

**MEASURE H CITIZENS' OVERSIGHT ADVISORY BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, December 6, 2018  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 374A  
500 W. Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012**

**ATTENDEES**

**Advisory Board:** Christine Margiotta (Chair), Mercedes Márquez, Renata Simril, Andrew Kerr, and Rabbi Marvin Gross

**Homeless Initiative Staff:** Phil Ansell, Rowena Magaña, Tené Tate-Dickson, and Ani Yeghiyan

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

- a. Ms. Margiotta called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.
- b. Quorum was met at the time the meeting was called to order, with four members present. The remaining member arrived at 1:15 pm.

**II. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- a. The meeting minutes from the September 6, 2018 meeting were approved.
- b. Public Comment: Each speaker was allowed two minutes for public comment; one individual provided public comment.

**III. Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 Measure H Outcomes - Phil Ansell, Chief Executive Office-Homeless Initiative (CEO-HI)**

- a. Mr. Ansell presented on the 2018-19 Measure H 15-Month Report Card, which included the following highlights:
  - 9,635 individuals entered permanent housing due to Measure H funding.
  - 18,714 people entered crisis, bridge and interim housing funded in part or in whole by Measure H.
  - 4,165 clients were linked to intensive case management services (ICMS) and about 3,300 have been assigned to either a federal or local rental subsidy.
  - 1,500 new positions in homeless delivery system filled since December 2017, the bulk of which have been funded by Measure H.
- b. Ms. Simril stated that numbers without the context of the overall goals, does not give enough information. It is necessary to talk about the numbers in very plain English, so that we may communicate effectively and show the public that progress is being made. Mr. Ansell responded that the Measure H Dashboard is almost ready for release and will reflect permanent housing placements and the percentage of permanent housing placements achieved based on the goal of 45,000 within the first five years.
- c. Mr. Gross asked if the outcomes can be broken down by Service Planning Area (SPA). Mr. Ansell responded that Exhibit IV of the HI Quarterly Report breaks down the most important outcomes for the primary strategies by SPA. This data

is not cumulative, but it was previously provided for the first year of Measure H, FY 2017-18.

- d. Ms. Margiotta recognized that 16,500 people were permanently housed last year County-wide and that the County is on track to house approximately 9,000 people per year. She wanted to know if Measure H funding has supplanted other funding. Mr. Ansell responded that Measure H is not intended to supplant any other funding and that he has consistently seen significant increases systemwide for permanent housing placements.
- e. Ms. Margiotta also asked if it is possible for the HI Quarterly Report to show both the Measure H and the Countywide housing placement data. Mr. Ansell said that unfortunately, it is not possible to do this for the quarterly report because it takes longer to compile the systemwide data. He noted that the Measure H Dashboard shows both the systemwide and the Measure H subset.
- f. Mr. Gross asked if there are any warning signs for strategies that are using their funding too quickly or are lagging? Mr. Ansell noted that there has been more spending than allocated for family crisis housing. There is a policy that no family should be unsheltered; however, the homeless system is seeing more and more families. The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) will be presenting a plan to the homeless deputies next week regarding this issue. In addition, it is too early to assess underspending based on the first quarter of Measure H spending, since most services are done by contractors and there is a lag time with invoicing. Another update will be provided at the next Advisory Board meeting.
- g. Mr. Ansell also discussed the Measure H Dashboard, which is located at the following website: <http://homeless.lacounty.gov/data-dashboards/>. He noted the following information:
  - The dashboard contains interwoven success stories; this is the first time that video success stories are available.
  - Prevention Strategies A1/A5 is heavily experimental because it is notoriously difficult to predict who will become homeless. There is a need to increase funding in FY 2019-20 due to the overwhelming demand for prevention assistance.
- h. Ms. Simril asked about how the information is communicated to the taxpayers, i.e. how is it explained to the everyday person? Mr. Ansell answered that the dashboard is in a user-friendly format; however, in an effort to be transparent, sometimes there is too much information available. The goal is to make the dashboard of maximum use for the public.
  - Ms. Marquez expressed that she did not have a criticism about how the money is being used; however, she said that it is time to get it right about how the data is reported.
  - Ms. Margiotta asked whether the HI Office has communications expertise in-house. Mr. Ansell stated that he will bring together the communications experts and the data experts within the County to see what more can be done to present the data in a way that is more user-friendly.

- The Advisory Board directed staff to add an item to the March 7, 2019 meeting that will address the communications plan.
- i. Public Comment: Each speaker was allowed two minutes for public comment; five individuals provided public comments.

**IV. Ad hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness - Jacqueline Waggoner, Committee Chair**

- a. Ms. Waggoner described the work that the Ad Hoc Committee is working on and noted the following information:
  - More than 1 in 3 people experiencing homelessness in LA County are black.
  - Blacks only represent 9% of the County's population but represent 40% of the homeless population.
  - An 80-page report is forthcoming and will go before the LAHSA commission on December 21, 2018 and released to the public in February 2019.
  - Ms. Marquez requested that Ms. Waggoner return for a future meeting to brief the Advisory Board on the final report.
- b. Public Comment: Each speaker was allowed two minutes for public comment; five individuals provided public comments.

**V. Homelessness Prevention Panel Discussion - Sarah Mahin, LAHSA; Dr. Mark Ghaly, CEO; Chris Ko, United Way; and Jaqueline Waggoner, Ad hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness Chair**

- a. Ms. Mahin discussed how the inflow into homelessness has increased over the last year. Racism has been a factor as well as the lack of a strong social safety net.
- b. Ms. Waggoner said that even though the homeless count decreased last year, the inflow of people experiencing homelessness has increased. There are many people living right under the poverty line and we need to enforce policies to keep them in place, such as rent stabilization and preserving affordable housing.
- c. Dr. Ghaly spoke about the youth that exit the foster care system and enter homelessness. We need to invest in predictive analytics on who may become homeless from the Departments of Children and Family Services and Probation.
- d. Mr. Ko noted that the silver lining in the crisis is the receptivity from the public to look at systemic issues. There are structural issues, such as the housing crisis, as well as racism in the employment sector. There is also a massive issue regarding the lack of pensions and social security safety net for older adults.
- e. Ms. Simril asked if there is capacity to look at the number of units that were developed before the redevelopment agencies were dismantled. Now is the time, since we have a new Governor coming in. Mr. Ko suggested that the low-income housing tax credit eligibility requirements should be revised.

LAHSA has requested to make changes to the state's Tax Credit Allocation Committee (TCAC) policy. Another proposal could be a state housing authority that would have regional housing enforcement that could supersede the city level authority. He agreed that it is a good time to put in new proposals, since there is a new governor.

- f. Mr. Gross asked if there have been conversations about local land use restrictions. Ms. Wagoner responded that the community plans are far behind and it would be worthwhile to advocate that the state provide bonuses to the cities that are building housing.
- g. Ms. Margiotta asked about policy changes that will impact the inflow into the criminal justice system. Dr. Ghaly spoke about diversion, i.e. what can be done before a person is arrested and booked. In Los Angeles, there is a program called Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), which has been successful depending on the number of housing slots.
- h. Ms. Marquez asked how the Advisory Board could be more helpful with integrating the feedback from this prevention discussion into Measure H programming. Mr. Ansell and Dr. Ghaly will have further discussion and the Advisory Board may determine if this topic will be placed on the agenda for the March 7, 2019 meeting.
- i. Public Comment: Each speaker was allowed two minutes for public comment; three individuals provided comments.

**VI. General Public Comments**

Each speaker was allowed two minutes for public comment; seven individuals provided public comments.

**VII. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

**Minutes submitted by:** Rowena Magaña and Tené Tate-Dickson

**Minutes approved by:** Phil Ansell