

CD 15 Working Group on Homelessness Meeting April 2021

The meeting began with introductions.

Measure J Updates: Andrew Lewis presented updates on Measure J initiatives. The measure passed back in 2020. It reallocated \$300 million, from funds previously meant for the incarceration system, to community based services.

An advisory group is forming recommendations for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to act on. Ideas include housing resources for low income and people coming out of the carceral system. Other safe landing programs for people getting out of jails. Specifically this could be emergency options such as motel vouchers and wraparound services.

It was agreed that people released from prison need services to reintegrate into society such as rapid rehousing and permanent supporting housing.

Community Land Trust were also mentioned and finally a scheme that would allow tenants the first right of refusal to collectively buy a housing property if a landowner wants to sell it.

Current structure of Los Angeles housing is such that 70 percent is still zoned for single families. Culture seems to be that everyone has one space for their family. But younger people and other groups are rethinking forms of housing like social housing and subsidized housing.

There are different categories to Measure J policies including mental health.

The groups briefly talked about wealth building. There will be one or two more advisory meetings. They will review proposals and make suggestions. They will report to the board of supervisors within a month.

Lewis has access to a position paper and will make it available to the CD15 working group.

Community/Advocacy Opportunities: Pastor Lisa and Amber had two new proposals. One was conducting a survey on needs from unhoused neighbors and service providers. Anyone interested can email Amber.

The second proposal is beginning a peer to peer housing assistance program. People can pair or team up with someone who needs help. This proposal should definitely be carried out with an attempt to partner well with service providers. If anyone is interested in this type of mentorship, email Amber.

WLCAC Update: Shannon Murray gave some updates on what is happening in the Watts area.

Safe parking is coming along. In safe parking there are two families with young children and one family with an older adult dependent. Goal for Safe Parking is for there to be supportive housing for the program participants. There was also a brief mention of a new initiative to bring 150 accessory dwelling units into SPA 6.

Mayor's Office Update: Johanna Rodriguez from Mayor Garcetti's Office mentioned the city's Emergency Renter Assistance Program. The application is open through April 30.

There will be an ERAP training next week. Please tell anyone who might be struggling to pay rent in the City of Los Angeles.

Project Homekey: Haley Fuselier gave an update on Project Homekey Site. It is supposed to open on June 15. They are starting to match units with individuals. The site was a Travelodge and is on Normandie. It is a Forty room hotel. Fuselier is talking to nearby neighbors. The project manager started today at the site. The targeted age range is 55 and over, and with an emphasis of 65 and over or people especially vulnerable to COVID-19.

If hospital rates stay low and viral infection rates are low, then California will be able to ease many emergency restrictions by June 15.

Port of Los Angeles Update

Executive Director Seroka responded to the Neighborhood Council resolutions to support temporary housing for people experiencing homelessness in parking lots E and F.

At some point in the past, there was a massive fire near Lot E and F. This resulted in local pollution. There is regular monitoring of the spot toxicity. It is supposed to be remediated in the future. Not habitable. Might need to use lots E and F for West Harbor use and development. Mike Galvin seemed willing to have a personal discussion about use of port property.

The fact remains that San Pedro is about 251 beds short of being able to house everyone counted as unsheltered.

James P. Allen noted he is in favor of a safe camping site with services so that people who aren't necessarily ready or willing to go into shelter immediately can at least be humanely off of the street. There was a discussion about the pros and cons of the issue and the feasibility of port use. The question remains about if the Port of Los Angeles can be a partner.

Other Updates from around the district:

- David Mathews gave a brief overview of what's happening in gateway north. He and the local chamber are mobilizing a lot of helpful supporters to help clean up, house people while getting RV's off the street and storing food.
- Connie McOsker gave updates about harbor interfaith family shelter. Children are happy that are served by the family shelter.
- David Matthews willing to help store extra food at a warehouse or possibly distribute some.

CD15 ABH Updates (sent post-meeting)

Watts ABH

- 69 Beds filled/ 74 (decompression rate by DPH)
- Since November 2019, 44 people have been permanently housed
- March 2021: 4 people permanently housed
- 15-20 employees currently employed
- 21 clients have been fully vaccinated. Vaccination opportunities are available to everyone at ABH

Wilmington ABH

- 48/70 beds filled (decompression rate by DPH)
- Total number of people permanently housed since the site opened - 12
- Number of folks housed month of March – 0 (we did actually have 1 obtain housing independently but she refused to give us the address so we could not report as a permanent housing placement)
- employed residents - 13
- 24 residents have received both COVID vaccinations and 2 others have received their first dose
- Tom and Sara from SHARE! Housing Collaborative came to visit and our residents were a lot more open to trying to move into shared housing, and several are even going to discuss moving in together! I think they were a lot more comfortable hearing about the program directly and knowing that they would have the opportunity to return if they struggled with the accommodations.

San Pedro ABH

- 23 Beds filled/ 52 (decompression rate by DPH)
- Since November 2019, 13 people have been permanently housed
- March 2021: 7 people permanently housed
- 6 employees currently employed
- ABH has entered its fourth consecutive month without a positive COVID case. The site recently offered on-site vaccinations to residents.