



**MEETING OF THE CITY OF LA MESA  
CITIZEN TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS  
5:00 PM, CITY MANAGER'S CONFERENCE ROOM  
8130 ALLISON AVENUE, LA MESA, CA 91942**

MINUTES  
February 19, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER (5:04 p.m.)
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joe Glidden, Christina Selder, and Mike Williams introduced themselves to the task force.

4. ROLL CALL (X indicates present)

Wayne Anderson	X
Bonnie Baranoff	X
Joanne Cattani	
Jack Major	X
Mary Kate Miller	X
Stephanie Murphy	X

Others present: Greg Humora, City Manager; Lyn Dedmon, Senior Management Analyst; Migell Acosta, County Library Director; Chelsie Harris, La Mesa Library; Renee Novo, Alvarado Parkway Institute; Jennifer Kadas, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency

Public: Joe Glidden, resident; Christina Selder, Serving Seniors/resident; Mike Williams, resident; Rosa Alcaez resident

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Action: Motioned by Wayne Anderson and seconded by Stephanie Murphy to approve the minutes from the January 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Vote: 5-0

Yes: Wayne Anderson, Bonnie Baranoff, Jack Major, Mary Kate Miller, Stephanie Murphy

No: None

Abstained: None

Absent: Joanne Cattani

Motion passed.

6. BRIEFING ON HOMELESSNESS FROM THE ALVARADO PARKWAY INSTITUTE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM

Renee Novo gave a presentation on the homeless and behavioral health services offered by Alvarado Parkway Institute (API).

Bonnie Baranoff asked how API finds supportive housing for patients.

Renee Novo stated that API has a transportation program that picks up patients from supportive housing locations and uses the program as well as feedback from patients to gauge which locations are effective. Renee also stated that API formed a committee that assists with vetting supportive housing locations by providing recommendations for effective operation.

Stephanie Murphy asked if API takes patients without insurance.

Renee Novo stated that if a person who is experiencing homelessness self-reports to API that they are required and will treat the person; the person does not need to have Medical or Medicaid. However, if a patient is being requested to be transferred from another facility or is being referred to API from another provider, API will require insurance or information on who the payer is going to be.

Wayne Anderson asked for clarification that if a person self-reports, will API treat the patient beyond the 72 hour mandatory hold and will they be able to work through a program.

Renee Novo stated that API will keep treating the patient until they are stable and that they cannot discharge someone unless they have a place to live.

Mary Kate Miller asked who many available beds are available at board and cares in East County.

Renee Novo stated that she didn't know the exact number, mainly due to board and care start-ups and closures being so frequent.

## 7. BRIEFING ON HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO LIBRARY

Migell Acosta and Chelsie Harris gave a presentation on homeless services offered by the County of San Diego libraries.

Stephanie Murphy asked who is paying for the social worker at the El Cajon library location.

Migell Acosta stated that the funds come from the San Diego County Library; specifically their portion of sales tax revenue and funding from the Friends organization. Migell stated that the position costs \$90,000 annually and that funding for the position is ongoing.

Joe Glidden asked if the Friends organization was helpful.

Migell Acosta stated that the Friends organization is very helpful.

Wayne Anderson asked if it would be helpful if the library had a complete list of care providers to refer those experiencing homelessness to.

Migell Acosta stated that it would be very helpful for the library to have.

Stephanie Murphy asked Chelsie Harris what she thought the task force should recommend to the La Mesa City Council.

Chelsie Harris stated that improving communication on the Civic Center property would be beneficial and exploring design principles such as improved lighting. Chelsie also stated that an effort or strategy to keep the breezeway clear of encampments would be beneficial.

## 8. BRIEFING ON HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY



Jennifer Kadas gave a presentation on homeless services offered by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency.

The task force asked if the HEAP fund slide can be sent to them.

Stephanie Murphy asked whether the county is working with anyone in La Mesa to provide homeless services.

Jennifer stated that they have spoken to City Manager Greg Humora to begin the conversation of providing services with the City.

## 9. TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS DISCUSSION

Greg Humora stated that the City provided \$2,000 to the East County Homeless Task Force.

Greg Humora states that Lyn Dedmon received cost estimates from Home Start and PATH on the cost of providing homeless outreach services within La Mesa.

Wayne Anderson stated that the task force needs good data collection from Home Start and any others working La Mesa, such as who they are providing services to, what the people experiencing homelessness' needs are, and where they are being housed at.

Bonnie Baranoff stated that today's State of the State speech by Governor Gavin Newsom was all about homelessness.

Greg Humora stated that staff will be recommending using Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to provide some homeless resources within La Mesa and that La Mesa does not provide any social services. Social services are provided by other agencies including the County of San Diego.

The task force discussed ways to attract and utilize funding for La Mesa to address homelessness.

The task force decided not to have any presentations at the next meeting so they can focus solely on recommendations.

## 10. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

## 11. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Prepared by:

Lyn Dedmon, Senior Management Analyst