



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is the mission of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (“BRCH”)?

Its mission was to “conduct a comprehensive study of LAHSA’s Governance structure by reviewing existing reports and recommendations, identify and analyze the challenges inherent to the existing system, and to provide recommendations to change and improve its efficiency.” The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to create the BRCH to do the following:

- “[R]esearch and analyze various homelessness governance reports, studying models from across the nation”;
- Provide “feedback to the Board regarding the most relevant and effective models with the intention of implementing reform to help solve the homelessness crisis in Los Angeles County”;
- “[P]rovide a report that includes recommendations for a new governance model that is appropriate for Los Angeles County (addressing the existing Joint Powers Authority) – incorporating the diverse needs of the region, its 88 cities, and, and the Unincorporated Communities which the Board of Supervisors directly represents”;
- The “report should reflect the various legal and legislative issues that are impacting homelessness policy”;
- “The report should and its recommendations should seek to enhance accountability, transparency, and inclusivity”; and
- “The report should include recommendations on how cities, Councils of Government, or regional representatives could be incorporated into an effective governance structure to address the homelessness crisis.”

2. When was the BRCH established?

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted to create the BRCH on July 27, 2021, and appointed Mary Wickham as Executive Director on August 31, 2021.

3. How much time was the BRCH given to report back to the Board with a Report and Recommendations?

BRCH was given six months from September 2021 to provide its Report and Recommendations to the Board.

4. When was BRCH's first public meeting, and how many meetings were held?

The first BRCH meeting was held on September 8, 2021. A total of 20 meetings were held, with the last meeting occurring on March 30, 2022. The meeting dates were as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| September 8, 2021 | January 5, 2022 |
| September 22, 2021 | January 12, 2022 |
| October 6, 2021 – Special Meeting | January 19, 2022 |
| October 6, 2021 | February 2, 2022 |
| October 20, 2021 | February 9, 2022 |
| November 3, 2021 | February 16, 2022 |
| November 17, 2021 | March 2, 2022 |
| December 1, 2021 | March 9, 2022 |
| December 8, 2021 | March 16, 2022 |
| December 15, 2021 | March 30, 2022 |

5. How many members sit on the BRCH Commission?

As originally created, the Commission was to be made up of 12 members, with one member appointed by each of the five Supervisors, one by the Mayor of Los Angeles, three by the Los Angeles City Council President, two by the Councils of Government, and one nominated by the Contract Cities Association.

6. Why are there no BRCH Commissioners appointed by the City of Los Angeles sitting on the Commission?

The City of Los Angeles chose to leave its four seats vacant.

<http://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/bos/supdocs/167361.pdf>

7. Did the City of Los Angeles participate in or present to the BRCH?

Presenters from the City of Los Angeles to the BRCH were Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, Councilmember Nithya Raman, and John Wickham of the Office of Chief Legislative Analyst.

8. Who served on the Commission?

There were eight appointed Commissioners. Their photos and biographies can be found here: <https://brch.lacounty.gov/About-Us/Meet-the-Commissioners>

9. Who presented to the Commission?

1. Bridge to Home
2. City of Arcadia
3. City of Azusa
4. City of Bellflower
5. City of Beverly Hills
6. City of Culver City
7. City of El Monte
8. City of Gardena
9. City of Glendora
10. City of Hermosa Beach
11. City of Lakewood
12. City of Los Angeles, Office of Councilmember Nithya Raman, District Four
13. City of Los Angeles, Office of Chief Legislative Analyst
14. City of Los Angeles, Office of Councilmember Bob Blumenfield, District Three
15. City of Norwalk
16. City of Pomona
17. City of Redondo Beach
18. City of Santa Monica
19. City of South El Monte
20. City of Torrance
21. City of West Hollywood
22. Committee for Greater LA
23. County Auditor-Controller
24. County Chief Executive Office of Los Angeles, Center for Strategic Partnerships
25. County Chief Executive Office of Los Angeles, Homeless Initiative
26. County Chief Executive Office of Los Angeles, County Budget
27. County Department of Health Services
28. County Department of Mental Health
29. County Department of Public Health
30. County Department of Public Social Services
31. County Department of Public Works
32. County Department of Regional Planning
33. Destination: Home (Santa Clara County, CA)
34. Downtown Women's Center
35. Faith Collaborative to End
36. Foothill Unity Center
37. Gateway Cities Council of Governments
38. Glendale Continuum of Care
39. Hacienda Heights Improvement Association
40. Hacienda La Puente Unified School District
41. Helpline Youth Counseling
42. Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (HOPICS)
43. Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission
44. Imagine LA
45. LA Chamber of Commerce
46. LA Family Housing
47. Long Beach Continuum of Care
48. Los Angeles County Development Authority
49. Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts
50. Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA)
51. Los Angeles LGBT Center
52. Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority (METRO)
53. McCarty Memorial Christian Church
54. Measure H Citizens' Oversight Advisory Board
55. Pasadena Continuum of Care
56. The People Concern
57. Persons with Lived Experience
58. Samuel Dixon Family Health Center
59. San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
60. Santa Clara Continuum of Care
61. Shower of Hope
62. South Bay Cities Council of Governments
63. South Whittier School District
64. St. James Episcopal Church
65. St. Joseph Center
66. Union Station Homeless Services
67. US Department of Housing and Urban Development
68. The Way Home (Houston/Harris County, Fort Bend County, Montgomery County, TX)
69. Wellnest LA
70. The Whole Child

10. How many people did the BRCH speak with or interview?

Over the past six months, through an extensive series of meetings, presentations, interviews, and other listening sessions, we heard from approximately 280 individuals, including cities, Councils of Government, County departments, unincorporated jurisdictions, school districts, persons with lived experience, service providers, subject matter experts, leaders of homeless service systems from across the country, and authors of prior governance reports reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of our system. The BRCH also ensured that the underrepresented voices of the Black, Latinx, LGBTQI+, foster youth, and senior communities were heard, and these communities were vital participants.

11. Where can the Report and Recommendations be found?

The Report and Recommendations can be found here:

<https://brch.lacounty.gov/Reports-and-Recommendations>

12. What happens next?

Pursuant to the July 27, 2021 Board Motion establishing the BRCH, the BRCH will vote and adopt the Report and Recommendations and submits them to the Board. Upon receipt of the BRCH Report and Recommendations, the Board may consider taking action on some or all of the recommendations. If the Board acts, it would direct necessary County entities to report back to the Board on steps necessary to create, study, and/or implement recommendations, including staffing and funding projections.