

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
(WESTERN DIVISION - LOS ANGELES)

LA ALLIANCE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS,)	CASE NO: 2:20-cv-02291-DOC-KESx
ET AL.,)	
	CIVIL
Plaintiffs,)	
	Los Angeles, California
vs.)	
	Thursday, August 6, 2026
CITY OF LOS ANGELES, ET AL.,)	
	(9:02 a.m. to 9:14 a.m.)
Defendants.)	

STATUS CONFERENCE RE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

BEFORE THE HONORABLE DAVID O. CARTER,
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE,
PRESIDING

APPEARANCES: SEE PAGE 2

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Special Master: MICHELLE MARTINEZ
JUSTICE TOM GOETHALS

Also Present: KERI AXEL, LAHSA

Los Angeles, California; Thursday, August 6, 2026; 9:02 a.m.

(Call to Order)

THE COURT: The first matter I'd like to call this morning is what I'm going to refer to as the LA Alliance County settlement and the issue involving the 3,000 mental health bed spaces that were agreed to, as well as the 500 elderly spaces. And I don't expect an in-depth report from anybody today. That's set for August 26th I believe.

So if you have a comment or there are issues that are arising, I'd like to hear that briefly before we get into the LAHSA/HUD matter, which is going to take some time.

So let me turn that over to all of you folks, and if you have any issues or concerns along the way, we've got Judge Goethals available, our special master, we've got Judge Birotte waiting upstairs. We've got Michelle Martinez and we're open to try to resolve any issues you might along the way so we don't get to August 26th with a -- issues that we might resolve now.

So if anybody has any comments, you're welcome to make them, if not, we'll move right forward into the LAHSA matter.

MS. MITCHELL: Thank you, Your Honor, Elizabeth Mitchell on behalf of LA Alliance. The parties did have a meet and confer in person with Special Master I think on July 20th and there is some issues that we are still working through.

1 The City is working with some service providers to
2 get us into a listening session to talk through some of the
3 services issues.

4 So if the Court recalls, two of the issues that we
5 raised were service provision within the interim and permanent
6 facilities, as well as direct connection to the outreach
7 workers. And so we have some I think steps forward with the
8 service providers, we're still working on the outreach workers
9 issue.

10 The one issue that hasn't been addressed yet, but I
11 think we may be working through it in the next month or so is
12 confirmation that those 3,000 mental health and SUD beds are in
13 addition to what has already existed. That's one of the issues
14 that we raised as opposed to just opening some and closing
15 others down and sort of shuffling Titanic chairs.

16 So those are the issues that are still being worked
17 through, Your Honor. I think that, you know, we may be in a
18 position to more fulsomely address those on the 26th.

19 **THE COURT:** Okay. City, County, anyone? You don't
20 have to make a comment, but I want to make sure that we -- if
21 there's something we can resolve before the 26th if there's an
22 issue, we can do so.

23 **MS. HASHMALL:** Thank you, Your Honor, Mira Hashmall
24 here for the County of Los Angeles.

25 You know I agree we had a really productive meeting

1 with our monitors on July 20th and there was a really
2 collaborative conversation about how to answer some of the
3 information gaps with regards to the concerns in our reporting.

4 Our annual -- our quarterly report was just recently
5 submitted, but I think it confirms again that the County is in
6 full and complete compliance with its settlement obligations,
7 but there are some questions that we're working through so
8 we're looking forward to those listening sessions and I think
9 we'll be prepared to give the Court a more fulsome update at
10 our next status conference. Thank you.

11 **THE COURT:** Anyone else have a comment because I'm
12 going to ask Justice Goethals, special master to make a
13 comment.

14 **MR. HAMBURGER:** Just briefly from the City, we are in
15 the process of scheduling these listening sessions with service
16 providers. We're working with CD-2 and CD-7 to do that.

17 **THE COURT:** If you need our help, with either the
18 special masters or Judge Birotte, let us know right away so we
19 don't get into issues on the 26th that we might be able to
20 resolve beforehand.

21 One of the issues that has come up is the -- are the
22 outreach teams and the intake into the mental health spaces.
23 Remember we had long negotiations wherein we reached the
24 agreement of 3,000 mental health spaces or beds and 500 for the
25 elderly.

1 That intake is supposed to be or we believe is very
2 low, five with hundreds and hundreds of spaces available. So
3 I'm going to call upon Justice Goethals for just a moment, and
4 yeah, if you'd be kind enough, we -- why don't you use the
5 microphone, the lectern or even from the witness box, Tom.
6 And, of course, he is the special master, he's the Appellate
7 Justice who's now retired and the special master to the County.

8 And this is the input that's coming to me, I want you
9 to hear the input that I'm getting.

10 **JUDGE GOETHALS:** Well, thank you, Judge. For those
11 of you who haven't met me before, I am Tom Goethals. I am the
12 special master for the County. I've met most of you and seen
13 most of you in court over the course of the last year.

14 We did have a meet and confer with representatives
15 from the City and the County and Special Master Martinez was
16 there and it was very productive on July the 20th. But I have
17 to tell you, I have only been the special master on this case
18 for about a year, you all have been battling for years it seems
19 like.

20 Something struck me that I have shared with Judge
21 Carter and I want to share with all of you publicly because I
22 think it struck Judge Carter as well. And that is this, we
23 have spent, since I became involved in this case, an awful lot
24 of time discussing statistics, verifiability and accuracy of
25 statistics. I have written about that, the County writes about

1 it in its reports and by the way, I have read the County's most
2 recent report filed on or about July 31st.

3 I have spent a lot of time in the last year talking
4 to County -- the County representatives about those quarterly
5 reports and I want to compliment the County because I think the
6 reports are -- everyone has been better and better and the most
7 recent one was the best one I have seen yet. I shared that
8 with Judge Carter as well.

9 And I want to compliment you, I appreciate the
10 effort. I still, having said that, want to say, the accuracy
11 and verifiability of the statistics is still a concern that I
12 have.

13 Having said that, what I really wanted to share with
14 everybody is this. We had a vigorous conversation with all
15 counsel on July the 20th about a variety of issues that the
16 Alliance has consistently raised over the years.

17 One of the things that we have talked about most, we
18 have spent an awful lot of time talking about the statistics
19 that refer to city outreach teams referring clients for county
20 services. And the City says something about those statistics,
21 the County says something else about those statistics, I have
22 received in the last week or two since our meet and confer a
23 couple of e-mails from an attorney who represents the City that
24 talks about the same thing.

25 These statistics, again, I want to make sure you

1 understand what I'm saying, city outreach worker referral to
2 county services and whether they're accurate. I have found --
3 I have heard, I have been told since July 20th that, in fact,
4 the City doesn't have any outreach workers and has not since
5 May of this year for primarily as a result of funding issues.

6 The City has not been fielding outreach teams and the
7 director of LAHSA is here, so I think she could probably verify
8 this, the City is not fielding outreach worker teams and hasn't
9 for the last three months. So we're spending an awful lot of
10 time talking about trying to verify the city outreach worker's
11 statistics, when there aren't even any teams working.

12 And I have to tell you that causes me to scratch my
13 head because it causes you to wonder whether or not counsel all
14 of whom I like and respect and I think you're working hard, it
15 causes me to wonder whether or not there is an interface
16 between people on the street who are doing the work and what
17 Judge Carter is being told here in court.

18 So if it's true that there haven't been any city
19 outreach teams working on the streets since May and we spent
20 all this time and effort trying to verify the statistics from
21 such teams that don't even exist, I have to wonder a little bit
22 about what's going on.

23 I have shared that with Judge Carter and he asked me
24 to share that with you all publicly. So that's what I wanted
25 to tell you. Other than that, I appreciate counsel's hard

1 work. I think you all are working hard, I think you're doing
2 what lawyers do. This is a unique piece of litigation --

3 **THE COURT:** I wanted to raise this --

4 **JUSTICE GOETHALS:** -- I've been on it for a year and
5 we've all got to do better I think.

6 **THE COURT:** I wanted to raise this with you today so
7 we don't get to August 26th so you're alert, because the
8 statistics I'm getting are five intakes with hundreds --

9 **JUSTICE GOETHALS:** Thank, Judge.

10 **THE COURT:** -- and hundreds of beds available.

11 Something's breaking down there. If we have hundreds
12 and hundreds and hundreds of beds available and we only have
13 five intakes, that means a huge amount of mental health spaces
14 are going to waste.

15 Now putting that on the table, if you have a comment,
16 fine; if not, we can wait until August 26th. But I didn't want
17 anybody to be caught by surprise with the information that I'm
18 receiving today so Judge Birotte's available, Michelle Martinez
19 is available, Justice Goethals is available and everybody is on
20 fair notice. Fair enough?

21 Any comments around the room? Greta (phonetic), do
22 you have anything that you'd like to say or just remain for the
23 time being till August 26th? LA Alliance?

24 **MS. MITCHELL:** I think we need some time to digest
25 the information, Your Honor, thank you.

1 **THE COURT:** Okay. City, County?

2 **MR. HAMBURGER:** Nothing from me.

3 **THE COURT:** Okay. All right. Then anything else
4 concerning that matter because I want to move then to the
5 LAHSA/HUD matter which will take a good portion of the day?

6 All right. Now, I'm going to need your appearances
7 and I'm going to start with LA Alliance so we have a record and
8 I know many counsel -- I know Shayla Myer now is representing
9 the COC Board, I believe, et cetera amongst others. So there's
10 been a lot of activity this last week, in fact, a lot of
11 activity in the last 48 hours.

12 So let me begin with LA Alliance and would you make
13 your appearance, please.

14 **MS. MITCHELL:** Thank you, Your Honor, Elizabeth
15 Mitchell, Umhofer Mitchell and King on behalf of LA Alliance.
16 With me today is also Paul Webster, Executive Director of the
17 alliance.

18 **THE COURT:** Thank you. And in no particular order,
19 let me turn to the County.

20 **MS. HASHMALL:** Mira Hashmall here for the County of
21 Los Angeles.

22 **MR. SARNOFF:** And Zachary Sarnoff also here for the
23 County of Los Angeles, good morning, Your Honor.

24 **THE COURT:** And Zachary, I'm sorry, can I get your
25 last name again?

1 **MR. SARNOFF:** Sarnoff, S-A-R-N-O-F-F.

2 **THE COURT:** Thank you very much.

3 **MR. HAMBURGER:** Brad Hamburger on behalf of the City
4 of Los Angeles.

5 **THE COURT:** All right. Appreciate it. And who's
6 with you today, Brad?

7 **MR. HAMBURGER:** James Rotstein on behalf of the City.

8 **THE COURT:** Okay. Good seeing you.

9 **MR. ROTSTEIN:** Thank you, Your Honor.

10 **THE COURT:** Let me turn to the intervenors.

11 **MS. SWEETSER:** Catherine Sweetser from Schonbrun
12 Seplow Harris Hoffman and Zeldes on behalf of the intervenors.

13 **THE COURT:** And once again, a little bit louder,
14 okay?

15 **MS. SWEETSER:** Catherine Sweetser on behalf of the
16 intervenors, from Schonbrun Seplow.

17 **THE COURT:** And for any elected representatives or
18 folks representing an agency if you would like to make an
19 appearance now or you can delay that unless you have any
20 comments you'd like to make.

21 **MS. AXEL:** I represent LAHSA, Your Honor.

22 **THE COURT:** Okay. If there are any elected officials
23 present today who want to make a statement, I'll take that out
24 of order, out of courtesy, so they can get back to their job or
25 if any elected officials come over, please notify the Court so

I'm courteous and we get them back to their work.

(Proceedings concluded at 9:14 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATION

I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter.



Signed

August 7, 2026

Dated

TONI HUDSON, PRESIDENT