reuse of aging commercial buildings as affordable housing. It would help cities expand their supply of affordable housing and rejuvenate downtown districts that have been most negatively impacted by the pandemic

HR3856. The Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act of 2025 (RHYTPA)-- is a bill aimed at enhancing protections and services for runaway and homeless youth, with a particular focus on preventing and addressing human trafficking. It reauthorizes and expands existing programs under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) and includes provisions to combat trafficking.

b. Federal Budget Update and call to action by Shannon Murray, WLCAC

Shannon explained that Los Angeles receives approximately $329 million from the State for homeless assistance programs (HHAP), but there will be a funding gap for fiscal year 26-27, with only $500 million allocated for the following year. She noted that advocacy efforts are ongoing to secure additional funding, including meetings with state legislators and the governor's office. Shannon also mentioned that emergency housing vouchers, which helped house 15,000 people in California during COVID-19, 500 EHVs in the South Bay, are potentially at risk of being cut earlier than 2030 due to federal-level changes.

**6. South Bay Cities Council of Government Updates**

*Jacki Bacharach, Executive Director, SBCCOG*

1. **Rodney Tanaka will be stepping down as Chair (he will be missed)**
2. **SBCCOG New Offices**

The SBCCOG will be moving offices to downtown Torrance. The next board meeting will be held in person in Gardena, and we will resume hosting on-site meeting beginning July 14, 2025.

**New Address: 357 Van Ness Way, Suite #110, Torrance, CA 90501**

1. **Housing Trust Updates🡪** is moving forward and will report to the Board and City Managers in July. Preliminary findings indicate challenges with funding, density, and inventory to meet requirements.
2. **SBESC🡪** have met their goal for 100 events for the year and will be offering many new programs/opportunities for energy saving pilot programs in the community.

**7. LA County CEO-Homeless Initiative Updates**

*Clifton Trotter, Principal Analyst, CEO-HI*
- Clifton shared updates on funding for the homeless initiative and the establishment of a new county homelessness department, with a website providing key information on the process.

CEO-HI’s New Department Entity Website --> <https://ceo.lacounty.gov/dh/>

- The SBCCOG’s SOW has been reviewed internally and is now under review by county counsel and the auditor controller. CEO-HI will aim to have SOW packaged up into a contract and delivered to the COG for review/signatures by June 26th.

**8. Announcements**

a. **Events, Engagement Opportunities, Accomplishments, Ask/Needs**

 - Laurie Jacobs (San Pedro NC) asked for guidance/resources for community members impacted by the ongoing ICE raids and how to best support undocumented community members.

- The group discussed concerns about the impact of federal government actions on undocumented and minority communities, particularly regarding food distribution and access to services. Addy (SBCCOG) reported receiving their first request for assistance from someone who is too afraid to work due to immigration fears and requested community members to share resources for emergency financial assistance. The coalition agreed to compile and distribute a resource guide for immigrants facing these challenges, with David noting that educating clients about their rights has been successful in reducing anxiety.

b. **Proposition 1’s Behavioral Health Infrastructure Bond Act (**second & final round)

Last month the Governor announced the availability of more than $800 million in competitive grant funding to support behavioral health initiatives in California. This funding is a vital part of the larger Behavioral Health Transformation efforts, which are strengthening California’s approach to providing services for mental health and substance use disorders by focusing on community-based care and support.  The first round of [$3.3 billion in grant funding was announced in May](https://www.gov.ca.gov/2025/05/12/governor-newsom-announces-billions-of-dollars-for-behavioral-health-treatment-facilities-and-services-for-seriously-ill-and-homeless-thanks-to-prop-1/)and will help create over 5,000 residential treatment beds and more than 21,800 outpatient treatment slots for behavioral health care services.  Interested applicants can find details for this on the [BHCIP website.](https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/)

-The form to request a mandatory pre-application consultation (PAC) is accessible on the [application portal.](https://www.infrastructure.buildingcalhhs.com/grantees/bond-bhcip-rounds/)

- A general**informational webinar is scheduled for June 23, 2025, 1:00-2:00 pm**([register here](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_WwtlTAiHT2-SBEdfiLxGog#/registration))

- Eligible entities include counties, cities, Tribal entities, nonprofit organizations, and for-profit organizations whose projects reflect the state’s priorities and align with the facility types listed in the RFA.

    \* **The application deadline is October 28, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. \***

**Next steps**

* Shannon: Send out advocacy action items regarding emergency housing vouchers and advocacy to Addy and Ronson for distribution to the group
* Taskforce members: Send Addy resources for undocumented community members to add to guide/resource library for distribution
* Addy: Compile and distribute two separate resource guides - one for meeting follow-up and one for undocumented community resources
* Task Force Members: Follow up with Ronson if interested in applying for Round 2 of Prop 1 Behavioral Health Services funding
* **Adjournment to August 20, 2025**