



**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, November 17, 2021

9:00 AM



AUDIO FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING (21-4539)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Call to Order. (21-4452)

**The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Co-Chair Christian Horvath,
Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness.**

Present: Co-Chair Sarah Dusseault
Co-Chair Christian Horvath
Commissioner Theane Evangelis
Commissioner Wendy Greuel (joined the meeting at 10:26 a.m.)
Commissioner LaCheryl Porter
Commissioner Marcel Rodarte
Commissioner Vanessa Sedano
Commissioner Becky A. Shevlin

I. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommendation: Receive and file Items Nos. 6 through 9 from the November 3, 2021, agenda where no quorum existed: (21-4499)
6. Presentation and discussion by Helpline Youth Counseling: Jeff Farber, Executive Director; and Cristina Ramirez, Director of Homelessness. (21-4207)
7. Presentation and discussion by The Shower of Hope: Mel Tillekeratne, Executive Director and Co-Founder. (21-4167)

8. Presentation and discussion by Union Station Homeless Services: Anne Miskey, Chief Executive Officer; and Shawn Morrissey, Senior Director of Advocacy and Community Engagement. (21-4215)
9. Presentation and discussion by Downtown Women’s Center: Amy Turk, Chief Executive Officer. (21-4214)

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Shevlin, seconded by Commissioner Rodarte, and duly carried by the following vote, the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness (BRCH) received and filed the presentations, Items Nos. 6 through 9, from the November 3, 2021 agenda:

Ayes: 6 – Commissioner Evangelis, Commissioner Porter, Commissioner Rodarte, Commissioner Sedano, Commissioner Shevlin, Co-Chair Horvath

Absent: 2 – Commissioner Greuel, Co-Chair Dusseault

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

2. Recommendation: Receive and file all presentations that will be presented on Wednesday, November 17, 2021. (21-4500)

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Shevlin, seconded by Commissioner Rodarte, and duly carried by the following vote, the BRCH received and filed the November 17, 2021 presentations - Item Nos. 3 through 10:

Ayes: 7 – Commissioner Evangelis, Commissioner Porter, Commissioner Rodarte, Commissioner Sedano, Commissioner Shevlin, Co-Chair Dusseault, Co-Chair Horvath

Absent: 1 – Commissioner Greuel

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

II. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

3. Presentation and discussion by The Whole Child: Constanza Pachon, Chief Executive Officer. (21-4308)

This item was tabled to be presented after Agenda Item No. 4

Ms. Constanza Pachon presented on The Whole Child, its services, and its experiences contracting with LAHSA. Ms. Pachon provided that LAHSA has competing priorities. She commented on wanting greater assistance from LAHSA, excessive auditing of contractors, and the disconnect between LAHSA leadership and middle managers.

Commissioner Rodarte inquired about whether LAHSA has solicited and implemented input from contractors. Co-Chair Horvath inquired about who requests or requires the audits.

Dr. Geneviève Clavreul addressed the BRCH.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

4. Presentation and discussion on approaches to increase access to and improve the effectiveness of substance abuse services: Gary Tsai, Director, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC), Department of Public Health. (21-4453)

Dr. Gary Tsai presented on the work of Substant Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) and providing substance use disorder (SUD) treatment to people experiencing homelessness.

Commissioner Horvath inquired about working with LAHSA to house people experiencing homelessness who receive SUD treatment services and about special funding for SUD treatment and housing.

Co-Chair Dusseault inquired about coordination of state funding allocated for housing and SUD treatment. Commissioner Evangelis inquired about SAPC participation in outreach.

Ms. Reba Stevens addressed the BRCH.

At the conclusion of this item, BRCH referred back to Item No. 3.

Attachments: [Specialty Substance Use Disorder Treatment System Presentation October 18, 2021 Article by Sam Quinones](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

5. Presentation and discussion by Bridge to Home: Mike Foley, Executive Director. (21-4454)

Mr. Mike Foley presented on the significant growth of homeless services and LAHSA with recent programs like Project Roomkey. He commented on LAHSA staff turnover and having worked with multiple project managers on a single contract. He commented on contractors having to respond to LAHSA audits and requests for documents. Mr. Foley recommended that LAHSA partition into smaller, more focused entities, e.g., a distinct entity for LAHSA outreach services.

Commissioner Sedano inquired about LAHSA's outreach services and those provided by community-based organizations. Commissioner Rodarte inquired about outcome metrics and goals for service providers.

No members of the public commented on this item.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

6. Presentation and discussion by The People Concern: John Maceri, Chief Executive Officer. (21-4457)

This item was tabled to be presented after Item No. 7

Mr. John Maceri presented on the need for a central, independent authority and the absence of a comprehensive, holistic system; resource inequality across service planning areas; and the need for flexible, outcomes-based contracts with appropriate funding for service providers, exemplified by the County's Housing for Health Program.

No members of the public commented on this item.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

7. Presentation and discussion on approaches to increase access to and improve effectiveness of mental health services: Jonathan E. Sherin, Director, Department of Mental Health. (21-4455)

Dr. Jonathan Sherin presented a high-level perspective, calling for a more aggressive approach to handle the crisis as a public health and public safety emergency. He recommended exploring triage communities as an emergency measure. Dr. Sherin also commented on the absence of a central authority in the geographic county and in the County of Los Angeles, and that the County should be a central, organizing authority. He commented that the continuum of care should be a conduit for federal assistance and not service provision.

Commissioner Wendy Greuel joined the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

Co-Chair Dusseault inquired about the responsibility to monitor the gap between existing resources and needs and coordinating responses with appropriate resources. Commissioner Rodarte inquired about reducing reluctance to accept housing. Commissioner Greuel inquired about prevention and developing a countywide response.

Ms. Reba Stevens addressed the BRCH.

At the conclusion of this item, BRCH referred back to Item No. 6.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

8. Presentation on “We’re Not Giving Up: A Plan for Homelessness Governance in Los Angeles”: Miguel Santana, Chair, Committee for Greater LA; Raphael J. Sonenshein, Executive Director, Pat Brown Institute for Public Affairs, California State University, Los Angeles. (21-4456)

Mr. Miguel Santana and Dr. Raphael J. Sonenshein presented on their proposal and recommendations in the report, “We’re Not Giving Up: A Plan for Homelessness Governance in Los Angeles.”

Co-Chair Dusseault inquired about local participation in the proposal. Commissioner Porter inquired about the role of LAHSA and the funding considerations in the proposal. Co-Chair Horvath inquired about concerns regarding additional bureaucracy alongside existing large systems.

Dr. Geneviève Clavreul and Ms. Helen Morales addressed the BRCH.

Attachments: [We’re Not Giving Up Presentation](#)

[We’re Not Giving Up Report](#)

[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

9. Presentation and discussion by the City of Pomona: Donyielle Holley, Homeless Programs Supervisor. (21-4476)

Ms. Donyielle Holley presented recommendations to improve partnerships between LAHSA and cities.

No members of the public commented on this item.

Attachments: [City of Pomona Presentation](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

10. Presentation and discussion by Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission: Ken Craft, Founder and Chief Executive Officer. (21-4458)

Mr. Ken Craft recommended promoting interim, transitional housing alongside the development of permanent housing.

No members of the public commented on this item.

Attachments: [Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission Presentation](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

III. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

11. Recommendation: Approval of the October 20, 2021, regular meeting minutes. (Continued from the November 3, 2021, meeting) (21-4168)

By Common Consent, there being no objection, BRCH continued this item to December 1, 2021.

Attachments: [October 20, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

12. Recommendation: Approval of the November 3, 2021, regular meeting minutes. (21-4459)

By Common Consent, there being no objection, BRCH continued this item to December 1, 2021.

Attachments: [November 3, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes](#)
[Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

13. Discussion on ad hoc committees and/or a survey tool to solicit three to five components of what a governance model may include, from the following committees or a survey to solicit similar information:
- a. Racial equity, including Black people experiencing homelessness;
 - b. Lived experience;
 - c. Councils of government. (Continued from the November 3, 2021, meeting) (21-4218)

By Common Consent, there being no objection, BRCH continued this item to December 1, 2021.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

14. Recommendation: Propose an evening meeting on January 5, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Continued from the November 3, 2021, meeting) (21-4216)

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Co-Chair Dusseault, seconded by Commissioner Shevlin, and duly carried by the following vote, the BRCH approved the January 5, 2022 meeting from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.:

Ayes: 8 – Commissioner Porter, Commissioner Rodarte,
Commissioner Sedano, Commissioner Shevlin,
Co-Chair Dusseault, Co-Chair Horvath

Absent: 2 – Commissioner Evangelis, Commissioner Greuel

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

15. Recommendation: Propose additional meetings on December 8, 2021, and January 12, 2022, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. (21-4460)

No members of the public commented on this item.

On motion of Commissioner Shevlin, seconded by Commissioner Rodarte, and duly carried by the following vote, the BRCH approved the meetings on December 8, 2021 and January 12, 2022 from 6:00 pm. to 8:30 p.m.:

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

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

16. Recommendation: Propose additional meetings for discussion by the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness on themes/problems and recommendations. (Continued from the November 3, 2021, Meeting) (21-4217)

By Common Consent, there being no objection, BRCH continued this item to December 1, 2021.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

MATTERS NOT POSTED

17. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation, or because of an emergency situation, or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (21-4449)

There were none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

18. 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. (21-4450)

No members of the public addressed the BRCH.

Attachments: [Public Comment/Correspondence](#)

ADJOURNMENT

19. Adjournment for the November 6, 2021, Meeting. (21-4451)

Co-Chair Horvath adjourned the meeting at 12:55 p.m. The next meeting of the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Homelessness will be on December 1, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.