**SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

**Senior Services Working Group**

**Meeting Summary**

Tuesday, July 22, 2025 @ 9:30 am

**Video Link:**

<https://youtu.be/sPkXn-h-MHI>

**Elected Officials/Representatives in Attendance:**

Janet Turner, (Congressman Ted Lieu), Moises Aglipay (Senator Mike Gipson), Bill Uphoff (Mayor, City of Lomita), Jon Kaji (Council Member, City of Torrance), Britt Huff (Council Member, City of Rolling Hills Estates)

**Others in Attendance:**

Evan Coates, (Palos Verdes Library District), Emma Kelley (Lomita), Pamela Scott (Redondo Beach), Diane Brown (Hawthorne), Lynda Kraemer, David Mach, Jesus Castro, Nena Mitchell (Torrance), Amy Phillips (Little Tokyo Service Center), Emily Brosius, David Norman, Tiana Mastrella, (Beach Cities Health District), Sunni Won (Community Promise), Kimberly D’Amico (Path), Yvonne Golub (Blue Shield), Jacki Bacharach, Ronson Chu, Addy Ajijolaiya, Miranda Wertz, Cathy Hetzer, Andreya Mulligan (SBCCOG)

**Welcome Introductions**

Hosted by Britt Huff, Council Member Rolling Hills Estates

Britt Huff, welcomes everyone and notes the great turnout and variety of attendees. Everyone was encouraged to introduce themselves in the chat.

**Presentation: City of Torrance MicroTransit System,** Presenter**:** David Mach, MicroTransit, Transit Planning Manager

David Mach presents an overview of Torrance Transit's services, including bus routes, taxi programs, and the new micro-transit program called Connect Torrance. He highlights the extensive bus network, serving 108 square miles with 12 routes and 800 bus stops, and discusses the recently opened Mary Kay Giordano Regional Transit Center. Mach also introduces the Torrance Community Transit Program for seniors and residents with disabilities, offering taxi vouchers and access to Connect Torrance, an on-demand ride-share service operating within the city. The presentation concludes with statistics on Connect Torrance's performance and potential future expansions.

He also spoke about Torrance's Connect service, a new on-demand transportation option. The service is currently in a one-year pilot program, with plans to potentially extend it. Lynda Kramer, a Commission on Aging member, shares her positive experience using Connect, highlighting its quick response time. David discusses efforts to expand service to venues like Dodger Stadium and mentions that the program is open to all Torrance residents, not just those in the Torrance Community Transit program. He encourages community outreach and offered to provide training on using the app, which is similar to Uber and Lyft.

Other places for transit include the Hollywood Bowl

**Presentation:** **Welbe Health,** Presenter: Wendy Beltran, Market Development Manager

Wendy presented information about their Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). She explains that Wellbe Health has expanded to Carson, serving the South Bay and LA County, making it more accessible for seniors in the area. Wendy shared a video presentation describing the program's comprehensive services, including medical care, transportation, and social activities. She then outlined the program's eligibility criteria, coverage details, and the various locations where Wellbe Health operates.

Wendy also shared the Wellbe Health's PACE program, which provides comprehensive healthcare services to eligible seniors. The program offers various services including medical care, physical therapy, and even a salon, all at no cost for those who qualify. Eligibility criteria include being 55 or older, living in the service area, and needing nursing facility level care. Wendy explained that 90% of participants are dually eligible for Medicare and Medi-Cal, while 9% are Medi-Cal only, and 1% are Medicare only. She also discussed the enrollment process and mentioned that the program can waive Medi-Cal share of cost fees for some participants, making it accessible to a wider range of seniors.

**Presentation: Beach Cities Health District**

Presenters**:** Emily Brosius, LCSW and David Norman, Community Services Coordinator

Emily shared an update on the Beach City's Health District's Healthy Living Campus project. The current campus building at 514 North Prospect Avenue will be vacated by March 2027 due to seismic concerns and high maintenance costs. The district has completed some initial steps, including preserving green space and relocating the Center for Health and Fitness. They are now seeking expressions of interest from developers to redevelop the 514 building space, with submissions due in early August and a developer selection expected by November. The project aims to align with the district's mission, create sustainable revenue for programs, and address seismic concerns.

Emily also spoke about the Community Services department, which supports seniors and adults with disabilities. The department offers free care management, information referrals, fitness classes, workshops, and support groups. They also provide volunteer services such as conversation companions and errand assistance. Emily highlights upcoming events including free fitness classes, a volunteer gardening day, and a "Power of Purpose" workshop, encouraging participation and providing contact information for further inquiries.

Beach Cities Health District will have their own PACE program, stating it will likely be operational in about 18 months. She also mentioned that tenants of the RCFE building have been notified to vacate by March 2027, with opportunities for interested parties to submit RFEOIs for development. Emily also stated that Beach Cities Health District's programs may be affected by Medi-Cal changes, particularly their enhanced care management pilot project, and they are monitoring how asset level changes at the state level will impact their clients.

**Update from Legislative Offices**

Janet from Ted Liu's office discusses potential impacts of recent budget decisions on Medicare, mentioning a Senate bill proposed to modify health provisions.

**SBCCOG Updates**: Jacki Bacharach, South Bay Cities Council of Governments

Jackie announced that the COG has moved to a new office building and proposes hosting the next meeting as a hybrid in-person/virtual event. She also mentioned an upcoming tour of the LAX Metro station on July 31st and ongoing work on energy efficiency programs and funding allocation from LA CASA. Jackie requests ideas for the next General Assembly topic.

**Round-robin member updates and announcements**

Grace Farwell from HELP shared several upcoming event flyers. Wendy Beltran from We'll Be Health also shared a flyer about upcoming events and classes for caregivers and seniors. See attachments

**Adjournment to September 23rd meeting**

**SAVE THE DATES: Sept 23rd, Nov 25th**