


National Human Services Data Consortium **2016 Spring Conference**
Los Angeles, CA
 April 13-14, 2016

Utilizing GIS for Providing Homeless Services



Advancing a Technology Culture in Human Services
 Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA)
 Nathan Cheung
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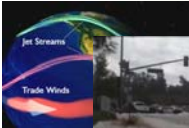
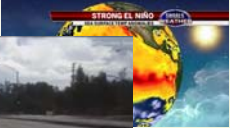

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The Facts...

- A large number of homeless encampments are alongside washes and rivers in LA County.
- El Nino was predicted to occur the winter of 2015 and generate unmeasurable rainfall and floods.
- These floods could be dangerous and lead to death if people in the rivers are not warned.


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The Response...

- Meeting held at Office of Emergency Management in September 2015 with Los Angeles Police Dept., Los Angeles Fire Dept., Los Angeles County Flood Control District, Army Corp, and LAHSA.
- Discussion of what was done in the past and the successes/failures.
 - Emerald Necklace was a success.
- Come up with a plan to reduce fatality in Rivers.



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The Plan...

Focus **Communicate** **Winter Shelters**

Focus on which main rivers in LA County would be affected. Getting the message out to homeless in the rivers. Directing homeless where to go in the event of flooding.

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Focus

- Collection of Data where Homeless are located.
 - Establish which 5 rivers are the priority.
 - On field collection by LAHSA Team.
 - Using mobile units to collect coordinates.
 - See where clusters appear for the month of October.
 - 308 homeless people were documented living in the LA Rivers.

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Communicate


- Coordinate
 - Los Angeles County Sheriff Department
 - Los Angeles Fire Department
 - And others to pass out fliers and warn homeless of dangerous floods

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Winter Shelters

- LAHSA efforts to provide shelters
 - Map out Existing location of Winter Shelters
 - These locations stay open from October to March.
 - Identify gaps and/or hard to reach locations based on distance of 1-3 miles from the rivers.



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The Outcome

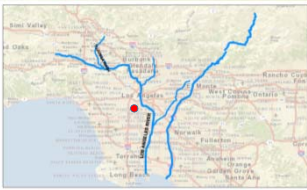
- Prevention Efforts: What is measurable is the number of lives that were not lost in efforts of the action.
- Increased Shelter Coverage: Number of shelters provided has gone up to accommodate areas that were not covered in the past.
- Real-Time Data: Expanding into collecting through apps and implementing emergency response.

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Real Time Data Collection and Emergency Response.

- Collecting in Real Time
- Reporting the Urgency of the issue
- Law enforcement and LAHSA updated via email, which provides a snapshot:
 - encampment
 - homeless individual
 - surrounding areas
- Identifying a person's history via CES/HMIS based on past data collection.



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Thank you.

Questions?

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