

MEETING MINUTES
Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee Special Meeting

March 29, 2021
9:37 AM – 12:10 PM

This meeting was held by Webex pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders and Mayoral Emergency Proclamations suspending and modifying requirements for in-person meetings. During the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) emergency, the Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee (OCOH) will convene remotely until the Committee is legally authorized to meet in person.

Note: The Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee meetings are live streamed at SFGovTV.org. The agenda, video recording, audio recording, and caption notes are posted at https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=209. Supporting materials including presentations and reports are posted at <https://sfcontroller.org/meetings/220>.

1) Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 am.

Committee Members Present: Member Brett Andrews, Vice Chair Julia D'Antonio, Member Jennifer Friedenbach, Member Shaun Haines, Member Julie Leadbetter, Member Lena Miller, Member Cynthia Nagendra, Member Ken Reggio, and Chair Shanell Williams.

2) Opportunity for the public to comment on any matters within the Committee's jurisdiction that are not on the agenda.

No public comment.

3) Presentation on FY21-22 budget proposals for the use of the OCOH Fund by the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing and the Department of Public Health, including updates from Committee Liaisons regarding budget proposals, with possible action by the Committee.

Vice Chair Julia D'Antonio began the liaison reports. She stated that she attended many of listening sessions and received feedback from over 700 community members, and over 400 of them were people with lived experience of homelessness. Some of the feedback included permanent housing solutions, wider range of housing options, meeting people where they are, interventions that are flexible. She provided an update on the [Listening Session with Glide](#). She stated a report is being developed with the information from the meetings. The sections of the report will include recommended programs that can be funded by OCOH, policy recommendations, and items that are not the purview of the Committee to recommend but may be options the City could consider investing in. Vice Chair D'Antonio emphasized her interest in compensating people for their feedback.

Member Brett Andrews, Behavioral Health Liaison, stated that he attended a few meetings including a meeting with Tenderloin providers and a meeting with legal advocates. Common themes included mobile outreach, funding one-on-one low threshold therapy sessions, support for those coming out of psych emergency services, and drop-in services. Drop-in

centers need to be increased with wrap-around services and outpatient services with more flexible funding. Feedback on specialized and temporary housing included more board and care beds, increased treatment beds, and residential treatment programs. Feedback on legal assistance included assistance with disability benefits and housing options. Feedback also included trauma informed services, more training, and funding for the behavior health networks. He stated that there was a feeling that this group felt like they were on their own. Finally, feedback included an interest to increase peer engagement programs and a creation of workforce programs.

Member Julie Leadbetter, Homelessness Prevention Liaison, thanked the departments for their support in discussions about prevention. Feedback from the listening sessions included need for parental assistance, flexible funding, case management support, longer duration of funding, more upstream interventions, understanding housing status of each individual, universal basic income, more services for queer, young, and trans people, more problem solving funding, eviction prevention, meeting people where they are, flexibility in shallow subsidy pool programs, workforce development programs, alignment between housing and employment services, workforce training programs, and focus on Coordinated Entry. Feedback from family and children in the listening sessions included the need to go upstream for prevention, families needing more income and deeper subsidies, flexible use of funds, legal services beyond eviction services, funds for problem solving, peer-led resources, acquisitions, and direct cash transfers.

Member Jennifer Friedenbach stated that the feedback she heard about homeless shelters included need for hygiene services, emergency services, more safe sleeping sites, safe parking sites, more resources in navigation centers, SIP hotels, and more options other than congregate settings. For family with kids, the feedback included more privacy, more places where people can find support. For the Glide survey participants, feedback included public showers, tent villages, bathrooms, and RV parks.

Member Friedenbach reminded everyone that the committee's recommendation from December was to only to fund mental health and substance abuse treatment beds. The Budget and Finance Committee ended up funding all of the items DPH requested in the current year. That included the street crisis care services, intensive case management services, and smaller amount of that was original recommended for expenditures at the 24-hour pharmacy.

Member Friedenbach stated that the OCOH recommended funding approximately half of HSH's prior immediate needs request for housing guests in SIP hotels, postponing decisions about funding housing for the other half of guests. She stated that the funding needs for the second half of the SIP rehousing plan are unlikely to change, but OCOH would be able to revisit subsidies. For the Phase 1 of the housing plan, only 34% of the people have been housed. The number of people housed needs to be increased dramatically. Member Friedenbach stated that the committee previously recommended funding for both one-time and ongoing costs in the current year, and some costs may increase in the coming year. She stated that OCOH voted to extend the Trailer Program, the shelter at Moscone, and the safe sleeping villages until July 1st, but will need to decide whether to continue to recommend support for these programs.

Member Ken Reggio, Housing Acquisition Liaison, stated that feedback from his meetings included additional funds for permanent housing, funding for new developments, and the acquisition and rehab of underutilized hotels and buildings. He explained that larger

developments do not work for everyone so smaller sites should also be considered. He also stated that housing options should be throughout the City and not focus on a few neighborhoods such as the Tenderloin. He stated that there is a great need for young mothers with children, people of color, and trans youth. A focus is needed on streamlining the housing procurement process, tailoring to the population including the aging population, and not neglecting existing housing portfolio.

System Modeling and Investment Planning Liaison Cynthia Nagendra provided additional information on housing. Feedback included the flex pool, bridge housing, supportive services to help stabilize people in their homes, more options outside of supportive housing, and low barriers for families. She stated that long term shallow subsidies should be explored, as well as more rapid housing is also important, and that a 2-year subsidy might not be long enough for some people. The Glide survey results will be shared shortly and will be in a report with graphs.

Emily Cohen, Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, and Dr. Hali Hammer, Department of Public Health, presented an update on the City funding priorities to reach shared goals. Their [presentation](#) is posted on the OCOH [website](#). Emily Cohen stated that the presentation is intended to share the City's priorities and to open up a discussion about how the City and the OCOH can achieved the shared goals of (1) permanently house 4,000 adults, families, youth, (2) provide behavioral health services for 4,500 people, (3) prevent homelessness for 7,000 people, and (4) create emergency shelter and drop-in hygiene programs, creating 1,000 placements. The City is in alignment with OCOH impact goals. Emily discussed the four strategies for achieving these share goals and centering the goals around equitable outcomes. She expressed her appreciation for all of the work that went into the listening sessions and talking to people in the community as they move forward with their shared vision.

Dr. Hali Hammer presented the funding priorities, opportunities and funding breakdown for behavioral health services. She stated that the they will continue to coordinate with OCOH to review budget priorities and fine-tune decision points. City Departments will provide a budget for each category and activity ahead of the April 20th OCOH meeting.

There was a public comment from Marisela M, a resident of San Francisco with 5 family members her household. She needs housing. She has not been able to find equitable housing opportunities. She requested that funds be allocated to families like hers so that she can gain access to housing.

There was a public comment from Miguel who works in homeless services. He expressed his appreciation to the committee. He feels that his input is being heard. He requested that funds be allocated in an equitable way, that funds support domestic families. He stated that City needs to prepare for housing because June 30th is the eviction moratorium expiration date.

There was a public comment from [name inaudible] a single mother of three. She explained that she would rent different rooms with her kids and that the kids did not have space to do homework. Meals were outside. The day that they received an apartment they were very happy. Permanent housing improved their quality of life and provided emotional stability.

There was a public comment from [name inaudible] a parent of two daughters in San Francisco. She expressed her concerns with supportive housing services and stated that her placement does not meet her family's needs. She stated that she does not believe that DPH should give money to developers to hire case management personnel, but that money should go to nonprofit service providers.

There was a public comment from [name inaudible] from Homeless Prenatal. She is a survivor of domestic violence. She stated that this year has been hard due to many facilities being closed due to COVID. She expressed support for funding to go to domestic violence and permanent housing services.

There was a public comment from a Cantonese speaker who lives in a single resident occupancy (SRO), who requested more rental housing assistance and subsidies for SRO families. She is a family of 5 who has been living in an SRO for the past 10 years. She stated that she has applied for affordable housing many times and is unqualified. She stated that it's been very difficult for her kids to participate in distance-learning at home. She stated 30% of their income should be allocated to housing according to what they can afford now.

There was a public comment from Yoyo who lives in an SRO. She is a family of 4. She needs to share the kitchen, bathroom, and other facilities with other families in building. She requested that more funds be allocated to SRO families. Both parents are working but still are unable to pay for the affordable housing rents.

There was a public comment from Raoul, a Tenderloin Organizer, he advocated for families in the SRO units. He stated the SROs are not suitable for children and conditions are not the best. Many families left SRO units due to the poor conditions, and many families had to move in with other families as a better housing option. He stated that at least 1,000 of the affordable housing should go to families.

There was a public comment from Priya, an SRO tenant organizer. She stated that at least 1,000 affordable housing units should go to families because they are the most vulnerable right now due to the pandemic. Permanent housing funds should not go to programs that the City is already operating. The OCOH should prioritize purchasing hotels now. Every child should have a safe and decent home.

There was a public comment from [name inaudible] from Grand Hotel. She has seen the effects of living in SRO for children. She advocated for funding for families.

There was a public comment from Catalina, an SRO tenant at Grand 7 Hotel. She advocated for more supportive housing for families especially due to COVID. Families have to share bathrooms that are not great for families.

There was a public comment from a resident of San Francisco. She stated that there needs to be right kind services for families.

There was a public comment from Michelle Rollen, an SRO collaborative program manager who serves tenants in the Mission. She fully supports Prop C and its funds be allocated to families. Families are struggling with conditions in SROs, and 1,000 units should be allocated to families.

There was a public comment from a Cantonese speaker. She is an SRO family organizer who expressed her support for rental housing assistance and subsidies for SRO families. She stated that she has seen many families where housing is just beyond their reach. She provided an example of a family of three.

After public comment, Chair Shanell Williams opened the item to general discussion by members. Member Friedenbach stated that there are outstanding questions with the departments around differentiating programs. She would like to see more pieces around responding to community feedback, purchasing of board and care homes, expanding cooperative housing, and seeing people move off the street. She stated that what she is hearing from the public is that there is a need for extremely low-income housing, and larger units. She requested more information on federal investments and funds that are coming back to the City.

Member Reggio asked Emily Cohen to clarify the number of new permanent supportive housing units. She clarified that 500 is the estimated number using the OCOH funds. Other resources can be used to increase the number of units. Member Ken Reggio stated that there is an urgency to having comprehensive report that show the cost of units beyond 500 units.

Member Leadbetter stated that she is extremely uncomfortable with not understanding how previously allocated funds have been spent, and stated that she does not believe that the spending is in alignment of what has been outlined by OCOH. She requested a lot more information before April 20th. Member Leadbetter suggested that not all of the money should be allocated until there is a better understanding of how it should be spent by members. She stated that she has requested information about the repayment of the General Fund several times and has not received a breakdown of the funds. She needs time to sort through the Investment and Action Plan. She stated that there is a collection of programs and services but no particular through-line on how programs and services will prevent homelessness and impact homelessness. Member Leadbetter asked which shelter programs are included in the department's funding proposal. Emily Cohen stated that the funding for the navigation centers include Embarcadero, a portion of expansion of Division Circle, the TAY navigation center, and Bayview navigation center. Member Leadbetter stated that she wanted to focus on permanent supportive housing investments and that more conversation needs to happen about those investments.

Member Cynthia Nagendra requested that her presentation be shared to the committee so members can prepare for the next meeting.

4) Discussion and possible action by the Committee on draft investment planning framework and final proposed OCOH outcome measures.

Chair Shanell Williams requested a special meeting before the April 20, 2021 and requested to move item 4 to the special meeting date.

5) Committee to propose agenda items for subsequent meetings, and possible action by the Committee in response to this item

Member Leadbetter stated that she would like the advance repayments item to be added to the agenda list, and Member Reggio concurred.

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No public comments.

Member Jennifer Friedenbach motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Member Julie Leadbetter seconded the motion. Roll call was taken, and the following members voted in agreement to adjourn the meeting: Member Jennifer Friedenbach, Member Shaun Haines, Member Julie Leadbetter, Member Lena Miller, Member Cynthia Nagendra, Member Ken Reggio, and Chair Shanell Williams.

Members absent from vote: Member Brett Andrews, Vice Chair Julia D'Antonio

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.