



# **The Humanitarian Crisis of our Time: The Experience of Homelessness**

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Blue Ribbon Commission on Homelessness

Tuesday, May 17, 2022



## **Welcome**

Teddy Kapur, Board Co-Chair

## **Introduction**

Jill Bauman, President & CEO

*If not us, then who?*

*If not now, then when?*

**Hon John Lewis**

## Context:

Tons of great work and  
not enough results.

# Funding Directed to Services and Housing

## County of LA Measure H - Sales tax measure approved in 2017

\$454.8 Million

- 50% to LAHSA - Distributed to 900 contractors
- 50% to County Agencies serving PEH

## State of California

- \$12 Billion FY 2021 to be spent over 3 years plus funds for clean ups
- \$3+ Billion FY 2021 in Mental Health Services Act Funds
- \$3+ Billion in current proposed budget

## City of Los Angeles

- \$1.2 Billion Bond passed in 2017 to build housing and navigation centers
- \$132 million in general funds per year

For comparison: NYC Budget for FY 2020 = \$3.5 Billion on Homelessness Programs

# Why are we not seeing more results ...

**System was designed on scarcity and not at scale of need**

**Lack of data on inflow and interrelationships between institutions**

**Lack of clarity of authority creates barriers to large scale solutions**

## **Challenges**

- Structural racism causes black people to be 4X more likely to experience homelessness
- Prevention
- Time and challenge of construction
- Cost of housing - 59% of newly homeless cite economic hardship
- Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder is climbing with at least 23,000+ or 25-50% of unsheltered individuals
- Bureaucratic barriers remain - 19,000 housing offers needed to house a few thousand
- Sticky safety net - not a trampoline

# Happenings on Reform for the Homeless Services System

- Blue Ribbon Commission Recommendations adopted by Board of Supervisors by a 3 to 2 vote on May 3rd
- State legislature showing interest in taking a larger role to help drive reform through a series of bills and funding streams
- The clear need to drive down the cost of housing in LA County.
- Partnerships with Philanthropy

## Effective models in the Nation: Houston has reduced homelessness by 50% – *different scale but useful model*

Houston has one lead and essentially 3 Goals and 6 workgroups – most importantly *A Housing Acquisition Unit* that serves the entire system

### Houston's Goals –

1. Design and manage an **optimal homelessness response system** where homelessness is **Rare, Brief, and One Time**.
2. Substantially reduce **chronic unsheltered homelessness**
3. Achieve/maintain and end to homelessness for:
  - **Veterans**
  - **Persons experiencing chronic homelessness**
  - **Families**



## Summary of Recommendations



### 1 Create County Entity and Identify County Leader

- Create County entity with responsible charge, accountability, and authority over homelessness
- Establish inter-county workgroups
- Establish subregional leadership infrastructure

### 2 Measure H / Local Solutions

- Establish a "local solutions" fund within Measure H using an algorithm or funded at an amount to be defined by the Board for jurisdictions that will make a commitment to provide in-kind or matching contributions for the development of service programs and housing



### 3 Streamlined LAHSA

- Role: Focus as CoC (Rehousing) Lead
- Governance: Maintain number of seats (10) on LAHSA Commission but change who sits in them (e.g., department heads, lived expertise representative, COG or cities representative)

### 4 Continuum of Care Governance ("Modify CoC Leadership")

- Consolidate LAHSA Commission, CoC Board, and CES Policy Council into single board consistent with best practices and efficiencies
- Prior to consolidating various boards, appoint County Department heads to CES Policy Council

### 5 Improve LAHSA's Operations

- Define decision-making responsibilities and embed Ops Team to improve LAHSA's operations

### 6 Data and Metrics

- Require access to, sharing of, and tracking of data and define success



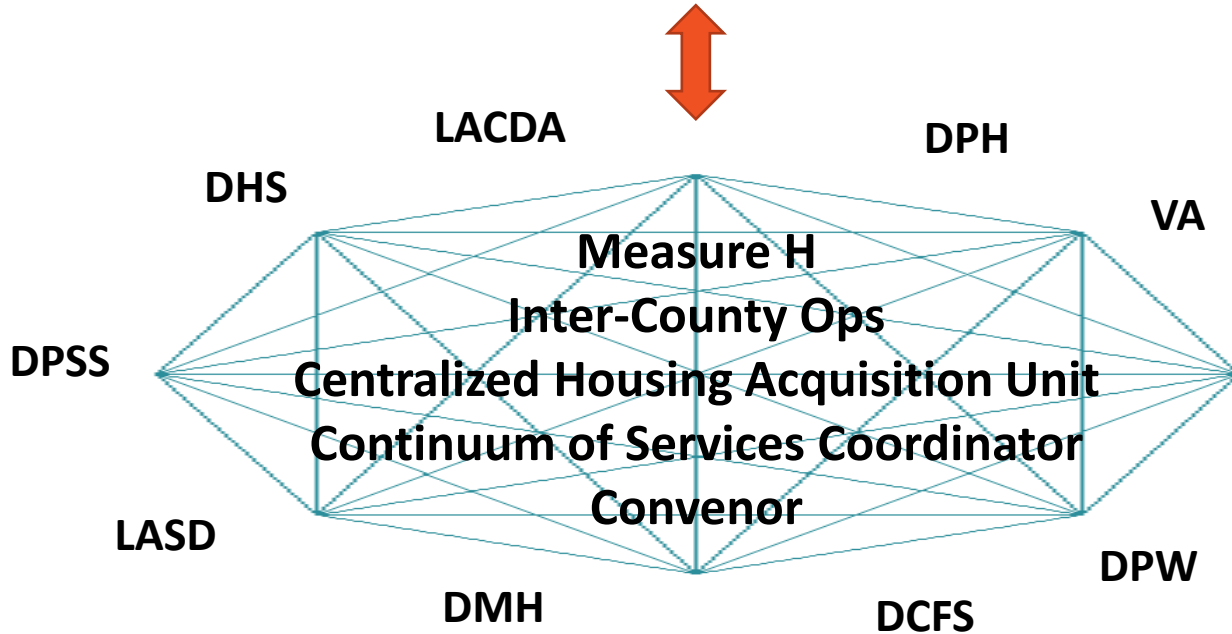
### 7 Executive-Level Action Team

- Create a forum for Executive-Level Action Team

# Recommendation 1: County Entity

Modeled off Dept of Emergency Management

[LA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS]



**35 different departments!**

# Some CA State Updates

- Kamlager Bill AB679 Regional Housing Finance Agency
- Santiago Bill AB2401 Proposed Joint Powers Authority
- Budget Bills to expand funding - Surplus
- Expansion of CalAIM and possible IMD or Medicare Waiver
- CARE Court

# Driving Down the Cost of Housing: Los Angeles Business Council

The future of Los Angeles depends upon us meeting this moment to drive down the cost of building new affordable housing to address our homelessness crisis and the extreme scarcity of housing for working families.

- Streamline approvals
- Predictability for clearances to start and finish the work
- No extras on affordable housing that drive up cost
- Incentives for Workforce Housing







**Read the full Blue Ribbon Commission on  
Homelessness Governance Report:**

<https://brch.lacounty.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=9llkAHvEM5Q%3d&portalid=43>