

**Measure H Citizens' Oversight Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, December 7, 2017

ATTENDEES

Advisory Board: Mercedes Márquez, Renata Simril, Christine Margiotta, Andrew Kerr, Greg Morrow

County CEO: Phil Ansell, Samangi Mudalige, Rowena Magaña, Max Stevens

I. Welcome and Introductions

Christine Margiotta, Chair of the Measure H Citizens' Oversight Advisory Board (COAB), called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. on December 7, 2017, in Room 374A of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration. Ms. Margiotta also introduced a new member to the COAB: Greg Morrow, appointed by Supervisor Kathryn Barger to represent the Fifth District.

Quorum was met at the time the meeting was called to order, with four of the five members present. The final member joined the meeting at 2:15pm.

II. Approval of September Meeting Minutes

Andy Kerr requested the minutes be amended to include a statement he made about his desire to hear from direct service providers. Mercedes Márquez made a motion to approve the minutes with the amendment. Mr. Kerr seconded the motion. All members voted "aye" and the minutes were approved.

III. Homeless Initiative Updates

Ms. Margiotta announced that speakers will be allowed two minutes for public comment.

a. Measure H Implementation

Phil Ansell, Director of the Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative (HI), shared that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) authorized HI to advance funds from July 1, 2017, based on projected revenue for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18, even though the tax did not take effect until October 1, 2017. The successful implementation of the Homeless Initiative is grounded in the deep collaboration between the County, cities, community-based organizations, and faith organizations.

b. November 9, 2017 Quarterly Homeless Initiative Report to the Board

Mr. Ansell highlighted a few data points from the quarterly report:

- From July through September 2017, 1,681 homeless families and individuals moved into housing thanks to Measure H (and/or one-time HI funding).
- 854 families and individuals were admitted to interim/crisis housing beds.
- From April to September 2017, the Countywide Benefits Entitlement Services (CBEST) teams assisted 2,320 disabled individuals with SSI and veterans' disability applications.
- From July to September 2017, Measure H outreach teams contacted over 3,700 people on the streets and in encampments. Of those, 1,721 people were linked to services, 323 placed into interim housing, and 294 were linked to permanent housing programs.

c. Collaboration with Cities/Councils of Governments

Mr. Ansell stated that, per the Board's direction, HI is very engaged with the various Councils of Governments (COGs) and a majority of the 88 cities within the County:

- HI is working with six COGs, and the Antelope Valley's equivalent, for regional coordination grants. Three contracts have been executed with the COGs and the four remaining contracts are in various stages.
- In collaboration with United Way's Home for Good, HI is providing grants to 46 cities to develop homelessness plans. On November 29, 2017, HI held a kick-off meeting, where the homeless plan template and a planning guide were reviewed. The contracts will be executed between now and February; final plans are due by the end of June 2018.
- The various amounts per city planning grant were based on the numbers from the 2017 Homeless Count. He highlighted the importance of the cities working on the same timeline and coordinating with their COGs.
- HI is also working on Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with various cities to increase the supply of permanent supportive housing (PSH). The County is committing intensive case management and clinical services, funded through Measure H and state/federal revenue administered by the County Health Agency. The MOU with the City of Los Angeles has already been executed and the County is in discussion with other cities.
- Mr. Kerr asked about the development of housing via the City of Los Angeles' Proposition HHH. Given the housing crisis, there is a large window of time before new housing will be available. Mr. Ansell said that there needs to be a wide range of solutions, including but not limited to: new construction of affordable housing, a commitment to building PSH, and expansion and utilization of rapid re-housing programs. The County is very interested in increasing the supply of housing, which HHH will also help support.
- Mr. Kerr agreed about the importance of the city planning grants. However, he noted that some of the cities do not have a sense of urgency. For example, cities need to work on their land use policies and make efforts to address NIMBY ("Not in My Backyard") outlooks. There are 46 cities that have applied for the grants that includes the development of a plan focusing on the development of PSH. These efforts will require political will and funding.
- Ms. Margiotta asked if the County has looked at quarterly projections. Mr. Ansell said that there is a 5-year goal, however, we are still ramping up. We should be able to establish annual goals by FY 2018-19.

IV. Measure H Dashboard

Michael Nailat (United Way), Josh Decell (LAHSA), and Max Stevens (CEO Research and Evaluation Services) provided a presentation on the Measure H Dashboard.

LAHSA and County CEO are in the initial stages of developing the dashboard, which is intended to be used as a public engagement tool. The dashboard will be launched in March 2018 with data from July through December 2017, with updates on a bi-annual basis. Work is being done on a methodology to process the data from the various County systems, which is an opportunity to measure success by using shared metrics. There is a need to convey the information transparently because it needs to be accessible to a broad audience. The dashboard will be enhanced over time.

The current design of the dashboard was shared. The dashboard has key metrics such as how many people were housed, number of days from engagement with the homeless services system until housed, and number of people who returned to homelessness.

- Ms. Simril asked if the data was tracking the same individuals. Mr. Nailat responded yes; however, they will need at least six months of data to capture the same group of individuals. Mr. Ansell added that, for the July through December 2017 dataset of people that are permanently housed, the first time their “returns to homelessness” can be counted will be in the January through June 2018 reporting period.
- Ms. Simril asked for further clarification on how the metrics pertain to the 2017 Homeless Count data produced by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). Mr. Kerr added that his community wants to know how many people remain homeless overall.
 - Mr. Nailat said there are ongoing discussions about the baseline data and how Measure H will impact the overall homelessness numbers. The dashboard was developed not to be too cluttered; however, more detail will be included behind these numbers.
 - Mr. Ansell added that there is a relationship between Measure H outcomes and the overall homeless population that is influenced by how many people leave and enter homelessness. Although Mr. Ansell is confident the Homeless Initiative will be successful in assisting people with exiting homelessness and retaining their housing with Measure H, there is no guarantee there will be a reduction in the total homeless population. External factors are making an impact, like the critical shortage of affordable housing, which drives up rent and in turn is driving more people into homelessness. To meaningfully stem the inflow, we need a Countywide effort to increase affordable housing. Measure H is part of the solution, but a broader solution is needed.
- Ms. Márquez asked if the data will show the breakdown by Service Planning Areas (SPAs) to help contextualize the numbers.
 - Mr. Stevens said that SPA-level data could certainly be introduced, but it needs to be presented in a way that does not confuse or mislead the public.
- Ms. Simril noted that the public wants to see a reduction in the number of people on the streets. Since taxpayers voted for both Measure H and Proposition HHH, the initial landing page should show progress, which will help the public stay supportive.
 - Mr. Stevens shared that there is a comprehensive evaluation of the Homeless Initiative being worked on that will have more detail on geography.
- Mr. Kerr pointed out that there are some cities in the County that need to develop more housing. Ms. Márquez added that the public wants to see if there is concentration in certain cities.
 - Mr. Decell said that it is challenging to attach geography to the metrics, especially since each person that is placed into housing is not always housed in the same place that they came from. LAHSA has detailed information on “Point-in-Time” (PIT) counts and other historical data and will look into linking that information to this dashboard.
- Ms. Margiotta stated that the dashboard is a call to action that should ring the alarm for progress, hold cities accountable, show where we are getting better, and where we are struggling.

- Ms. Márquez stated that a lot can be learned from the communities that already had success, for example, Seattle and Portland. These cities voted for five different bond efforts (on all levels of affordability) and were very clear with the voters about what was planned with the money. It is important to educate the public and lay the ground work for the future efforts that require their support.
- Mr. Morrow stated that the dashboard is a tool for accountability that demonstrates the effectiveness of Measure H. He inquired how the dashboard links to expenditures.
 - Mr. Ansell said that HI collects three levels of performance tracking data. There is a quarterly report, the semi-annual dashboard, and an annual report. All of these reports tie back to the Measure H funded strategies. HI will continue collecting this data and explore adding geography and PIT count information to the quarterly reports.
- Ms. Margiotta summarized the recommendations that the dashboard should include: 1) geographic context, 2) PIT count, and 3) layers of information from different reports.
- Ms. Simril also recommended that the dashboard clearly state that this is the first iteration and explain what new information is expected for the second iteration.

V. Increasing Affordable and Permanent Supportive Housing

a. Funding Opportunities

Sean Spear from the City of Los Angeles provided information on Proposition HHH, which is a voter approved \$1.2 billion bond measure that seeks to build 10,000 PSH units over the next 10 years. Although the measure will assist with development of affordable housing, it is not sufficient to fund the housing needs of all the homeless population. The City is looking at alternative mechanisms to help finance affordable housing that takes advantage of resources from the federal government and the State Department of Housing and Community Development. The City has also put forward a PSH ordinance, which provides incentives for the permit process.

Lynn Katano of the Community Development Commission provided information on a recently issued Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) that generated the acceptance of 20 affordable housing projects. She stated that the Department of Mental Health (DMH) is providing \$39 million from Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds and the CDC will issue 4% tax credit deals.

- Ms. Katano said that the CDC would like to incentivize cities outside of the unincorporated areas. For example, the City of El Monte is welcoming discussion from other cities to inform them of their successes.
- Ms. Katano indicated that No Place Like Home will issue a \$2 billion bond for construction of PSH units for chronically homeless individual with mental illness and that the CDC will issue NOFAs for these funds.
- Mr. Spear said that the City of Los Angeles is working with the County and the CDC to sync up the timing of the different NOFAs.

b. Collaboration with Cities

Mr. Ansell spoke about the MOUs with the cities to increase PSH. Beyond the City of Los Angeles, there are 16 other cities that are interested in partnering with the County. Other cities are considering PSH development but may not want to enter

into an MOU with the County. The absence of an MOU does not preclude the County from providing supportive services to PSH units built in those cities.

Ms. Márquez emphasized the importance of providing innovative technical assistance to cities to ensure success. Mr. Ansell responded that he would like to work with Ms. Márquez on putting this all together to maximize the impact to city engagement and efforts around PSH.

c. Building Public Support

Tommy Newman from United Way presented on United Way's campaign to build support for supportive housing. He flagged obstacles, such as local opposition. It is not possible to convert everyone to be supporters of PSH, but it is possible to "lift up" the existing group of supporters. People need help understanding what PSH means and to know that it already exists in our communities.

- The "Yes to Housing!" campaign will launch in January 2018. It sets a goal (over three years) to secure approval of 2,500 PSH units.
- Briefings are being planned to teach those communicating with the public on best practices to build community support. For example, people do not always understand what "permanent" means in the term PSH. The campaign seeks to educate the community on these terms.
- Mr. Newman mentioned that outreach will be through a mixture of strategies, such as newspapers, social media, and direct mail.
- Ms. Simril noted that organizational capacity is an issue, since there are approximately 1,000 new jobs that need to be filled. Mr. Ansell noted that the City and County held a job fair today. In addition, the HI team is working with the partners to collaborate on additional job fairs throughout the County in the future.

VI. Public Comment

No speaker cards were submitted and no public comments were made.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Mudalige stated that the next meeting will take place in March 2018; the date and time is yet to be finalized.

Ms. Margiotta announced the LAHSA Annual Homeless Count. The next Count will take place on January 23rd through the 25th, 2018. She encouraged everyone to sign up and volunteer.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Samangi Mudalige and Rowena Magaña

Minutes approved by: Phil Ansell