



San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments

AGENDA AND NOTICE

OF THE **SPECIAL** MEETING OF THE HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 11, 2017, 12:30 PM

Monrovia Community Center– 119 W. Palm Ave; Monrovia, CA

TELECONFERENCE LOCATIONS:

888 S Figueroa St., Los Angeles, CA 9001

HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE

Chair

Joe Lyons

City of Claremont

Vice-Chair

Becky Shevlin

City of Monrovia

MEMBERS

Baldwin Park

Claremont

Covina

Monrovia

Pasadena

Pomona

Rosemead

San Gabriel

South El Monte

West Covina

LA County Supervisorial

District #1

San Gabriel Valley Water

Districts

Thank you for participating in today's meeting. The Homelessness Committee encourages public participation and invites you to share your views on agenda items.

MEETINGS: *Regular Meetings of the Homelessness Committee are held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 12:30 PM at Monrovia Public Library (321 S. Myrtle, Monrovia, CA 91016).* The Meeting agenda packet is available at the San Gabriel Valley Council of Government's (SGVCOG) Office, 1000 South Fremont Avenue, Suite 10210, Alhambra, CA, and on the website, www.sgvkog.org. Copies are available via email upon request (sgv@sgvkog.org). Documents distributed to a majority of the Committee after the posting will be available for review in the SGVCOG office and on the SGVCOG website. Your attendance at this public meeting may result in the recording of your voice.

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION: Your participation is welcomed and invited at all Committee meetings. Time is reserved at each regular meeting for those who wish to address the Board. SGVCOG requests that persons addressing the Committee refrain from making personal, slanderous, profane or disruptive remarks.

TO ADDRESS THE COMMITTEE: At a regular meeting, the public may comment on any matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee during the public comment period and may also comment on any agenda item at the time it is discussed. At a special meeting, the public may only comment on items that are on the agenda. Members of the public wishing to speak are asked to complete a comment card or simply rise to be recognized when the Chair asks for public comments to speak. We ask that members of the public state their name for the record and keep their remarks brief. If several persons wish to address the Committee on a single item, the Chair may impose a time limit on individual remarks at the beginning of discussion. **The Committee may not discuss or vote on items not on the agenda.**

AGENDA ITEMS: The Agenda contains the regular order of business of the Committee. Items on the Agenda have generally been reviewed and investigated by the staff in advance of the meeting so that the Committee can be fully informed about a matter before making its decision.

CONSENT CALENDAR: Items listed on the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine and will be acted upon by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Committee member or citizen so requests. In this event, the item will be removed from the Consent Calendar and considered after the Consent Calendar. If you would like an item on the Consent Calendar discussed, simply tell Staff or a member of the Committee.



In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the SGVCOG office at (626) 457-1800. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the SGVCOG to make reasonable arrangement to ensure accessibility to this meeting.



PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment (*If necessary, the Chair may place reasonable time limits on all comments*)
4. Changes to Agenda Order: Identify emergency items arising after agenda posting and requiring action prior to the next regular meeting (*It is anticipated the Committee may take action*)

CONSENT CALENDAR

(It is anticipated the Committee may take action on the following matters)

5. Homelessness Meeting Minutes
Recommended Action: Approve.
6. Correspondence
Recommended Action: Receive and File.

ACTION ITEMS

(It is anticipated that the Committee may take action on the following matters)

7. Measure H Comment Letter
Recommended Action: Recommend Governing Board send comment letter regarding Measure H funding recommendations.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

(It is anticipated the Committee may take action on the following matters)

PRESENTATIONS

(It is anticipated the Committee may take action on the following matters)

UPDATE ITEMS

(It is anticipated the Committee may take action on the following matters)

Regional Homeless Advisory Council

COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS

STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN



SGVCOG Homelessness Committee Unapproved Minutes

Date: April 20, 2017

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: Monrovia Public Library (321 S. Myrtle Ave; Monrovia, CA)

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 PM

2. Roll Call

Members Present

Claremont	J. Lyons
Baldwin Park	C. Baca
Monrovia	B. Shevlin
Pomona	B. DeFrank/L.Lowry
West Covina	L. Johnson
LA County District 1	R. Barbosa

Absent

Covina
Rosemead
Water Districts
Pasadena

COG Staff

C. Cruz, Staff

3. Public Comment

C. Daly Foothills Kitchen.

4. Changes to Agenda Order: Identify emergency items arising after agenda posting and requiring action prior to the next regular meeting

There were no changes to the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR

5. Homelessness Meeting Minutes

6. Correspondence

There was a motion to approve consent calendar Items 5-6 (M/S: R. Barbosa/ L. Johnson)

[Motion Passed]

AYES:	Claremont, Baldwin Park, Pomona, West Covina, LA County District 1
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	Monrovia
ABSENT:	Covina, Rosemead, Water Districts, Pasadena

ACTION ITEMS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. Measure H Comment Letter

There was a motion to recommend the Governing Board appoint William Huang as the Measure H Planning Group alternate (M/S: B. Shevlin/ L. Johnson)

[Motion Passed]

AYES:	Claremont, Baldwin Park, Pomona, West Covina, LA County District 1
NOES:	
ABSTAIN:	Monrovia
ABSENT:	Covina, Rosemead, Water Districts, Pasadena

PRESENTATIONS

8. Union Station CES

R. Izell presented on this item.

UPDATE ITEMS

COMMITTEE MEMBER ITEMS

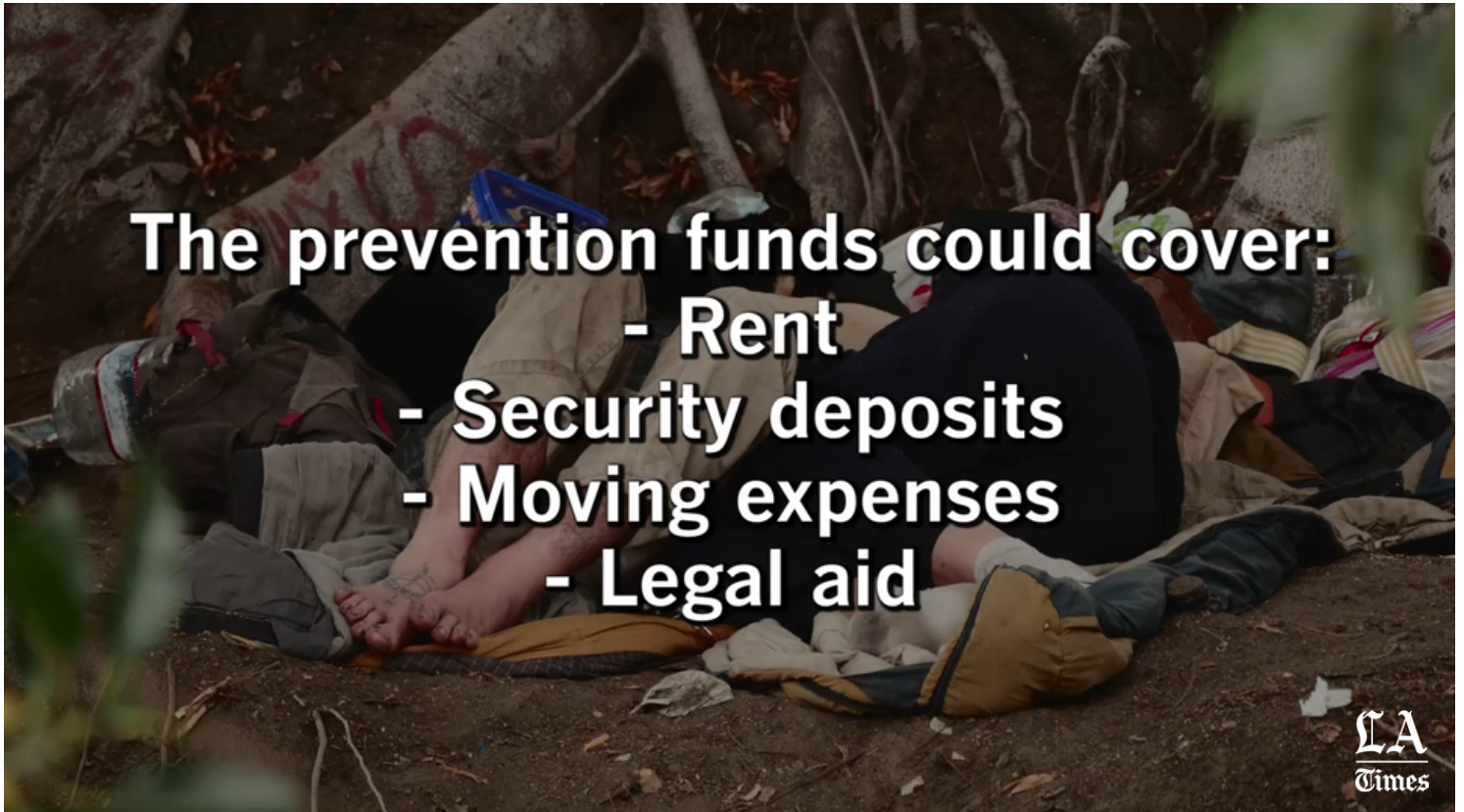
STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:26 PM.

L.A. County considers another path on homelessness: prevention



What's the best way to help the homeless? (May 3, 2017) (Sign up for our free video newsletter here <http://bit.ly/2n6VKPR>)



By **Doug Smith**

MAY 3, 2017, 5:00 AM

The calls on the hotline reflected life at its messiest:

A single mom who left her boyfriend and was living in a motel. An out-of-stater who came for a job that fizzled. A low-income family with medical bills and a three-day eviction notice.

The callers had one thing in common. They were not homeless — yet.

When they reached the referral line at L.A. Family Housing in North Hollywood, the pained response once would have been, “If you wake up in your car tomorrow, call back,” said Kris Freed, vice president of programs at the non-profit agency.

That’s because traditional services for homeless people — shelters, housing assistance and case management — have one fundamental requirement: that the recipient is verifiably homeless.

Now, a new and largely unproven approach is emerging as a major element of Los Angeles County’s homeless initiative. Those drafting plans for the Measure H sales tax funds approved by voters in March have proposed spending more than \$40 million over the next three years to prevent people from becoming homeless in the first place.

Those deemed eligible for prevention funds could receive cash assistance to pay for rent, security deposits or moving expenses. They could also receive other forms of help, such as legal aid.

The prevention strategy was tested in a pilot program last year and continues on a limited basis with a county grant from the Department of Public Social Services. Based on those tests, county officials estimate a prevention program would spend about \$12,000 on each family served and \$7,857 on each individual, including staff costs.

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority initially asked for more than \$100 million in prevention funds over the first three years from Measure H.

That request was pared last week by 60% as county officials [recalibrated](#) their initial requests for Measure H money.

“Since prevention is a relatively new endeavor for us — both here in the county and across the nation — we feel it’s smart to start smaller, learn what works and build on our successes as we move forward,” said Phil Ansell, director of the county’s Homeless Initiative.

Despite the cuts, Ansell didn’t back off the county’s long-stated goal of keeping 30,000 people from becoming homeless. Prevention services are included in several other strategies, and funds can be added in the future as the program proves itself, he said.

“

It was really hard for me. My kid, he sat at a homeless shelter one time for Christmas. It was humbling.

— Nycole Castellanos, whose family found permanent housing with an assist from a program designed to prevent people from becoming homeless

At any level, they represent a pioneering strategy to seal the pipeline into homelessness as other programs focus on helping others out of it. Officials acknowledge that they still have a lot to learn about a strategy that is too new to have proven results.

Peter Lynn, executive director of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, conceded that the agency has “almost no experience with prevention; it’s not a tool we have utilized well or thoroughly.”

The questions surrounding prevention are many: Who should be eligible? How long should they be helped? What about those who repeatedly fall into crisis?

The toughest problem is figuring out who needs help, Ansell said. Most people who lose permanent housing through eviction or some other reason never become homeless, he said.

Two hypothetical candidates for prevention aid might seem equally at risk, “but then one becomes homeless and one doesn’t,” Ansell said.

The \$2-million pilot program has provided some data on its cost and effectiveness.

Through March, the program assisted 413 people, said Joshua Hall, Family System Integration Manager at the homeless authority. In all, they received about \$840,000 in rental assistance and \$500,000 in other forms of assistance including deposits, fees, hotel vouchers and case management.

Success is hard to measure. Hall said 185 still receive assistance. Of the 228 who have exited the program, nearly 80% obtained permanent housing. The remainder either went into crisis housing programs or resolved their own problems, he said.

The long odyssey of Nycole Castellanos and her family illustrates how prevention works and also what makes it challenging. Castellanos, her husband and two children ended up in a winter shelter in Santa Clarita after he lost his job.

The winter shelter referred them to L.A. Family Housing, which used funds designated for homeless people to get them stabilized. They stayed in a motel for a month and then found an apartment.

“They helped us with the first month and several months after,” Castellanos said.

Then a dispute with their landlord caused them to leave. They ended up in a motel again, paying their own rent but unable to afford the upfront fees for a new apartment.

Because they had a home this time, even though it was a motel, they weren’t eligible for what is called rapid re-housing assistance, which is meant for homeless people.

Prevention funds paid their first month’s rent, security deposit and a portion of the next two months for the apartment in North Hollywood where they now live.

“It was really hard for me,” Castellanos said of the whole experience. “My kid, he sat at a homeless shelter one time for Christmas. It was humbling.”

The family's multiple moves reflect the housing instability considered the key indicator of families who can be helped by prevention, said Alynn Gausvik, intake and assessment manager at the North Hollywood homeless services agency.

"It's people who are on the edge," Gausvik said. "They're facing instability. They aren't sure where to turn."

Gausvik, who recently earned a master's degree in social work, said growing research suggests that prevention pays off when the right families are targeted.

"It's usually cheaper to help someone stay in an apartment than to get them a new apartment," she said. "Better than leave, bump around with crisis housing, get an eviction on their record."

County homeless officials consider prevention crucial to their plans because the thousands of people continually falling into homelessness tend to nullify any success in finding homes for those already homeless.

Based on surveys taken as part of the 2016 count, the homeless authority estimates that more than 150,000 "episodes" of homelessness occur each year, including those who become homeless more than once during the year.

The initial prevention strategy included in the county's Measure H spending plan projected assistance to about 700 families each year and to 2,200 individuals in the first year, growing to 5,500 by the third.

"The balance between the role of prevention versus the role of getting families and adults who are currently homeless out of homelessness is one of the core issues of this group." Ansell told the Measure H citizen planning panel at a recent meeting.

Members of the group had a lot of questions.

"I'm sitting here with some anxiety," said Reba Stevens, a formerly homeless woman sitting on the panel as one of its "lived experience" representatives. "I feel it's important that we are provided with data that actually shows the outcomes. What has worked? What hasn't worked?"

doug.smith@latimes.com

[@LATDoug](#)

ALSO

Judge strikes down city's approval of a Hollywood Target — again

Police panel calls for more LAPD reforms to address racial bias, discipline and community policing

REPORT

DATE: May 11, 2017

TO: SGVCOG Homelessness Committee

FROM: Phil Hawkey, Executive Director

RE: **MEASURE H COMMENT LETTER**

RECOMMENDED ACTION

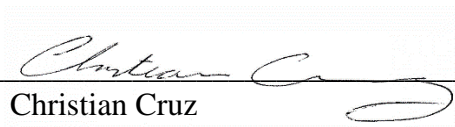
Recommend SGVCOG Governing Board send a comment letter regarding Measure H funding recommendations.

BACKGROUND

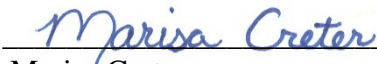
The Los Angeles County Homeless Initiative (HI) formed a Measure H Planning Group to discuss final funding recommendations for Measure H funds to be submitted to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS). The Measure H Planning Group began meeting in March and includes representatives from County departments, LAHSA, COGs, homeless services agencies, the faith community, and persons with lived experience. The Planning Group intends to finalize the recommended funding allocations by May 2017 and present the recommendations to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in June 2017.

Last month, the Governing Board approved guiding principles to provide staff general policy direction. Staff is now seeking to submit a comment letter to the BOS that addresses specific areas of concern.

Prepared by:


Christian Cruz
Management Analyst

Approved by:


Marisa Creter
Assistant Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A – Draft Comment Letter



DRAFT

May 22, 2017

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
500 West Temple St, Ste 383
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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La Puente

La Verne

Monrovia

Montebello

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First District, LA County
Unincorporated Communities

Fourth District, LA County
Unincorporated Communities

Fifth District, LA County
Unincorporated Communities

SGV Water Districts

RE: MEASURE H PLANNING GROUP FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Dear Board of Supervisors:

The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) has participated in the Measure H Planning Group and provides the following comments and recommended changes to the Measure H funding recommendations:

Comment No. 1 (Strategy E7):

The Coordinated Entry System is central to the County's Homeless Initiative as it manages the initial interface with homeless residents and connects them with services. However, there is a critical element missing that will prevent achieving the mission and realizing this vision - namely the intentional engagement of local governments and regional governmental organizations as partners in this effort. There is in every strategy the recognition of the need and the resources to build the capacity of local service providers and community-based organizations; there is no such recognition or support for the role of local governments.

The SGVCOG submits the following recommendation for funding allocation under Strategy E7:

- Allocate a portion of Measure H funds to be used to allow interested COG's to hire/create an in-house COG Regional Homeless Coordinator, to help expand capacity and facilitate coordination with regional member cities.

A COG Homeless Coordinator would coordinate and engage with COG member cities, regional service providers and their SPA to support the Coordinated Entry System and the Continuum of Care services for residents currently homeless and those who are at risk of becoming homeless.

Comment No. 2 (Strategy E6):

Strategy E6 includes \$1.245 million per year for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for homeless outreach services. However, this strategy does not provide similar funding for cities that provide the same services. Currently, local police departments and transit agencies with homeless task forces have limited resources to expand or maintain outreach services.

The SGVCOG submits the following recommendation for funding allocation under Strategy E6:

- Provide a portion of Measure H funds under this strategy for local police departments and agencies to provide similar services within their jurisdictions.

Comment No. 3 (Strategy B4):

Currently, Measure H does not provide any direct allocation of funding for Continuum of Cares (CoC's). The organizational infrastructure that exists within the CoC's, as well as the collaborations between the County and the CoC's are critical to delivering effective and relevant homeless prevention services consistent with the strategies outlined in Measure H.

The SGVCOG submits the following recommendation for funding allocation under Strategy B4:

- Provide a portion of Measure H funding for each of the CoC's so that they may support the County's overall homeless reduction efforts. At a minimum, CoC cities should receive a pro rata share of the funding or the Measure H funded strategies in which LAHSA is the designated lead agency. Additionally, funding should go directly to participating Housing Authorities and not remain solely with HACoLA to reduce bureaucracy and increase the usefulness of the program by enabling quick access to the funds.

Comment No. 4 (Strategies D2 and D4):

The program expansion for homeless inmates is a priority since it would offer all homeless inmates jail in reach services from the beginning of incarceration. By coordinating all services provided to homeless inmates, it would be possible to provide one case plan monitored by one assigned case manager, with the goal of ensuring strong service integration. Additionally, the expansion of Jail in-reach, in conjunction with the Re-entry Network, will help integrate high-quality mental health, physical health, and substance use disorder providers. It is necessary to include other law enforcement agencies to expand their capacity for Jail in-reach.

The SGVCOG submits the following recommendation for funding allocation under Strategy D2 and D4:

- Increase funding under these strategies to allow city police departments to participate and to provide in-reach services to city jails.

Comment No. 5 (Strategy C7):

The subsidized employment program currently provides subsidized employment to GROW youths, aged 18 to 24. The existing program design and infrastructure could be leveraged and expanded to provide services countywide to adults.

The SGVCOG submits the following recommendation for funding allocation under Strategy C7:

- Currently, the Transitional Subsidized Employment (TSE) temporary employment program only allows eight months of employment which is not long enough to make a long-term impact for the clients. Therefore, additional funds should be allocated to allow funding for temporary employment programs with longer durations of employment.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and participate in this process. Should you have any questions, please contact our office at (626)457-1800.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Sternquist, President
San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments
Councilmember, City of Temple City

c.c.: SGVCOG Board of Directors
Supervisor Hilda Solis, First District
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Second District
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Third District
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