

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee
November 16, 2022
9:33 AM – 11:55 AM

Committee Members

Nina Catalano
Michelle Cunningham-Denning
Julia D'Antonio
Jennifer Friedenbach
Julie Leadbetter
Lena Miller
Ken Reggio
Shanell Williams

This meeting was held by WebEx pursuant to California Government Code Section 54953(e) and the Mayor's 45th Supplement to her February 25, 2020 emergency proclamation 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:
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<https://sf.gov/meeting/november-16-2022/our-city-our-home-oversight-committee-special-meeting>

1) Call to Order and Introductory Remarks from Chair Williams

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 9:33AM.

Chair Williams welcomed the Members to the OCOH Oversight Committee Retreat. She said it is an opportunity for members to engage with each other and think strategically about the work ahead.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Present
Member Cunningham-Denning: Present
Vice Chair D'Antonio: Absent
Member Friedenbach: Present
Officer Leadbetter: Present
Member Miller: Absent
Member Reggio: Joined late
Chair Williams: Present

Quorum confirmed.

Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone, who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the ancestors, elders and relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign rights as First Peoples.

2) Discussion Item/Possible Action:

Presentation of the Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee's Needs Assessment Final Draft, with discussion and possible action by the Committee.

Jessica Shimmin, OCOH Policy Analyst in the City Performance Unit of the Controller's Office, presented the final draft of the OCOH Oversight Committee's Needs Assessment ([slides located here](#)).

Member Friedenbach asked whether the qualitative data included the Committee's focus groups from earlier in 2022? Ms. Shimmin said that where possible, qualitative data from the Listening Sessions was included. In some cases, differences in data collection made it challenging to combine the data sets. However, those data are [publicly available here](#). Member Friedenbach asked whether the Data Officer or Chair were involved in planning those groups. Ms. Shimmin said yes, they were included. The Committee also received the plan to conduct a limited cycle of focus groups at the March 21st meeting.

Member Catalano thanked Ms. Shimmin for the work and noted that the connecting the qualitative and quantitative data analysis is very effective. Member Catalano asked how the inflow of households was determined. Ms. Shimmin said that the estimates draw upon administrative data sources (like the ONE System and DPH's consolidated records) as well as the PIT Count. Using the PIT count alone generated inflow rates that didn't align with administrative data sources. It became clear that the PIT likely undercounted the number of households experiencing homelessness as a point in time. A literature review of scholarship identified a method for estimating the uncounted unsheltered population on the night of the PIT.

Member Catalano noted that estimated units of service for OCOH funds (which are the majority of HSH's targeted homelessness prevention funds) but does not include all targeted homelessness prevention funding sources. Ms. Shimmin thanked Member Catalano and said she would note that in the slide.

Member Reggio asked about the factors that went into the projections? Ms. Shimmin (Controller's Office) reviewed the two established methods for annualizing the Point in Time Count. Ms. Shimmin worked with the Data and Performance team at HSH and consultants with Focus Strategies to compare the annualized PIT numbers with administrative data from HSH and DPH. The team also drew upon new research that supported federal authorities in estimating the COVID response needed. This particular paper used San Francisco as one of the cities that helped develop the method.

Member Catalano asked about people with long lengths of time homeless and wondered whether they are primarily unsheltered or sheltered? As well, Member Catalano is interested in the Mental Health SF Core metrics, because they focus on long term outcomes.

Member Reggio noted that (on slide 61) it appears that Black/African American identified people are being prioritized at a higher rate, which is appropriate. Member Reggio asked to hear from the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing at a future meeting about their efforts to make prioritization more equitable.

Ms. Shimmin (Controller's Office) said that existing data don't show much variation by race or ethnicity across rates of housing referral status, referrals to housing, or housing move ins. However, in comparison with the PIT Count, there are some differences. People identifying as Black or African American were referred to housing at somewhat higher rates than in homeless population overall at the 2022 PIT Count. People identifying as Hispanic/Latinx were referred to housing at lower rates than in the homeless population overall.

Member Friedenbach said suggested adding another bar reflecting the racial and ethnic distribution of all households that accessed coordinated entry as a comparison. She said if there are lower rates of Latino engagement with coordinated entry, that would be important. And then, the numbers of households who are accessing coordinated entry for housing would be another relevant datapoint.

Chair Williams said that there are several efforts to address structural racism in San Francisco, with the Reparations Task Force and Office of Racial Equity being two in the public sector. Chair Williams said that

Black people are unfairly burdened by social problems—in health, education, homelessness—and this is a source of rage and frustration. She encouraged the Committee and Leaders of Color to think about how to move the needle on overcoming racial disparities. She suggested hearing from the Reparations Task Force on how these issues intersect.

Member Friedenbach said the racial disparities really stand out in the data. She suggested addressing the racial disparities by targeting even more resources to those communities. Member Friedenbach said that deep poverty continues the intergenerational cycle of homelessness. She expressed hope because homelessness is solvable. Member Friedenbach said that there is a significant proportion of households experiencing homelessness that won't need ongoing support services but will need the rental subsidy because the rents are so high, and wages are comparatively low.

Chair Williams noted the importance of employment opportunities that provide livable wages with vocational training rather than a college degree. What role can workforce development play in preventing and ending homelessness?

Member Reggio said that given what is known about the population and the resources currently available, what is the right amount of shelter? What's the right amount of housing? Member Reggio said it appears that the system is undersubscribed to the extent that the OCOH Oversight Committee can continue forward in its strategies without concern. At the same time, it cannot be an endless amount of housing. The Needs Assessment says that HSH's homeless system modeling and City-Wide Strategic Plan will provide those numbers. Member Reggio said he hopes that is the case. He said that arriving at a number of housing units needed will establish a foundation for setting goals and measuring progress.

Additionally, Member Reggio suggested arranging conversations with the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to understand their efforts to address racial and ethnic disparities as well as opportunities to greater racial equity, particularly for communities that are historically underserved? Member Reggio encouraged the Committee to lean in and participate heavily in the HSH system modeling efforts.

Data Officer Leadbetter said that she has not been involved in the strategic planning or modeling conversations. She agreed that it's critical to quantify the gap between what the system has and what is needed. She would like the population segmentation in the Needs Assessment to inform the homeless response system model and strategic plan. She wondered how the Committee can be better participants in these processes?

Member Catalano said that repeated exclusion of Black and Brown people stands out the most to her. Given that context, she said, the continuity of supports matters. What role does the Committee play in assuring continuous support? How can the Committee engage with City departments and organizations to sustain impact in people's lives?

Chair Williams agreed with Member Catalano. She said that in addition to having enough system resources, overcoming racial disparities requires identifying and deconstructing system barriers. She said this kind of work is happening in the Office of Racial Equity.

Member Friedenbach said that misinformation is another challenge to ending homelessness. She said that it is difficult to make progress when voters are misinformed about how much money is being spent, which leads to feeling that there's no way to solve homelessness. She said she feels frustrated because it's difficult for people experiencing homelessness to get their needs met, let alone exercise choice, with the existing resources.

Member Reggio said the Committee's role is to identify barriers. The cost of a unit of housing and the length of time it takes to develop a unit are some of the greatest barriers. Should the Committee encourage the Board and Mayor to create waivers or other mechanisms to expedite housing development?

Chair Williams agreed that it is a good time for the Committee to go on record encouraging expedited housing development. She said politics should not get in the way of permanent solutions.

Ms. Shimmin laid out a revised process for the Committee to develop a letter to the Board and Mayor that will accompany the Needs Assessment. Member Reggio joined Data Officer Leadbetter and Chair Williams in volunteering to help draft the letter. Committee Members were asked to submit their ideas for that letter to Ms. Shimmin on or before November 30th. The volunteers will draft the letter and return it to the Committee for final review, revision, and approval at the next meeting on December 15, 2022.

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

3) Discussion Item/Possible Action:

Presentation of the Our City, Our Home Fund Revenue Forecast and Budget Implications with discussion and possible action by the Committee.

Carol Lu, Citywide Revenue Manager in the Budget Analysis Division of the Controller's Office, and Yuri Hardin, Assistant Citywide Revenue Manager, presented the OCOH Fund Revenue Forecast using [slides available here](#).

FY21-22 revenue came in worse than expected, in large part because workers continue to telecommute in high rates as well as the impact of COVID variants in FY21-22. Ms. Lu said the current forecast expects a significant decrease between \$30 million and \$50 million. The Budget Analysis Division will revisit the revenue forecast in January, February, March, and May as real data becomes available.

Jenny Louie, Chief Financial Officer for the Department of Public Health (DPH), said the Department planned annual increases in spending to match inflation, which is challenged by the forecasted decrease in revenue. In the short term she anticipates using one-time savings and reserves, but if revenues continue to be low, then the existing spending plan won't be sustainable. Ms. Louie emphasized that it is still early and the news is fresh. She will be working with the Mayor's Office and Controller's Office to develop a sustainable plan.

Gigi Whitley, Deputy Director for Administration and Finance for the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) acknowledged appreciatively the Committee's support in creating reserves in the last budget cycle. The City hadn't anticipated ongoing decreases in revenue. She said HSH will work with the Mayor's Office and Controller's Office to understand trade-offs and preserve programs.

Member Friedenbach asked whether reductions would impact the current fiscal year (FY 22-23 beginning 7/1/2022 through 6/30-2023)? Or the next budget year? And if so, what is the bottom line in terms of reduction? Ms. Lu (Controller's Office) said that the current year shortfall is \$30 million and the next two budget years are roughly \$50 million each, totaling \$129.6 million over the three years.

Member Friedenbach said that the Committee will want to make recommendations on existing year changes. As well, she would like to establish some values that guide decision making. She expressed concern that valuable programs that have taken longer to implement may get reduced despite their importance to the system.

Chair Williams asked for some worst-cast scenario planning, how bad could things get? Ms. Lu (Controller's Office) said they Controller's Office has not yet modeled a recession scenario but will be doing so for the General Fund and possibly the OCOH Fund. She offered that one approach to planning may be to anchor, or fix, the annual budget amount at \$250 million. Chair Williams said she prefers this approach, to minimize revision.

Member Reggio asked about the process and timing for making recommendations on current year budget revisions. Ms. Shimmin (Controller's Office) said that City Departments are required to rebalance their budgets during the year and that work falls to the Mayor's Office and Departments.

Ms. Louie said that DPH has not started rebalancing or slowing implementation because the Department ended the year with significant reserves. The longer-term financial picture and strategy will be developed in communication with the Mayor's Office. Ms. Whitley said she doesn't anticipate service reductions in the current year and anticipates the Department will be able to sustain at their current level through the end of the current year. The Mayor will release budget instructions for FY23-24 and FY24-25 in the coming weeks, which will guide that conversation.

Ms. Shimmin suggested planning the budget process now and revisiting liaison roles at the December meeting, so the Committee is prepared to begin immediately in January 2023.

Member Friedenbach said she would like to talk about the budget process at the December meeting. She expressed concern that mid-year budget reductions can lead to unfortunate decisions. She explained that the Executive Branch (the Mayor) has spending authority to make those kinds of reductions.

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

4) Discussion Item/Possible Action:

Committee discussion of items for future meeting agendas, with possible action by the Committee. (5 min)

Member Friedenbach asked to have a discussion of values or principles in consideration of reductions to the Fund.

Member Reggio asked to discuss with HSH their current efforts to address racial and ethnic equity.

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

5) Adjourn

Chair Williams thanked Committee Members for their participation in the retreat. She requested a motion to adjourn. Member Catalano made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Friedenbach seconded the motion to adjourn.

Vote:

Member Catalano: Yes
Member Cunningham-Denning: Yes
Vice Chair D'Antonio: Absent
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Officer Leadbetter: Yes
Member Miller: Absent
Member Reggio: Yes
Chair Williams: Yes

The meeting adjourned at 11:55AM.

Committee staff and members can be reached at OCOH.CON@sfgov.org.