



The Los Angeles County  
**HOMELESS INITIATIVE**  
**REAL HELP. LASTING CHANGE.**

# CONFERENCE REPORT

**2<sup>ND</sup> Annual Homeless Initiative Conference**

*Partnership and Innovation to  
Prevent and Combat Homelessness*

**February 8, 2018**



On February 8, 2018, with the theme of *Partnership and Innovation to Prevent and Combat Homelessness*, over 500 stakeholders, including elected officials, County departments, cities, homeless service providers, business sector, faith-based organizations, academics, foundations, and formerly homeless residents, came together at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Homeless Initiative Conference. At the event, we reflected on our collective achievements, discussed on-the-ground experiences related to the implementation of Measure H, and planned for the future, recognizing that it will require a sustained collaboration to prevent and combat homelessness.

This Conference Report highlights key activities and discussions that took place at the Conference.

Many community members have stated that participating in efforts to pass and implement Measure H genuinely feels like being part of a “movement.” Our partnerships continue to diversify, as a growing number of jurisdictions, sectors, and coalitions contribute to addressing the human crisis of homelessness. Our collective efforts are demonstrating real results: thousands of people have already accessed help through Measure H-funded outreach and services, which are moving them out of homelessness into more stable housing.

Looking ahead into the second year of Measure H, as increased resources continue to flow into a system that prioritizes a Housing First approach, multi-jurisdictional and sectoral coordination increases, communities mobilize, and as our collective sense of urgency continues to grow, we will prevent and combat homelessness across Los Angeles County jurisdictions and neighborhoods - one family and one individual at a time.



Photo by David Blumenkrantz, MFA



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*“The theme of the conference focuses on partnership and innovation... [O]ver the span of my 30 years here in the County, I can’t think of another time where we have all come together, the County and all of its departments, the cities, service providers, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, philanthropy, the business community, and many others who are working and continue to work on one issue, and that is, homelessness.”*

**Sachi Hamai,**  
**Los Angeles County CEO**



On March 7, 2017, Los Angeles County voters resoundingly approved Measure H, a ¼ cent special sales tax dedicated to combatting and preventing homelessness. On June 13, 2017, the Board of Supervisors authorized the expenditure of the first three years of Measure H funds, unanimously approving the funding recommendations originating from a 50-person consensus-based stakeholder group. Just over six months after implementation of Measure H began, providers, communities, and County departments are making the most of the resources that the voters of Los Angeles County have provided. The data already shows the major impact of Measure H. Within the first six months of implementation from July 2017 – December 2017:

- Outreach teams contacted more than 4,000 individuals experiencing homelessness;
- More than 3,300 homeless families and adults were placed in permanent housing; and
- More than 7,000 participants entered crisis, bridge, and/or interim housing.

The funding that Measure H is providing to community-based homeless service providers throughout the County has created a need to hire over 1,000 new staff to assist homeless families and adults. On February 7, 2018, the County of Los Angeles launched a new Website (<http://jobscombattinghomelessness.org>) which provides links to employment opportunity webpages of over 60 community-based homeless service providers around the County, sorted geographically by Service Planning Area (SPA). Those interested in working to combat homelessness should visit the website and explore many exciting employment opportunities.

Thanks to the incredible synergy that has been developed through partnerships with various faith organizations, cities, County departments, Councils of Governments and homeless services providers, implementation of Measure H is moving quickly. We must continue to collaborate and build these relationships, as we continue to combat homelessness throughout the County of Los Angeles.





- **Homeless Prevention Program for Families (Strategy A1)**

*From July 2017 – December 2017, 658 families were assisted with prevention services through Family Solutions Centers. Of those 658 families, 143 families exited the program, 92 (64%) of whom, either retained their housing or transitioned into other permanent housing.*



- **Partner with Cities to Expand Rapid Re-Housing (Strategy B3)**

*From July 2017 – December 2017, 6,110 new participants were enrolled into the Rapid Re-housing (RRH) program, 1,385 RRH participants were placed in permanent housing, and 423 participants obtained employment. A total of 13,716 participants participated in the RRH program (including both new enrollees and those enrolled prior to July 2017).*

- **Facilitate Utilization of Federal Housing Subsidies (Strategy B4)**

*From July 2017 – December 2017, Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA) received 193 requests to participate in the Homeless Incentive Program (HIP). Since 2016, HIP has secured 374 rental units and housed 234 homeless individuals and families. The Public Housing Authorities of LA County, LA City, Pomona, Burbank, Pasadena, Redondo Beach, Glendale, Long Beach, and Compton have dedicated 2,089 tenant-based subsidies for permanent supportive housing this fiscal year. HACoLA executed agreements with LA City and Long Beach to provide Measure H funding for landlord incentives; similar agreements are pending with the other participating housing authorities.*



- **Interim/Bridge Housing for Those Exiting Institutions (Strategy B7)**

*From July 2017 – December 2017, the Department of Health Services (DHS) provided interim housing to 811 individuals who were discharged from institutions, including 378 from jail/prison and 155 from hospitals; 81 participants exited to a permanent housing destination.*



- **Countywide Supplemental Security Income (SSI)/Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) and Veterans Benefits Advocacy (Strategy C4/5/6)**

*From July 2017 – December 2017, Countywide Benefits Entitlement Services Teams (CBEST) assisted 4,261 disabled individuals with applications for SSI/SSDI and Veterans Benefits, 1,052 individuals were linked to and now have access to mental health services, and 1,212 participants were linked to and now have access to health services.*

- **Expansion of Jail In Reach (Strategy D2)**

*From July 2017 - December 2017, 2,556 inmates received D2 Jail In-Reach services, and 2,196 inmates were assessed with the VI-SPDAT. From September - December 2017, 139 participants were placed in bridge housing upon release.*





- **Provide Services and Rental Subsidies for Permanent Supportive Housing (Strategy D7)**

*From July 2017 - December 2017, 1,280 clients were linked to new Intensive Case Management Services (ICMS) slots, 637 clients were approved for federal rental subsidies, 354 clients received local rental subsidies, and 248 clients were placed in permanent housing.*



- **First Responders Training (Strategy E4)**

*From October 2016 – December 2017, 948 Sheriff's deputies and sergeants were trained and 251 County non-law enforcement first responders were trained, including the Departments of Parks and Recreation, Animal Care and Control, Fire, and Vector Control District. Training for police officers in other municipalities is ongoing.*

- **Countywide Outreach System (Strategy E6)**

*From July 2017 – December 2017, County outreach teams connected 2,738 individuals to services, placed 441 individuals into interim housing, and linked 359 individuals to a permanent housing program. New program components include a Countywide Web Portal for Outreach Requests and Coordinated Entry System (CES) Outreach Coordinators.*



- **Enhance the Emergency Shelter System (Strategy E8)**

*From July 2017 – December 2017, contracts were awarded to service providers for 302 new crisis and bridge housing beds for youth and single adults; 7,297 individuals entered crisis housing, bridge housing, and interim housing; and 1,064 individuals were placed in permanent housing. Data includes all participants served in programs funded in whole, or in part by Measure H.*

- **Enhanced Services for Transition Age Youth (Strategy E14)**

*From July 2016 - December 2017, 3,143 youth were assessed using the Next Step Tool; 308 transitional housing beds for youth became operational under Measure H, and 297 more beds will become available in year two. CES Education Liaisons are being established in all eight SPAs, the Homeless Youth Forum of Los Angeles (HYFLA) is advising the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), and a Youth Family Reconnection program is rolling out.*







## Experiences Implementing Measure H

**Moderator:** Phil Ansell, *Homeless Initiative*

**Panelists:** Peter Lynn, *LAHSA*  
Cheri Todoroff, *DHS*  
Benita De Frank, *City of Pomona*  
Va Lecia Adams Kellum, PhD., *St. Joseph Center*  
Veronica Lewis, *SSG/HOPICS*

Representatives from provider agencies and city and County departments shared their on-the-ground experiences related to the ramp-up and roll-out of Measure H.

### Key Discussion Points

- The importance of relationships – providers, cities, and County departments are building upon the fabric of relationships that developed in the County prior to the launch of the Homeless Initiative and during the initial period of the Homeless Initiative.
- The challenges of scaling up, both with regard to logistics and mission. All entities that are growing with Measure H must establish new processes and structures within their organizations, hire at a very rapid rate, and do so without losing sight of their mission and organizational culture.

### Implications and Next Steps

- Continue to harness relationships with various entities within the County who are also working to combat homelessness; collaborate to maximize our effectiveness as we grow.
- Be open to new team members who may transform the organization as they become a part of it.
- Make thoughtful and intentional decisions as growth takes place, and frequently assess and evaluate our progress.



*“‘Movement’ has a connotation of going somewhere, taking action, and that is what we’re really doing. We are ending homelessness for people, one person at a time, and that is ending homelessness.”*  
**Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, District 3, Chair of the Board**



# Innovating Our Way Through the Housing Crisis

**Moderator:** Monique King-Viehland, CDC/HACoLA

**Panelists:** Bill Huang, *City of Pasadena*  
Heather Anderson, *Department of Regional Planning,  
County of Los Angeles*  
Justin Dae, *Brilliant Corners*  
Kris Freed, *LA Family Housing*  
Rushmore Cervantes, *Housing & Community Investment Dept.,  
City of Los Angeles*



*"We are not in a place that we can leave anything behind, and if we need to do more, we should... I'm really here to say we are with you, we're partners, and we have a long road ahead of us."*  
**Supervisor Hilda Solis,  
District 1**

In Los Angeles County, there is a shortfall of over 500,000 affordable units for low-income households. The challenges associated with creating affordable and supportive housing are greater than ever, but with those challenges come great opportunities to explore innovative solutions.

## **Key Discussion Points**

- Most pressing challenges to affordable/supportive housing development involve siting of projects, reductions in federal funding sources, increasing rents, and difficulties with finding landlords willing to accept vouchers.
- Innovative strategies to help overcome challenges to supportive housing include:
  - Jurisdictions acting and developing a game plan in response to a series of State bills enacted in 2017.
  - Streamlining the development process with ordinances to expedite the approval process.
  - City of Los Angeles and County exploring modular construction and motel conversion for permanent supportive housing and interim housing.
- Existing financing/funding mechanisms for alternative housing models include Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool, which connects chronically homeless individuals to a rental subsidy for housing and intensive case management.
- Partnerships must be forged with the private sector, as well as the public and non-profit sector, to advance innovative housing solutions.
- Government should listen to direct service providers to understand what is happening and where innovation can take place.
- Government needs to communicate outwardly and message regionally, as well as talk to state legislators to advocate for further change.

## **Implications and Next Steps**

- Provide education about homelessness to elected officials, local mayors, and councilmembers to gain support for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH).
- Remove barriers for housing developers and shorten length of time it takes to complete a project.
- Embrace new types of relationships and partnerships outside of non-profits and social service sector.
- Explore multiple financing mechanisms and offer incentives for the private sector to partner with public sector and contribute their resources.
- Incentivize and streamline development of PSH by supporting innovative design/nontraditional housing models, and preserve existing PSH units.





## A Dialogue with Youth Advocates with Lived Experience

**Moderator:** Will Lehman, LAHSA

**Panelists:** Erika Herod, *Safe Place for Youth*  
Holly Salmon, *LA LGBT Center*  
Miracle Spicer, *Homeless Youth Forum of Los Angeles, LAHSA*  
Alison Hurst, *Safe Place for Youth*  
Simon Costello, *LA LGBT Center*  
Andrea Marchetti, *Jovenes, Inc.*

On a daily basis, homeless youth confront harrowing circumstances related to survival. Drawing on their personal experiences living with homelessness, youth advocates focused on: unique needs of this vulnerable population; successful Youth Coordinated Entry System (CES) enhancements and expansion; resource needs; and what it takes to effectively combat youth homelessness.

### **Key Discussion Points**

- Youth CES was successfully established and expanded with an infusion of Measure H funding for stronger outreach, resulting in an increase in youth being assessed; however, there is a need for more case management and housing.
- Transition aged youth (TAY) and minors have different experiences with homelessness compared to adults: how the current system measures access to services does not apply to TAY and youth.
- A stable home with a strong support system is vital for homeless TAY to achieve self-sufficiency and reach their optimal potential. For example, without a home, it is very difficult to stay in school.
- Homeless TAY are not aware of the resources available to them; these resources could have expedited their housing or even prevented homelessness in the first place.
- Homeless TAY lack resources to strengthen their job readiness to secure a meaningful job that pays the bills and helps them to be on a career path of their choice.
- Sense of empowerment is vital for homeless TAY. For example, being involved in advocacy helps the homeless TAY to continue to strive for stability and success.
- Homeless LGBTQ TAY face even greater stigmatization; gender identity is a significant barrier to accessing services and feeling accepted.

*"Homelessness is a moral crisis which will define our civic legacy in the eyes of future generations. There can be no conscientious objectors in this fight. With Measure H, we can scale up our compassion, our innovation. We cannot be timid in the face of this crisis."*

**Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, District 2**



### **Implications and Next Steps**

- Expand housing and case management capacity in the youth system. Continue to promote the Housing First Model to serve homeless TAY.
- When outreaching to TAY, be cognizant of their unique situations in order to effectively serve them.
- Strengthen coordination to increase awareness among homeless TAY, so they can better access services. In particular, seek opportunities to strengthen and expand services that focus on job readiness and creating more jobs for homeless youth.
- Community engagement is important to increase awareness of youth homelessness. Social media/apps can be effective in 1) reaching homeless TAY, and 2) can be used to educate the community that homeless TAY are not lazy, but are trying every day to achieve self-sufficiency. Consider sharing progress of how young people succeed, including photos.





## Outreach and Engagement: Lessons Learned from Street to Home

**Moderator:** Colleen Murphy, LAHSA

**Panelists:** Lt. Geoff Deedrick, *Sheriff's Department*  
Maria Funk, PhD, *Department of Mental Health*  
Meredith Berkson, *People Assisting the Homeless*  
Shari Weaver, *Harbor Interfaith*  
Zue Villareal, *Whittier Area First Day Coalition*



*"At the end of the day, homelessness impacts each and every one of us, whether it be through a family member, or through living in our community, through quality of life."*  
**Supervisor Katherine Barger, District 5**

A coordinated outreach and engagement system is vital for connecting people living on the street, with permanent homes. The discussion focused on how the model for the implementation of Homeless Initiative Strategy E6, *Countywide Outreach System*, strengthens coordination and serves as the "Air Traffic Controller" for deployment of the right outreach teams to respond to particular community needs.

### **Key Discussion Points**

- Strong coordination of the various street-based outreach teams is critical to the success of this strategy.
- Extensive efforts have been made in the rapid and large-scale expansion of outreach teams and their training.
- The collection of data from outreach teams, including evaluating the impact of outreach teams, is essential.
- Relationship building, which takes time and patience, is a key component of outreach.
- Having specialized disciplines on the Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) has been very successful.
- Law enforcement's involvement with outreach teams is to ensure staff safety, set the tone for trust and engagement, and help build bridges to needed County services.
- Strong community collaboratives are vital to being able to serve the complex needs of people experiencing homelessness.
- Centralized coordination of outreach teams need to navigate the fine line between "proactive" outreach and "reactive" outreach to make a meaningful impact on street-based homelessness. More "proactive" outreach will result in less "reactive" outreach.
- There is a significant need for additional resources. The reality is that even if a person agrees to shelter, there often aren't sufficient beds available. When resources are not available, people experiencing homelessness may lose faith in the system which can jeopardize relationships that have been built.

### **Implications and Next Steps**

- Create opportunities for community education and active engagement. Many community members want to know how they can volunteer to support the efforts.
- Need to be creative and nimble in bringing on additional resources. Partnerships with faith community should be encouraged.
- Need to be able to adjust and make enhancements to the outreach system based on ongoing experience. LAHSA and the Health Agency are working together to establish combined training modules to support ongoing training needs.
- Encourage transparency in data collection.



## Prevention and Diversion: Let's Dive In!

**Moderator:** Maia Eaglin, *St. Joseph Center*

**Panelists:** Luther Evans, *Department of Public Social Services*  
Josh Hall, *LAHSA*  
Greg Spiegel, *Inner City Law Center*  
Alynn Gausvik, *LA Family Housing*

Prevention and diversion are important components of a community's crisis response to homelessness. Los Angeles County has historically used its limited resources to combat homelessness by assisting the "literally homeless" population. With Measure H, we now have significantly more resources to put behind these two critical strategies. As providers around the County ramp up their efforts on prevention and diversion, this session focused on deepening participants' understanding of each strategy; distilling best practices based on participants' experiences, including methods for prioritization and targeting; and meeting providers' needs to ensure effective implementation.

### **Key Discussion Points**

- It is important to prioritize and target prevention/diversion services. Panelists believed that, in some cases, the poorest participants may have the best chance of keeping their housing if provided with prevention resources.
- Intervention after an individual becomes homeless is much costlier for the individual and society.
- Fair housing, employment, and racism must be addressed as prevention and diversion processes are implemented.
- Collaboration between legal teams and case managers is critical to avoid evictions.
- Private funding, e.g., philanthropy, can be used to create more flexible funds.
- Challenge of data collection; particularly for diversion services; difficult to measure outcomes because diversion participants are not entered into the homeless delivery system. Systematic reporting of legal intervention and barriers to prevention and diversion is needed.

### **Implications and Next Steps**

- Protect people in rent-stabilized housing from losing their housing and avoid the elimination of such housing from the market.
- Need to have funding behind diversion to ensure there are resources ready for participants to get housed.
- As of February 1, 2018, LAHSA has launched a Measure H-funded prevention program for individuals, in addition to the existing family prevention program.
- In an effort to have more robust legal services, LAHSA has awarded and enhanced legal services contracts.
- LAHSA is continuing to provide training to DPSS case workers on best practices.
- Data collection techniques are being refined and improved.





# Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness and Incarceration

**Moderator:** Corrin Buchanan, *Office of Diversion and Reentry, DHS*

**Panelists:** Chief Jim Hellmold, *Sheriff's Department*  
Detective Chris Zamora, *City of Long Beach*  
Michael Graff-Weisner, *Chrysallis*  
Chauntee Coleman, *SSG/HOPICS*

Homeless individuals face serious barriers to housing, services, and employment when they have criminal records and/or when their behavior is criminalized for low-level activities. The County Homeless Initiative strategies, as well as the work of the County's Office of Diversion and Re-entry (ODR), are designed to help justice-involved homeless adults overcome these barriers and achieve self-sufficiency. The questions that guided this breakout session focused on how the Homeless Initiative justice-related strategies are currently working and the opportunities to combat homelessness among people involved in the criminal justice system.

## **Key Discussion Points**

- Homelessness and incarceration are mutual risk factors and LA County administers several innovative programs that aim to reduce recidivism and improve health outcomes for vulnerable homeless individuals.
- Twenty-percent of those incarcerated in LA County jails are homeless, and thirty-percent of these are mentally ill.
- Sheriff deputies are trained to work with DMH, DHS, and LAHSA in crisis intervention and de-escalation with a goal of not arresting homeless persons; homelessness is not a crime.
- Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) approach is used by officers to contact a case manager for homeless persons under the influence. The narcotics are booked as evidence, but after a court-appointed program is completed by the homeless individual, all charges are dropped.
- Service providers use a "client driven services approach" to meet clients "where they are" and connect them to needed services, with the housing placement as the core goal of the program.
- The Jail In-Reach (JIR) program connects those who identify as homeless while jailed to the CES upon release from jail, with the goal of releasing inmates to shelter or other housing in lieu of the streets.
- The ODR utilizes a "coordinated release" process to house inmates upon release from the County jail system. Over 1,000 inmates have been housed; the target goal is to house 500 per year.
- Breaking Barriers is a program focused on skill building, job readiness, and scholarship/stipend funding, with the ultimate goal of providing permanent housing. The program currently has 200 participants.

## **Implications and Next Steps**

- Housing placement is a core goal for service providers.
- Law enforcement professionals must be trained in crisis intervention and de-escalation with the goal of not arresting homeless persons.
- The "coordinated release" from jail process is possible due to the involvement from judges, the Public Defender, and Alternate Public Defender.



## Supportive Housing: How We'll Built It Everywhere

**Moderator:** Frank Romero-Crockett, *Home for Good*  
*United Way of Greater Los Angeles*

**Panelists:** Dora Leong Gallo, *A Community of Friends*  
Helmi Hisserich, *Housing and Community Investment Dept., City of Los Angeles*  
Lisa Gritzner, *LG Strategies*  
Richard Bernard, *FM3*

Securing the funding to build supportive housing is a critical piece of the puzzle, but it is not the only necessary piece to be successful. Political and community support are key to successfully siting and developing supportive housing, but often the absence of information creates a storm of confusion and fear that can delay or even halt a project.

This session focused on research-tested messaging and public engagement strategies to build support for developing supportive housing projects, as well as a discussion of strategies and tactics for securing the political support that these projects need to be built.

### **Key Discussion Points**

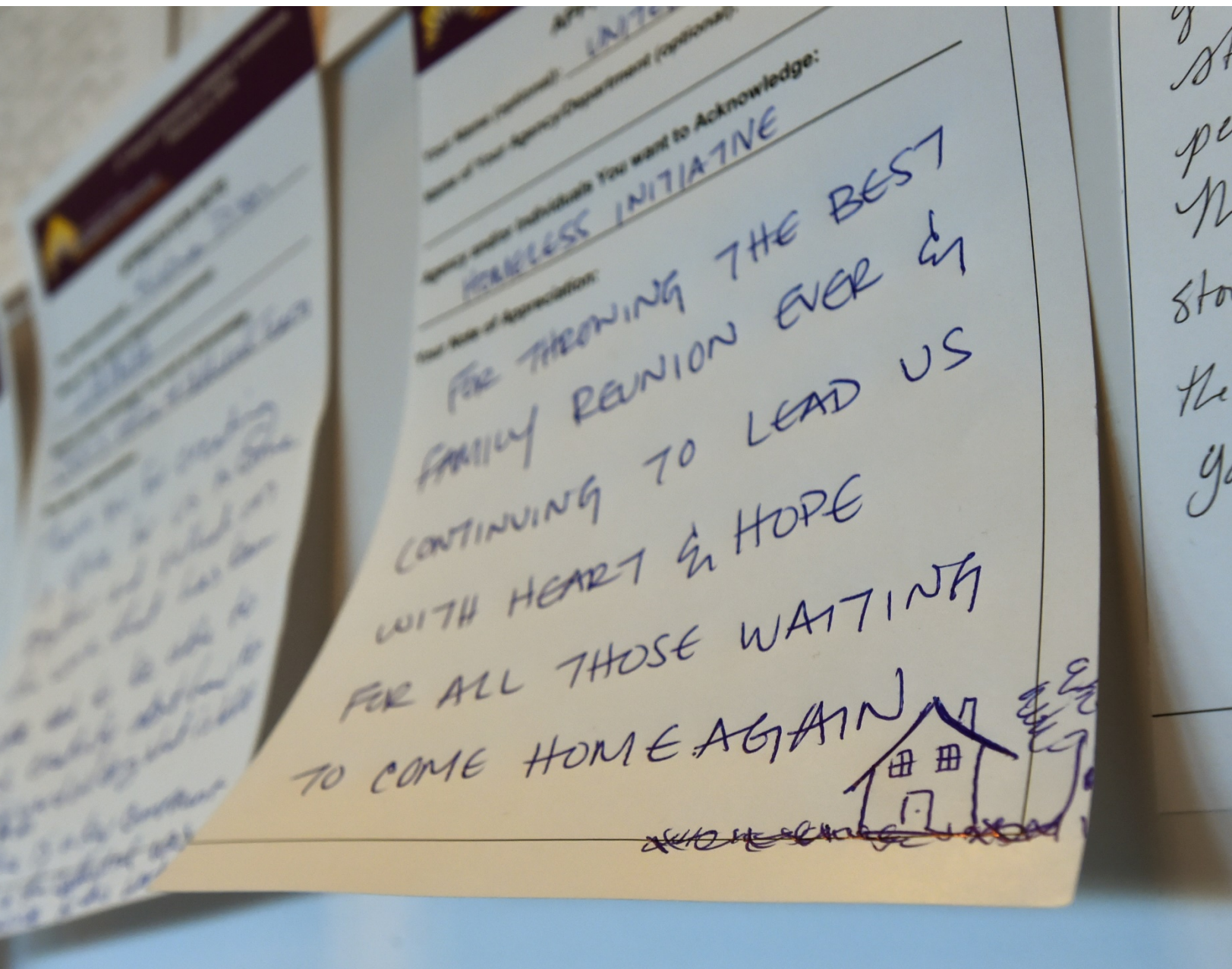
- The significant challenges in siting permanent housing:
  - Finding vacant/suitable land in the County's housing market.
  - Political will has shifted in favor of siting supportive and affordable housing, but each jurisdiction still must do its part.
  - Strategic communication with the community is imperative if progress is to be made.
- First steps toward securing approvals:
  - To avoid misinformation and confusion in the community, developers, advocates, and the public sector must ensure strong messaging and thoughtful building designs are in place and communicated to the community.
- Key issues that address misperceptions:
  - Focusing on public safety, accountability, and sensitivity to the community.
  - The appearance of the buildings and the packaging of housing to include vocational, mental health, substance abuse, and other services to aid with transition into new housing.
  - Rethink the use of the word "permanent" and avoid framing housing construction as the only solution to homelessness.
- Strategies for constructing supportive housing on public land:
  - Working in partnership with City of Los Angeles looking at publicly-owned opportunity sites - i.e. public parking lots, lands in foreclosure, donations from banks, etc.
  - Addressing the difficulty of managing rapidly growing programs and city bureaucracy, using advanced technology solutions.
  - Developing partnerships with foundations to aid with funding for pre-development work and housing developers.
- Addressing challenges in creating political will:
  - Use data to understand the community and communicate with key community representatives who can help bring support from many groups.
  - Acknowledge representatives who have helped with creating political will.
  - Lead with communication about why supportive housing is needed and repeat messaging in different formats.





### Implications and Next Steps

- Need to fill knowledge gaps and address community concerns in a consistent and tenacious manner.
- Need to get all parties (e.g. architect, case managers, organizers) to be on the same message.
- General public does not understand terms such as “supportive services” and “non-profit developer” so we need to clearly and consistently define these terms to prevent misinformation.
- The word “permanent” connotes to the public that this will be paid for, forever; it’s a handout, there’s no incentive to leave.
  - Supportive housing is a permanent solution to get someone from homelessness to home.
- Never turn your back on the community – build consistent messaging and engage community partners throughout process.
- Develop and implement strategies to keep community relationships strong to address any future concerns as quickly as possible.





## Scaling Up: Capacity-Building for Measure H

**Moderator:** Phil Ansell, *County Homeless Initiative*

**Panelists:** Emily Bradley, *Home for Good, United Way of Greater Los Angeles*  
Hazel Lopez, *The People Concern*  
Ryan Izell, *Union Station Homeless Services*  
Sarah Mahin, *LAHSA*

Measure H has provided an unprecedented amount of funding for homeless services and programs, putting tremendous pressure on service providers to rapidly ramp up and build capacity. How are providers building the infrastructure to appropriately address the influx of funding and clients, and the associated need for staff and space?

### **Key Discussion Points**

- Subcontracting has been a challenge. Risk assessment, monitoring and compliance are areas of concern for providers who have subcontractors.
- Expansion/New Office Space – Agencies are experiencing space issues due to influx of new staffing. Telecommuting and hoteling for staff who spend substantial time in the field were discussed as options. Some property owners are reluctant to lease to homeless service providers because they are concerned about people experiencing homelessness coming to their property.
- Capacity Building Consultants – LAHSA and United Way are funding current and prospective providers to bring on consultants to help build capacity.
- Staff recruitment has been difficult because of the substantial number of positions that need to be filled. Solutions include job fairs and the new County Homeless Initiative website ([JobsCombatingHomelessness.org](http://JobsCombatingHomelessness.org)).
- New Staff Training – Homeless Healthcare Los Angeles provides standardized training for new staff from any agency in the homeless services delivery system. This allows for consistent training for all new employees in the system.
- Actions taken to broaden network of providers:
  - DHS - ICMS Master Agreement: Qualifying new providers can be added to this list at any time.
  - LAHSA – Simplified RFSQ process: New agencies can apply to become authorized LAHSA contractors, which then allows them to respond to future procurement opportunities. Agencies that initially fail to qualify can receive assistance from LAHSA and from LAHSA-funded technical assistance providers.

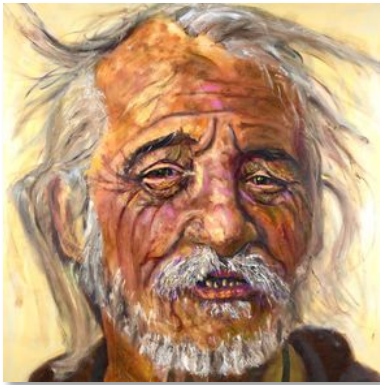
### **Implications and Next Steps**

- Coordination of capacity building efforts for smaller homeless service providers (subcontractors) including:
  - Coordinated homeless service provider staff trainings;
  - Continued support in homeless services recruiting efforts.
- Assessment of existing contract opportunities for smaller homeless service providers (subcontractors) to evaluate where barriers exist.



# FACES OF HOMELESSNESS

## Thank You for Your Contribution

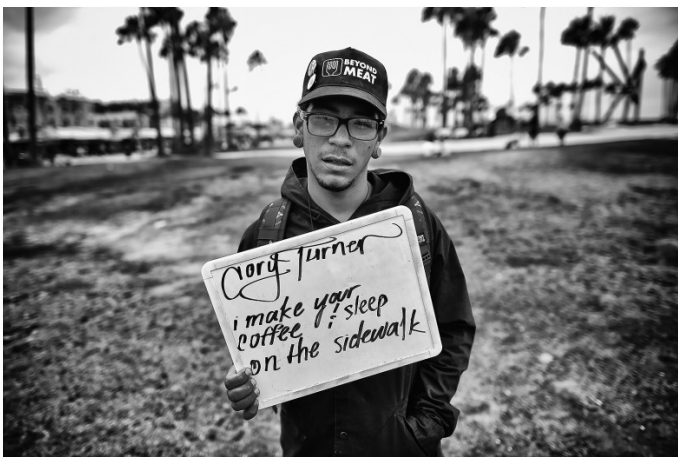


*“We are all just one thin  
experience away from  
ending up on the  
streets.”*



**Stuart D. Perlman, PhD**  
Artist with compassion and  
determination to combat  
homelessness through  
compelling, humanizing  
portraits of people  
experiencing homelessness.





*“If you could say something about yourself to anybody, what would it be?”*

**Hans Gutknecht**  
Los Angeles Daily News  
photographer driven by a  
need to show the  
humanity of the thousands  
of people who sleep on  
L.A. County streets.





# FACES OF HOMELESSNESS

## Thank You for Your Contribution



**David Blumenkrantz, MFA**  
A photography and visual communication educator for more than 20 years, David is presently involved in the One of Us project which aims to humanize homelessness through advocacy, portraiture and oral histories.



# FACES OF HOMELESSNESS

## Thank You for Your Contribution



Welcome to Skid Row



### Various Artists from The People Concern's Studio 526

A provider of integrated services to the most vulnerable and traumatized members of the community in need of assistance.



Skid Row Neighborhood Voice





**Sam Randolph**  
**Speak Up!**  
**Corporation for**  
**Supportive Housing**

"I appreciate the determination you had to want to do better for not only yourself, but your child as well. I'm inspired by your efforts and achievements. I appreciate that you continue to thrive and go for what brings you peace. I admire the fact that you never gave up and you made a role model of yourself for your son but others as well who will look and see the accomplishments and it will motivate them.

He has powerful words and words of wisdom. I hope to be as outspoken as you are. Your words and story showed me that anything is possible as long as you try and have your heart set on it."

- Erika Herod, *Safe Place for Youth*

**Will Lehman**  
**LAHSA**

"Will stepped in as the Youth CES Manager at a time of immense activity and change. Will's dedication to serving youth, to partnering with agencies, and to sustaining the momentum built in the 100-day challenge and first year of YCES is inspiring and helps our entire system during this fast paced, at times frenetic, chapter."

- Anonymous, *Safe Place for Youth*

**Holman United**  
**Methodist Church**

"I have an overwhelming gratitude to Pastor Kevin Sauls, Rev. Buie, Jennifer Blannon, and the Holman UMC congregation for always supporting SOH and our vulnerable and resilient TAY. I know that I can always count on the church leadership and congregation for your moral guidance, activism, and mobilization to create a better community for our TAY that is filled with love, hope, and wholeness. I love you and give you a great big hug."

- Janet Denise Kelly, *Sanctuary of Hope*

**CEO's Office &**  
**Cathedral Team**

"Thank you for creating a space for us to come together and reflect on the work that has been done and to be able to think creatively about how to move forward with doing what is left to do.

The space is a key component of that and the cathedral was very conducive for this work."

- Krisina Dixon, *LAHSA*

**Libby Boyce**  
**Department of Health Services**

"We go way, way back when working on the homeless issue was not popular. Thank you for your patience and for teaching me so much. Your passion is contagious so please continue to inspire us!"

- Margarita Lares, *CDC/HACoLA*





**Phil Ansell**  
**County Homeless Initiative**

"Listening to Phil address the state of the Homeless Initiative was so inspiring. Obtaining consensus between so many agencies was unprecedented, but you and your team proved it's possible. There are countless moving pieces to this initiative, and they are continuing to move – nothing is stalled. I particularly liked your switching of mindset from "yes, but" to "yes, and" I will aspire to do the same. Thank you."

- Anonymous, *County of Los Angeles, Department of Parks and Recreation*

**St. Joseph Center Team**

"Thanks for your commitment to advancing the goals of Measure H and for maintaining a 'Heart' for the work."

- Va Lecia Adams Kellum, *St. Joseph Center*

**CSH + The Speak-Up Program**  
**Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**

"Thank you for continuing to give voice to the most profound stories. Thank you to the brave people who participate in the program. Thank you for being vulnerable. Your stories inspire people to do better in the work to prevent and end homelessness. You are all so appreciated."

- Amy Turk, *Downtown Women's Center*

**Maria Funk, PhD**  
**Department of Mental Health**

"It's been a wonderful journey working with you and DMH! You have provided priceless training and emotional support to our staff. You are always there for us, and have made our work so much more rewarding. Let's keep it going!"

- Margarita Lares, *CDC / HACoLA*

**LA County Board of Supervisors,**  
**Chief Executive Office,**  
**Homeless Initiative, and**  
**All of Our Outreach Partners**

"Thank you for your support and the opportunity to serve those Angelenos most in need! The past 7 months of my 27-year County career have been the most challenging but also the most rewarding!"

LASD – HOST is dedicated to combatting homelessness, one homeless person at a time. God Bless!"

- Deputy Rodney Gutierrez,  
*LA County Sheriff's Homeless Outreach Services Team*



**Joey**  
**Allison**  
**Maria**  
**Anita**

"Thank you for being an amazing staff and giving so much of yourself to end youth homelessness. You are all amazing individuals. Keep up the fantastic work."

- Janet Denise Kelly, *Sanctuary of Hope*

**Reese McCants**  
**Kedren Acute**  
**Psychiatric Hospital**  
**and Community**  
**Mental Health**  
**Center**

"Mr. McCants works tremendously hard for all of the clients he speaks to. He makes sure, not only are they prepared for applying, qualifying, and successfully getting housing, BUT informs our providers (e.g. therapist) about housing changes. He's been so dedicated for so many years to Kedren, I have to acknowledge him of his hard work and dedication."

- Ashley V. Scott, *Kedren Community Health Center*

**Colleen Murphy**  
**LAHSA**

"I appreciate Colleen's passion to help our community take advantage of the arrival of E6 resources, and to take her time to physically attend meetings in Hollywood to help all the entities who do outreach start to work collaboratively."

- Kelly Morrison, *Hollywood 4WRD*

**Boots on the Ground at SPY**

"I am deeply grateful for the passion and commitment the team at SPY shows every individual young person that walks into our 'Hub of Hope' in Venice; and inspired by the young people that endure unimaginable experiences while unhoused, but show incredible resiliency and ability to transform their lives."

- Alison Hurst, *Safe Place for Youth*

**All of our resilient**  
**South LA TAY**

"We appreciate the resiliency you demonstrate every day despite the devastating circumstances you encounter socially and environmentally."

Your hard work and determination to better your lives through education, employment, and mentorship does not go unnoticed.

We are here to uplift you and acknowledge your courage and strength. HARAMBEE"

- Anonymous, *Sanctuary of Hope*



***Corporation for Supportive Housing,  
Department of Mental Health and  
LA Family Housing***

"Without the help of DMH and LAFH, I would still be on the streets. DMH, over 5 years ago, gave me the opportunity to heal at my own pace. Supportive Housing allowed me to heal in a safe place.

CSH gave me a voice for my story of homelessness.

Thank you everyone who helped me, again thank you!"

- Emily M., CSH – Corporation Supportive Housing

***Cheri Todoroff  
Department of Health Services***

"Congratulations on the success of your Housing for Health Program. This is a true example of, 'Where there is a will, there is a way.' Also, thank you for the many years of partnering with us, and looking forward to many more."

- Margarita Lares, CDC/HACoLA

***Jan Cicco  
San Gabriel Valley  
Council of Governments***

"Jan has been a leader and champion in addressing homelessness in Pomona and has taken on the role of bringing her ideas and organization to all the cities in SPA3. She is smart, talented and kind, and I am so glad to see her address homelessness not just in Pomona but in all of the SGV."

- Anonymous

***Pamela Griffin  
Valley Oasis***

"Pam is our champion in Service Area 1. We have so many challenges that are unique to the AV. She works incredibly hard and always has a smile. She is also always available to collaborate and help other initiatives. She must work 22 hours a day!"

- Michele Archambeault, Los Angeles County, Department of Mental Health

***Thank you for taking the time to write an appreciation note! They help provide motivation and encouragement for everyone involved.***





*Thank you all for your sustained support and creativity,  
and for making the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Homeless Initiative  
Conference possible.*

**Invocation:** Yolanda Brown, PhD., *Blessed Sacrament Parish Community*

**Resource Tables Provided by:**

Community Development Commission of the County of Los Angeles (LACDC)

Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (HACoLA)

Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH)

Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP)

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department – Homeless Outreach Services Team (LASD - HOST)

Valley Oasis – SPA 1 CES

LA Family Housing – SPA 2 CES

Union Station Homeless Services – SPA 3 CES

The People Concern – SPA 4 CES

St. Joseph Center – SPA 5 CES

Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Case System (HOPICS) – SPA 6 CES

People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) – SPA 7 CES

Harbor Interfaith Services – SPA 8 CES



**Event Sponsors:**

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Conrad N. Hilton Foundation**



