



**San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership
West Valley Regional Steering Committee**

Wednesday March 10, 2021 • 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Join Zoom Video Conference hosted by the City of Rancho Cucamonga:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85194946723?pwd=TUh0cHZGM1JEZ0l3S1l3YXFEUnAvQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 9494 6723- Password: 183200

Dial in +1 669 900 6833 - One tap mobile +16699006833,,89595982006# US (San Jose)

AGENDA

OPENING REMARKS	PRESENTER
A. Call to Order B. Welcome and Introductions	Erika Lewis-Huntley Don Smith
REPORTS & UPDATES	
C. Interagency Council on Homelessness D. Homeless Provider Network E. Office of Homeless Services F. Regional City & Service Partners	Erika Lewis-Huntley Don Smith OHS staff member Committee Members
CONSENT ITEM	
G. Approve Meeting Minutes from February 10, 2021 (tabled to next meeting)	Erika Lewis-Huntley
DISCUSSION ITEMS	
H. Update - COVID-19 Vaccination Access, Outreach and Education I. Update - U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program J. Confronting uHousing and Homeless Challenges through a Racial-Ethnic-Gender Equity Lens	Don Smith Erika Lewis-Huntley Dr. Rene Keres, DBH Ken Bell, ISCUW
CLOSING	
K. Public Comment (3 mins) L. Steering Committee Member Roundtable M. Adjournment	Don Smith Erika Lewis-Huntley
<p>Next Scheduled Meeting: West Valley Regional Steering Committee Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 9:00am – 11:00am Goldy S. Lewis Community Center – Creative Corner Room (tentative, if able) 11200 Baseline Rd., Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91701</p>	

Mission Statement

The Mission of the San Bernardino County Homeless Partnership is to provide a system of care that is inclusive, well planned, coordinated and evaluated and is accessible to all who are homeless and those at-risk of becoming homeless.

THE SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY HOMELESS PARTNERSHIP MEETING FACILITY IS ACCESSIBLE TO PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES. IF ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES OR OTHER AUXILIARY AIDS OR SERVICES ARE NEEDED IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC MEETING, REQUESTS SHOULD BE MADE THROUGH THE OFFICE OF HOMELESS SERVICES AT LEAST THREE (3) BUSINESS DAYS PRIOR TO THE PARTNERSHIP MEETING. THE OFFICE OF HOMELESS SERVICES TELEPHONE NUMBER IS (909) 386-8297 AND THE OFFICE IS LOCATED AT 303 E. VANDERBILT WAY SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92415. <http://www.sbcounty.gov/sbchp/>

AGENDA AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION CAN BE OBTAINED AT 303 E VANDERBILT WAY, SAN BERNARDINO, CA 92415 OR BY EMAIL: HOMELESSRFP@HSS.SBCOUNTY.GOV.

West Valley Regional Steering Committee Meeting – 2/10/21

Much appreciation to everyone who joined us for the West Valley Regional Steering Committee Meeting on February 10th. A quick recap of some of the information shared at our RSC Meeting –

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Access, Outreach & Education** – First, on behalf of all of us in attendance, I want to extend a big thank you to Dori Baeza from Community Vital Signs, County Department of Public Health, for stepping up on the spot to respond to some of the questions and concerns on this topic raised during the meeting.

Over the last couple of months, a significant number of our community-based service partners have experienced COVID+ test results and subsequent illness among their staff and residential program guests. Currently, the County is in Phase 1B Tier 1 of the Vaccine Allocation Plan. Homeless service providers are currently included in Phase 1C and people experiencing homelessness (PEH) are included in Phase 1B Tier 2. The Homeless Provider Network (HPN) leadership is currently lobbying county executives for our provider partners to be bumped up to Phase 1B. In addition, we have requested the assignment of a Public Health Department liaison to the SBC Homeless Partnership to assist us with COVID-19 education, outreach, resource access and incident response in support of our service provider community and the people we serve. The HPN is planning to conduct a public forum on this topic in the coming weeks. In the meantime, all County residents 65 years of age and older are eligible to register for a vaccine appointment on the County's COVID-19 webpage.

Irrespective of pending vaccination opportunities, we must all remain vigilant and continue taking all precautions possible to prevent the transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19 (before, during and after vaccine roll out) including – Wearing masks, social distancing, avoiding crowds and washing your hands or using hand sanitizer regularly. For all COVID-19 related information, including case statistics, FAQs, guidelines and resources, visit the County's COVID-19 webpage at <http://sbccovid19.com/>. Residents of San Bernardino County may also call the COVID-19 helpline at (909) 387-3911 for general information and resources about the virus. The phone line is NOT for medical calls and is available Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you have questions about social services, please call 211.

- **Federal Treasury Dept. Emergency Rental Assistance Program** – As announced last month, the County has received over \$52 million from the Dept. of Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funded under the federal COVID Relief package adopted in December. The Treasury Dept. ERAP funding is available to provide rental assistance to households at 80% or below AMI with a COVID-related financial hardship and at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Since we last meet, the State announced that the County has been allocated an additional \$56 million from the state's allocation of federal ERAP funding. To access the state funding, the County would have to agree to combine both pots of funding and implement the State-designed ERAP program which is offering to pay landlords 80% of their outstanding rent debt if they agree to forgive the other 20%. Qualifying tenants with landlords that do not agree to the 80/20 deal can apply to receive assistance with 25% of their outstanding rent debt. The County has until February 12th to decide whether to: A. Cede our share of the ERAP funding to the State to implement the State program; B. Accept the state funding allocation and administer the State program with the combined funds; C. Cede the State funding allocation to the State program and administer a separate County designed program with the funding received directly from the federal government. The objective under any of these options is to begin program implementation by mid-March.

Should the County decide to go with option B or C, we will continue our strategic discussions on establishing a coordinated and collaborative ERAP service delivery approach within our region. If your agency/organization is currently delivering eviction prevention rental assistance service activities within the West Valley Region, please contact me. Stay tuned.

- **City Partner Updates –**

- **City of Ontario** - Short term rental and utility assistance program: 137 households served to date with \$784k spent (avg. assistance per household \$4,640). Taking applications in-person or by mail. Information and application at www.ontarioca.gov/housing. The City also hosted a panel discussion on Eviction Prevention Law with Inland Counties Legal Services on January 20. Considering doing an “unsheltered count” in the City later this year.
- **City of Chino** - Providing rental and utility assistance for residents - 43 households to date. SWAG & Quality of Life Team working in field and conducting outreach on Saturdays. There is an increase of new individuals to the city.
- **City of Chino Hills** - Executing transfer agreement with Habitat for Humanity for 2 single family homes for low-income veterans. Waiting on final approval for state PLHA grant to develop 50 senior housing units.
- **City of Montclair** – Recently made connection with Helpful Honda program. Contract has been executed with County for new HHAP-funded project. Gabe has identified a vacant property in the City for a prospective project development opportunity (see Haven for Hope below).
- **City of Rancho Cucamonga** - Completed Phase 2 of the CARES Act emergency rental assistance funding - over \$757k to fund 175 applications and still have a few hundred applicants they were not able to assist. Hosted a Housing Rights webinar on January 27 with Inland Fair Housing and Inland Counties Legal Services. Local Girl Scout troop put together care packages with blankets for the PITC. City staff working to distribute them to those in need.
- **City of Upland** – HEAP funds have been fully utilized - 30 households assisted with housing placement. Currently using \$123k in CARES Act funding to provide rental assistance – applicant screening every Monday. InnROADS staff conducting outreach with Upland PD Impact Team. Residents are calling in new homeless encampments.

- **CoC Updates** – In January, the ICH welcomed four new members – County Supervisors Janice Rutherford and Joe Baca, Jr., San Bernardino Councilmember Kimberly Calvin and Assistant Sheriff Robert Wickum. The FY20 HUD CoC funding competition has been officially suspended and all of the current CoC funded projects in good standing were renewed at current funding levels for an additional year. The Office of Homeless Services has submitted applications to the state for Round 2 funding under the Homeless Housing, Assistance and Prevention Program (HHAP), including \$1.4 million allocated to the CoC and \$1.3 million allocated to the County. Some of the ICH Regional leaders are lobbying for both pots of HHAP funding to be allocated to the Regional Steering Committees.

The ICH is developing a Training and Education schedule for 2021 to support capacity building and other areas of interest for providers and other stakeholders in our SBC Homeless Partnership. To launch this effort, DBH is seeking input to gauge interest and assist with planning for an upcoming Mental Health First Aid course. Youth and Adult Mental Health First Aid is an 8-hour course that teaches how to help adolescents and adults experiencing a mental health, addiction or other form of behavioral health crisis. The class would be conducted virtually. If you might be interested in participating in this workshop, please click on the link to access a brief survey on this topic - <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KYTNVDY>. Responses are needed by Friday, February 12, 2021.

- **Biden Administration COVID Relief Package** – The Biden Administration’s proposed COVID-19 Relief Package currently includes: \$19 billion for additional emergency rental assistance; \$5 billion for emergency housing vouchers; \$5 billion to assist people experiencing homelessness with immediate and longer-term assistance; \$9.96 billion for homeowner foreclosure assistance; and \$5 billion for utility assistance through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. The COVID Relief package is currently going through the congressional budget reconciliation process with the goal of final adoption by mid-March.

- **Haven for Hope** – Gabe raised the idea of exploring opportunities to create a “service-enriched interim housing setting” within our region, along the lines of Haven for Hope in San Antonio, Texas – www.havenforhope.org and has identified a prospective location in the City of Montclair. If you are interested in being a part of an exploratory discussion on this topic, please reach out to Gabe or me and we will set up a meeting in the near future.
- **Mercy House** has funding available for one-time assistance with security deposit and/or first month’s rent in support of rapid rehousing that they need to spend over the next few weeks. If you are in touch with any consumers who have identified a prospective rental housing opportunity and need help with move-in costs, please contact Vanessa Medina at 909-391-2630, vanessam@mercyhouse.net.
- **Homeless Veteran Community Planning Group (HVCPG)** – Congratulations to the San Bernardino County HVCPG which last month announced the 1500th homeless veteran to achieve permanent housing over the last 4 years under this multi-agency collaborative. KNBC News ran a wonderful story on the HVCPG and the beneficiary of this milestone achievement. You can watch this story at the following link - <https://youtu.be/xt-QOrcRu0M>
- **211 and CES Data** – Ken shared with the group some 211 and CES activity data for the month of January. The top three requests for assistance received by 211 from West Valley Region residents included Food/Meals, Housing and Utility Assistance (see attached). The Countywide stats for the Coordinated Entry System in the month of January -

CES (Homeless Assistance) Productivity Report January 2021	
Calls Received:	1,590
Calls Handled:	1,527
Clients Assessed:	47
Referrals:	26
Housed:	14

- **Housing Authority of the County of San Bernardino** – Amanda announced that the Housing Authority received approval from HUD for an increase in the mainstream housing voucher program payment standards effective March 1. She also shared updates on the MTW, VASH and HOPWA voucher programs and a new family reunification program in partnership with Children and Family Services. Amanda was invited to give a full presentation on the current Housing Authority program activities at our next West Valley RSC Meeting in March.
- **7th Annual Foster and Homeless Youth Services Summit** – Brenda Dowdy announced that this event will be a Virtual Summit this year and will be held on March 11th, from 9am – 3pm (see flyer attached).

Thank you for your partnership.

Don Smith, Co-Chair

West Valley Regional Steering Committee

West Valley Regional Steering Committee Meeting – 1/13/21

- Project Roomkey–Montclair** – Following an aggressive, countywide focus on successful exit planning, the County-funded Project Roomkey (PRK) activities in the West Valley Region came to an end on January 4th. City of Montclair expended approximately \$233k in PRK funding to shelter 29 individuals over the course of 249 nights. Destination upon exit for the 29 participants included - 45% to rental housing (including 9 to shared housing), 14% to family or friend, and 38% to unknown destinations

Great Big Thank You to the **City of Montclair** for hosting our regional PRK effort and to all those who contributed to the service delivery effort including Gabe, Robert and Denise from Montclair Code Enforcement, Pastors Don and Ethel from the Christian Development Center in Montclair, Za Zette on behalf of Team Heart and the Pathways Network, Desiree and Don on behalf of the Pathways Network and Impact SoCal, and all of the DBH staff members who contributed to the effort.

Project Roomkey - Montclair	Participants	
4/30/20 - 1/4/21	249 nights	\$233,940
# of participants	29	
Females	14	48%
Males	15	52%
65 years old or older	16	55%
Health Condition	16	55%
COVID + clear	2	7%
City where identified		
Chino	8	28%
Montclair	7	24%
Ontario	3	10%
Rancho Cucamonga	6	21%
Upland	5	17%
Income		
\$0 income	10	34%
Below \$1000/month	6	21%
\$1,000 - \$1,500	7	24%
Above \$1,500	6	21%
Destination upon Exit		
Rental Housing	13	45%
Family or Friend	4	14%
Residential Rehab	1	3%
Unknown	11	38%