

# Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc Committee Agenda

303 E. Vanderbilt Way  
San Bernardino, CA 92415

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March 21, 2016

<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Mike Jones & Tom Hernandez
<b>Updates</b>	Mike Jones
<b>Criteria</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Determine Criteria</li><li>• Develop Language For Criteria</li></ul>	Roundtable
<b>Open Discussion</b>	Roundtable

# Minutes for San Bernardino County Office of Homeless Services Emergency Preparedness Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

March 7, 2016

3:00 – 4:30 PM

County of San Bernardino ▪ DBH Administration  
303 E. Vanderbilt Way. ▪ San Bernardino, CA 92415-0026

Minutes Recorded and transcribed by Amy Edwards, Secretary I, Department of Behavioral Health, Office of Homeless Services

OPENING REMARKS	PRESENTER	ACTION/OUTCOME
Call to Order Welcome and Introductions	Tom Hernandez	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Attendees were welcomed to the meeting and asked to introduce themselves.</li> </ul>
DISCUSSION		
Updates: Red Cross OES Conference Call Sheltering	<p>Mike Jones</p> <p>Marc Peren</p> <p>Tom Hernandez</p> <p>Mike Jones</p> <p>Tom Hernandez</p> <p>Mike Jones</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We had a conference call with the Office of Emergency services to discuss their involvement in our group and how we can partner to meet long term goals.</li> <li>• We will be having another meeting this week with Tom and my boss, Cindy Serrano, Miles Wagner, and Zack Mullennix the lead in Super Shelters, to discuss a preliminary plan of adding the homeless element into our emergency plan.</li> <li>• When we have a major disaster, OES sets up these super shelters and the homeless tend to show up to them due to the resources available. However when the disaster is over and it is time to shut these shelters down there are always homeless left there with no place to go. The meeting with OES this week will discuss coming up with a re-entry plan for the homeless so they have a more permanent place to go once these shelters close down.</li> <li>• We spoke with the Red Cross and talked about how they can partner with us on our short term goals to donate cots and things like they do for the Victor Valley Rescue Mission at the fairgrounds to other organizations willing to open up.</li> <li>• At ICH we talked about stepping back from focusing on policy making and really focusing on the short term goal of identifying shelter and how we can expand upon that. We have already identified the Church of Whosoever in Apple Valley, which no one was aware of prior to our last meeting.</li> <li>• We are still in the El Nino season, but don't know how it will impact us. We have been having this warmer weather and very little rain, so we haven't seen the impact on our shelters. The issue is our current shelters have not reach capacity, so it is hard to argue the need for more. At any given day the shelters have had 12-15% vacancy.</li> <li>• The pastor's wife from the Rock Church reached out to me on how they could be more involved with the homeless. This may be a possibility of more shelter in the future.</li> </ul>
PRESENTATION		
Transportation	Debra Watkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I created a one- time, one way universal bus pass that can be used with all transportation providers.</li> <li>• These passes are customizable to include a toll free number along with a short code that can provide bus route information as well as bus schedules for each area.</li> <li>• The Bus Pass Sponsor's Logo or Advertisement and Information is printed on the back of the bus pass. The sponsorship and advertising dollars collected will be used to fund the "One Time" use bus pass program and provide sustainability. The transportation providers will be paid much like the housing</li> </ul>

		<p>voucher program. Provider will submit the bus passes collected by the driver for reimbursement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have also created a bus pass with transfer that way if the location of the shelter crosses over into an area where another transportation company runs, they are able to use the transfer to continue on to the shelter location.</li> <li>• The design of the tickets is very simple with perforated transfer attached at the bottom. Each ticket will have a control number for billing use.</li> <li>• The transportation companies like the design that had the perforated transfer ticket as well as the perforated shelter pass. The shelter pass will be turned in to the intake worker once the person has arrived. This will help keep track of the passes being used for its purpose.</li> <li>• The shelter staff or faith base organization must receive the "Shelter Pass" before they can issue a new "One Time Only" use bus pass. The "Shelter Pass" is collected from the homeless/user and must be redeemed to receive more "One Time Only" use bus passes for their program. This policy will minimize abuse of the program and create an incentive for the homeless to go to the shelter.</li> </ul>
ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION		
	<p>Gary Madden</p> <p>Tom Hernandez</p> <p>Gary Madden</p> <p>Tom Hernandez</p> <p>Kent Paxton</p> <p>Debra Watkins</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is an ad hoc committee so it won't go on forever. Are we at a point to discuss basic outcomes and shutting down this group? It has been mentioned at this meeting to find more permanent housing for the homeless. The pressure for housing in the Inland Empire is getting worse and worse. Apartment owners are at 97% capacity and we are running out of space to put people. We are not going to find permanent housing in apartments. I guess I am confused as to what our next step is.</li> <li>• Our initial intent for this group was to identify resources for El Nino and in terms of resources can expand and do we need to expand. So far it has been sufficient because the weather hasn't affected us. We have also looked at changing policy, but that is more in long term. As far as this committee it is up to the group to decide if there is a necessity to continue to meet or if we meet again when we think the weather will be here.</li> <li>• One of the things we've talked about on that list of recommendations for ICH is the official 34 degrees criteria for cold weather shelters to open up. Is there anything more we can do to officially change that? Also Debra has created this bus pass program and it is just sitting there waiting for us to do something now. At what point do we say go ahead Debra let's get these bus passes?</li> <li>• We can definitely take this idea and present it to ICH, but ICH has no money. However they can agree that it is a good idea and to move forward or at least recommend some other providers to possibly invest in it. We can also recommend instead of cold weather if we can move to have shelters open up for rainy weather.</li> <li>• From a policy standpoint it is unconscionable that any shelter isn't at capacity on a day like this (rainy). We review the CoC applications that go to HUD. On a day like this if we call the shelters and ask if they have an open bed and they do, we need to ask why. Why isn't that bed full? Why are you at 100% capacity? If we consider putting that in the County RFP that goes out, and if they continue to have vacant beds then they should get some sort of sanction.</li> <li>• Transportation is a huge problem. County hospital has reported that 47% of their appointments don't show up and transportation is one of those barriers keeping people from returning. If we hand them a onetime bus pass they have the transportation to get to their appointment and get the medical services</li> </ul>

	Gary Madden	<p>they need. It's the same for shelter. If they have a way there, they will go.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One thing I want to comment on is the use of the word "Extreme" weather instead of Cold Weather. We can all agree that if it rains for 3-4 consecutive days that is extreme weather. So if we use extreme in our wording encompasses so much more. Also we as a group need to agree that this transportation program is a good idea so we can go forward with it.</li> </ul>
	Marcelo Blanco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I know it has been mentioned before but pets are a huge barrier. We have so many homeless that we have actually found housing for but they refuse to go because they will not part with their pets. I have one gentleman with a VASH voucher but he will not go because he will not leave his dog.</li> </ul>
	Debra Watkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NECON is getting ready to launch a pet foster care registry in about a week. This will provide temporary homes for pets where the homeless can keep in contact with the foster care family and visit their pet and know that their pet is being taken care of rather than be sent to a shelter where it potentially can be euthanized.</li> </ul>
	Marcelo Blanco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I will have to somewhat disagree with you because we have local churches that are willing to work with the homeless and shelter their pets for them. We've even had the volunteers come out and talk to them and show them where the pets will be and they still will not part. I believe it is a psychological issue.</li> </ul>
	Jessica Alexander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do you think it's a proximity issue? Do you think it would change if the pet was next door rather than any distance away it would make a difference?</li> </ul>
	Mike Jones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pets are another issue and we will save that for another discussion.</li> </ul>
<b>Tasks</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Criteria - Develop the language that defines our weather and the criteria for opening shelter</li> <li>Recommend keeping this committee going</li> <li>Define barriers with transportation being one of the solutions</li> <li>Address the bed vacancy issue</li> <li>Tom to report shelter bed capacity for the next two weeks</li> </ul>
<b>Adjournment</b>		Being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.
<b>Next Meeting</b>		The next meeting will be on March 21, 2016 from 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm at the County of San Bernardino Department of Behavioral Health Administration. 303 E. Vanderbilt Way, San Bernardino, CA 92415-0026

**February 1, 2016 ATTENDEES:**

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