



San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

3452 East Foothill Blvd. Suite 810, Pasadena, California 91107 Phone: (626) 564-9702 FAX: (626) 564-1116 E-Mail SGV@sgvcog.org

Homeless Services and Needs Assessment Study Steering Committee Meeting

MINUTES

Monday, July 14th, 2008

1:00 pm

San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
3452 E. Foothill Blvd., Suite 810
Pasadena, CA 91107

1.0 Introductions

N. Conway called the meeting to order at 1:07 pm.

Present

County CEO	G. Smith
County District 5	H. Berberian
Covina	P. Philips
Monrovia	C. Jimenez
Pasadena	B. Trimble
East SGV Homeless Consortium	J. Cicco
Union Station Foundation	L. Johnson
CSH Project Team	D. Howden
	R. Schwartz
	J. Colletti
	J. McDermott
	P. Kradin
COG Staff	N. Conway
	B. Cooke

2.0 Project Update and Discussion

The consultants highlighted their major activities in recent weeks and referred committee members to the attached progress report.

2.1 City & Town Council Interviews & Questionnaires

The consultant distributed the questionnaire to every city in the San Gabriel Valley and has since spoken with representatives from 23 of the 31 member agencies. The team anticipates to have made contact with a representative from every city by the end of July.

2.2 Service Provider Surveys & Master List Development

The consultant has completed the data collection portion as it relates to service providers and is in the process of analyzing the data. The consultant has received almost all of the completed short-term housing surveys they

distributed to service providers and based on this data it appears there are approximately 169 emergency shelter beds and 247 transitional housing beds in the region.

In addition, the consultant has met with six access centers and ten outreach teams and developed a permanent housing inventory as well. Preliminary analysis shows that the lack of housing available in the San Gabriel Valley results in most referrals going outside of the region, primarily to San Bernardino and Riverside. There was discussion as to whether individuals were referred to or from the skid row area as members have noticed a decline of the homeless population in this area. The consultant reported that a major service provider in that area has had to reduce its bed count from more than 600 to 400 due to lack of funding. The impact of this reduction is yet to be determined.

Data describing winter shelters is also being collected and preliminary analysis reveals some distinction in the population profile being served in various parts of the region. The consultant is also collecting caseload information from the County Department of Public Social Services to identify any trends or differences in various parts of the San Gabriel Valley. A master list of all service providers in the San Gabriel Valley has been created and will continue to be added to as needed.

There was discussion of San Gabriel Valley's historical funding pattern for homeless services and its impact on the current physical and social infrastructure. This pattern is impacted by the HUD Continuum of Care application process that began in 1995. It was stated that during the first few years, only the City of Pasadena applied for this funding as there was a lack of agencies able to take advantage of the opportunity in the rest of the San Gabriel Valley. This has contributed to current challenges in accessing these funds as there are limited qualified agencies, primarily large jurisdictions, and the majority of HUD awards are renewal contracts. As funding opportunities continue to become available (ie. LAHSA rapid re-housing funds), SPA 3 is challenged in its lack of capacity and qualifications to apply. Committee members asked the project team to incorporate this pertinent background information into their analysis and report.

There was also discussion about the role that City, County and community or not-for-profit public health agencies do or do not play in providing additional resources and support for service to homeless populations. It was noted that the Cities of Long Beach and Pasadena are the only cities in Los Angeles County with their own Public Health Departments and both cities are recognized for their advanced homeless service networks. Examining the role of these public health organizations is an important step in helping the East San Gabriel Valley get the needed infrastructure for homeless services.

2.3 Housing Element & Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report Collection

The consultant team has reviewed all available updated housing elements for the purpose of identifying housing programs and understanding that community's perspective of the homeless population and needs in their jurisdiction. COG staff will assist team members in obtaining the any newly released documents. It was noted that the San Gabriel Valley has a high compliance rate for submission of Housing Elements to the State.

2.4 Faith-based Organization Interviews

The consultant team has contacted the 472 faith-based organizations identified by COG staff. Of that number, they received 90 responses. Preliminary findings show that less than 20% of responding organizations provide any assistance, typically in the form of emergency food or clothing. There was a general lack of knowledge as to where to refer homeless individuals, and most agencies reported referring them to the cities of Pomona, Pasadena, and Glendale. Staff confirmed that the list includes organizations representing a variety of religions and ethnic groups.

It was recommended that the consultant team also contact universities and colleges to find out if their departments or students provide any services to the homeless.

Committee members asked if there were any preliminary findings describing the profile of the homeless population in the San Gabriel Valley. The consultant reported that they are collecting data on numerous subpopulations, including veterans and families. While final numbers are not yet available, it appears that there are fewer homeless veterans in the San Gabriel Valley than in other areas. It was also reported that more than half of the emergency beds in the region are dedicated to families.

3.0 Review Project Schedule

The draft report will be submitted on August 1st and will be largely comprised of preliminary data including tables and charts. COG staff will distribute this report to committee members on Monday, August 4th. The committee will then have ten days to review and make comments before it convenes on August 18th. It was agreed that the August 18th meeting would be moved to 12:00 pm and lunch will be provided. Committee members should anticipate a lengthier meeting as the draft report will be collectively reviewed at this time.

4.0 Phase I Draft Report – August 1st

See above.

5.0 Set next meeting date

The next meeting is scheduled for August 18th at 12:00 pm at the COG offices.

6.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.