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## WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

### JOINT HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 18, 2017

Chaminade High School, West Hills

Revised December 19, 2017

Those in attendance were: Simone Best, Thomas Booth, Aida Abkarians, Faye Barta, Dan Brin, Margery Brown, Olivia Naturman, Brad Vanderhoof, Fern White (arrived 7:10), and Freddie Williams. Committee members Marie Javandi, and Joan Trent were absent.

Committee Co-Chair Thomas Booth called the meeting to order at 6:39 PM. A quorum was established.

The November meeting minutes were approved as amended.

Numbers refer to agenda items:

4. Chair Comments: Simone and Thomas reviewed the meeting at Supervisor Kuehl's Calabasas office. Thomas reported LAHSA has funding to purchase real estate for permanent supportive housing if suitable locations can be identified.
5. Public Comments: None
6. Meetings during Holidays: Thomas confirmed the January and February 2018 Homelessness Committee meetings will be on the fourth Monday of the month. The committee will meet on January 22, 2018, and February 26, 2018.
7. RV Parking and Bridge Housing Meeting: see item 1.
8. LAHSA Homeless Count 2018: Thomas urged everyone in attendance to sign up for the count. There will be a training meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup> at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Winnetka.
9. Interfaith Dialogue: Simone reported Kesha from Living Praise, and Arshia from the Islamic Center are working to coordinate.
10. Workgroup Report – West Valley Referral Guide: Thomas reported the workgroup is still working on the guide for the website.
11. Dialogue with guest speaker Freddie Williams, MFTI: Thomas welcomed and introduced Mr. Williams from the LA County Department of Mental Health. Mr. Williams described his work with the Full Service Partnership (FSP) program, where he engages clients on the street and recently released from hospitals. The goal is to transition them to a lower level of care within the mental health system. He stated many clients feel marginalized, isolated, and stigmatized. This creates a barrier to getting people to accept help. He then related a story of his life journey with experiences similar to his clients involving homelessness, addiction, and time in the criminal justice system. He shared a message that healing comes from love and sharing and the first step is often understanding. Mr. Williams then described LA County outreach programs for long term engagement; Whole Person Care, and SB 82. He also described a technique called motivational interviewing used to determine one need where people who refuse services and help can be engaged. The FSP program is full or at capacity, but is relatively new and being expanded as it provides significant savings in emergency medical services.

Committee Co-Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 8:20 PM.

The next meeting of this committee is on Monday, January 22, 2018 at 6:30 PM, Chaminade High School Condon Center, second floor conference room.