



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BLUE-RIBBON COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS**

**KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012**



Wednesday, September 22, 2021

10:00 AM

AUDIO FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING (21-3890)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order. (21-3560)

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Ms. Mary Wickham, Executive Director, Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness.

Present: Commissioner Sarah Dusseault, Commissioner Theane Evangelis, Commissioner Wendy Greuel, Commissioner Christian Horvath, Commissioner LaCheryl Porter, Commissioner Marcel Rodarte, Commissioner Vanessa Sedano, and Commissioner Becky A. Shevlin

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Welcome by Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer. (21-3634)

Ms. Fesia Davenport, Chief Executive Officer, introduced herself and welcomed the commissioners of the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH).

No members of the public commented on this item.

Attachments: [LACo Housing or Services to People Experiencing Homelessness Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

2. Welcome by Rodrigo Castro-Silva, County Counsel. (21-3649)

Mr. Rodrigo Castro-Silva, County Counsel, introduced himself and welcomed the commissioners of the BRCH.

No members of the public commented on this item.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

3. Approval of the September 8, 2021 meeting minutes. (21-3561)

Commissioner Horvath made a friendly amendment to correct a spelling error in Item 5 of the September 8, 2021 minutes.

No member of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Greuel, seconded by Commissioner Dusseault, and duly carried by the following vote, the BRCH approved the September 8, 2021 minutes as amended:

Ayes: 8 – Commissioner Dusseault, Commissioner Evangelis, Commissioner Greuel, Commissioner Horvath, Commissioner Porter, Commissioner Rodarte, Commissioner Sedano, Commissioner Shevlin

Attachments: [September 8, 2021 Draft Minutes](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

4. Overview of Website Access and Call-in Instructions for Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness Meetings. (21-3561)

Ms. Wickham provided an overview of the meeting information available on the BRCH's website. Commissioner Dusseault inquired about whether the instructions for providing public comment would be available on the website. Ms. Wickham provided that the instructions are available on each meeting agenda and that the agendas are posted to the website. Ms. Wickham recommended keeping an item on the agenda to ensure that the public comment system is working for members of the public.

No member of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Horvath, seconded by Commissioner Greuel, and duly carried by the following vote, the BRCH received the information presented:

Ayes: 8 – Commissioner Dusseault, Commissioner Evangelis, Commissioner Greuel, Commissioner Horvath, Commissioner Porter, Commissioner Rodarte, Commissioner Sedano, Commissioner Shevlin

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

5. Introduction of Commissioner Theane Evangelis to the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness. (21-3693)

Commissioner Theane Evangelis introduced herself and provided a brief background and highlights of her current and past work in the community.

No members of the public commented on this item.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

II. DISCUSSIONS AND ACTIONS

6. Nominations and Elections of Co-Chairs of the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness. (21-3368)

Ms. Wickham requested nominations for Co-Chairs of the BRCH. Commissioner Evangelis nominated Commissioner Dusseault. Commissioner Greuel inquired if any of the commissioners were interested in being nominated. Commissioner Horvath and Commissioner Rodarte stated that they were interested in being nominated. Commissioner Rodarte nominated himself. Commissioner Shevlin nominated Commissioner Horvath.

On motion of Commissioner Greuel, seconded by Commissioner Horvath, and duly carried by the following vote, the BRCH closed the nominations:

**Ayes: 8 – Commissioner Dusseault, Commissioner Evangelis,
 Commissioner Greuel, Commissioner Horvath,
 Commissioner Porter, Commissioner Rodarte,
 Commissioner Sedano, Commissioner Shevlin**

Ms. Wickham called for the election of the Co-Chairs from the nominees:

Commissioner Dusseault:

- 7 – Commissioner Dusseault, Commissioner Evangelis, Commissioner Greuel, Commissioner Horvath, Commissioner Porter, Commissioner Sedano, Commissioner Shevlin

Commissioner Horvath:

- 7 – Commissioner Dusseault, Commissioner Evangelis, Commissioner Greuel, Commissioner Horvath, Commissioner Porter, Commissioner Sedano, Commissioner Shevlin

Abstain: 1 – Commissioner Rodarte

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Greuel, seconded by Commissioner Porter, and duly carried by the following vote, the BRCH accepted the results of the election of Co-Chairs Dusseault and Horvath:

- Aye: 8 – Commissioner Dusseault, Commissioner Evangelis, Commissioner Greuel, Commissioner Horvath, Commissioner Porter, Commissioner Rodarte, Commissioner Sedano, Commissioner Shevlin

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

7. Overview, Discussion, and Action on the Landscape of Homelessness by the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA).
 - a. D'Artangan Scorza, Ph.D., Director of Racial Equity, CEO Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative (ARDI)
 - b. Tiffany Duvernay-Smith, Lived Experience Advisory Group Coordinator, LAHSA
 - c. Heidi Marston, Executive Director, and Molly Rysman, Chief Programs Officer, LAHSA
 - d. Cheri Todoroff, Director, CEO Homeless Initiative (21-3563)

Ms. Duvernay-Smith provided an overview of the Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB) and the Homeless Youth Forum LA (HYFLA). She expressed the importance of including, and engaging with, people with lived experience. Commissioner Dusseault inquired how to get the perspective of people with lived experience on the issue of governance as distinct from operations. Ms. Duvernay-Smith encouraged the BRCH to engage with the LEAB to connect the BRCH with the larger community of people with lived experience. Commissioner Porter stated her interest in future meetings with people with lived experience to get feedback on governance. Ms. Rysman invited the commissioners to attend public meetings of the LEAB on the first Friday of every month at 10:00 a.m.

Ms. Marston and Ms. Rysman provided an overview of LAHSA and the history of federal, state, and local homelessness policies. Ms. Rysman opened the presentation with a land acknowledgement. Commissioner Greuel requested additional information about continuums of care at a future meeting. Commissioner Evangelis inquired about the difference between LAHSA's role as a system administrator versus as a funding or grant administrator. Ms. Rysman provided that Los Angeles County is unique because of the many sources of funding for homelessness services from federal, state, and local governments and private philanthropy. Commissioner Evangelis inquired about funding for related services, including mental health services. Ms. Rysman and Ms. Marston advised LAHSA maintains partnerships with County departments with distinct funding streams for their services. Commissioner Horvath inquired whether LAHSA lobbies the state and federal governments regarding the complexity of limitations on funding for homeless services. Ms. Marston provided that LAHSA does work with legislators on bill language and Ms. Rysman provided the federal government is creating new tools that may reduce funding complexities. Commissioner Porter inquired whether LAHSA could lead more on housing supply. Ms. Rysman indicated unit acquisition is becoming more important.

Ms. Wickham requested the BRCH turn its attention to Dr. Scorza's presentation and then return to Ms. Marston and Ms. Rysman's presentation.

Dr. Scorza provided an overview of the importance of doing work principled on equity and justice. Dr. Scorza opened the presentation with a land acknowledgement. Commissioner Porter inquired if CEO ARDI was working with LAHSA on equity issues. Dr. Scorza shared LAHSA has its own equity office and the ARDI is working within the County to implement the recommendations of the LAHSA Commission's Ad Hoc Committee on Black People Experiencing Homelessness. Commissioner Dusseault inquired whether County departments are working on equity at the level of specific interventions, below the abstract level. Dr. Scorza indicated the ARDI is working with County departments to meet program, project, and outcome design needs.

Ms. Marston and Ms. Rysman continued their presentation. Commissioner Dusseault requested additional information on systems gaps and requested confirmation of the cost analysis provided in the presentation. Commissioner Evangelis inquired whether the costs presented included the construction and operation of temporary and permanent shelters. Ms. Marston indicated the construction cost is presented separately from the ongoing operations cost.

Ms. Todoroff provided an overview of the CEO Homeless Initiative, Measure H funding, and ongoing strategic planning. Commissioner Greuel requested more information on how much Measure H funding is going to each County department. Ms. Todoroff indicated CEO Homeless Initiative would prepare that information and described how less-proscribed funding was used to fill the gaps between proscribed-use funding. Commissioner Dusseault inquired how the work of the BRCH would coordinate with Measure H strategic planning. Commissioner Dusseault requested information on how much Measure H funding was going to each city. Ms. Todoroff indicated that CEO Homeless Initiative would prepare that information. Commissioner Horvath stated his interest in more granular information on Measure H funding, including outcome metrics to understand whether the funded programs are working.

No member of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Evangelis, seconded by Commissioner Duseault, and duly carried by the following vote, the BRCH received the filed the presentations presented:

Ayes: 7 – Commissioner Duseault, Commissioner Evangelis, Commissioner Greuel, Commissioner Horvath, Commissioner Porter, Commissioner Sedano, Commissioner Shevlin

Absent: 1 – Commissioner Rodarte

Attachments: [Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Presentation](#)
[Lived Experience Presentation](#)
[LAHSA Presentation](#)
[CEO Homeless Initiative Presentation](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

8. Overview, Discussion, and Appropriate Action on the Joint Powers Agreement by County Counsel. (21-2635)

Aleen Langton, Principal Deputy County Counsel, and Ana Lai, Senior Deputy County Counsel presented an overview of the Joint Powers Agreement between the County and the City of Los Angeles establishing LAHSA.

No member of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Horvath, seconded by Commissioner Greuel, and duly carried by the following vote, the BRCH received the filed the presentation presented:

Ayes: 7 – Commissioner Dusseault, Commissioner Evangelis, Commissioner Greuel, Commissioner Horvath, Commissioner Porter, Commissioner Sedano, Commissioner Shevlin

Absent: 1 – Commissioner Rodarte

Attachments: [County Counsel Presentation](#)
[Joint Powers Agreement, dated February 28, 2001](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

III. MISCELLANEOUS

MATTERS NOT POSTED

9. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the BRCH, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (21-3564)

Commissioner Horvath inquired whether the BRCH needed to take action on having future virtual meetings in response to a recent executive order by Governor Newsom. Ms. Wickham indicated that the Board of Supervisors and County Counsel would provide guidance on future virtual meetings.

Commissioner Dusseault requested a report-back on how CEO Homeless Initiative is incorporating the information received from its outreach to the cities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

7. Opportunity for members of the public to address the BRCH on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the BRCH.

You may submit public comment by email to BRCH@brch.lacounty.gov.

Written public comment or documentation must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the scheduled meeting. Please include the agenda item and meeting date in your correspondence. Correspondence received shall become part of the official record. (21-3565)

No members of the public addressed the BRCH.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

ADJOURNMENT

7. Adjournment for the BRCH meeting of September 22, 2021. (21-3566)

Ms. Wickham adjourned the meeting at 1:21 p.m. The next meeting of the BRCH will be held on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.