

MEETING MINUTES

Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee
August 24, 2023
Hearing Room 416, City Hall
9:36 AM – 11:18 AM

Committee Members

Nina Catalano
Michelle Cunningham-Denning
Julia D'Antonio
Jennifer Friedenbach
Bonnie Preston
Scott Walton
Shanell Williams

Members of the Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee attended this meeting in-person. 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://sf.gov/meeting/august-24-2023/our-city-our-home-oversight-committee-regular-meeting>

1) **Call to Order**

Vice Chair D'Antonio called the meeting to order at 9:36 AM.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Present
Member Cunningham-Denning: Absent (unexcused)
Vice Chair D'Antonio: Present
Member Friedenbach: Present
Member Preston: Present
Member Walton: Present
Chair Williams: Arrived late at 9:50

Quorum confirmed.

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.

The Committee voted to approve Member Walton's and Member Catalano's future absences at the September 28 regular meeting with five yes votes, and two members absent for the vote.

Vice Chair D'Antonio introduced the two new Committee members, Member Walton and Member Preston.

Member Walton shared a brief introduction to his 19-year history of working in homeless services for San Francisco and 24-year history working in homeless services in California and Michigan. He shared that he retired a year ago and is happy to be part of the OCOH Oversight Committee.

Member Preston said that she is also thrilled to be a new member of the Committee and that she was thrilled when the initial proposition passed. She shared that she has a background in public health and is currently working for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under Secretary Beccera, serving the people of Region 9 with human services programming and initiatives. Member Preston added that she has been a resident of San Francisco for 30 years and grew up in the East Bay. She stated that she is looking forward to bringing her talents and concerns to the Committee.

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

Robert Perena, a native San Franciscan representing the Lower Nob Hill Neighborhood Alliance, provided a public comment. He stated that at the last meeting he attended he made the Committee aware of a 74-year-old man named Michael who has been at a shelter in the City for five years. He shared that today Michael has a meeting with his case worker after four weeks of waiting. Robert explained that a Deputy Director gave him contact card and he emailed her twice, but she was unresponsive. Robert expressed concern that sometimes the housing system can be dysfunctional.

Evelyn, a resident from District 6, gave a public comment on behalf residents and property owners on Thomas Street. She stated that over the last few years she has seen her neighborhood's quality of life and safety diminish due to people with bad behavior living in encampments. She added that her entire block smells of urine and that she must hose down her front entry every day. Evelyn stated that she was here to demand that Jennifer Friedenbach recuse herself from the Committee because she feels that she has no intention of bringing resolutions to the homelessness problem. She's concerned that Member Friedenbach's position of Executive Director of the Coalition on Homelessness conflicts with the City's vision.

Jake Hunter Ortega, a resident from District 3, provided a public comment. He stated that he has concerns with Jennifer Friedenbach being part of the Oversight Committee due to potential conflicts of interest of being in charge of the Coalition of Homeless and the Committee that oversees Prop C funds. He said that he posted a photo of himself and Member Friedenbach at an event as a way of suggesting she step down. Mr. Ortega stated that he is formally requesting that she step down from the Oversight Committee in the name of transparency and avoiding a conflict of interest.

Marnie Regan of Larkin Street Youth Services and co-chair of HESPA gave a public comment. She stated that on behalf of HESPA, she would like to counter the narrative that TAY and family providers have limited capacity to expand services, specifically housing, subsidies, rental assistance, and rapid rehousing. She stated that they are excited to work with the Committee to make some meaningful investments with housing and subsidy funding.

Dejan, a local organizing director, gave a public comment. He shared the definition of a conflict of interest. He stated that he does not know what personal benefit Member Friedenbach would gain from sitting on the Committee and that everything she has done has been for the people that are experiencing homelessness. He added that she should be on the Committee and reiterated she is here is for community benefit.

Miguel Carrera with the Coalition of Homelessness provided a public comment. Mr. Carrera shared that he has worked with his director, Jennifer Friedenbach, for over 28 years in the Coalition on

Homelessness. He said that they do so much work for the community like organizing campaigns that have moved hundreds of thousands of people to housing. He said he opposes the comments regarding Member Friedenbach as he has seen her work long to hours to fight homelessness and that regardless of being his director, she cares about homeless families and youth.

Sammie Rayner of Community Forward gave a public comment encouraging the Committee to look back at the needs of women who are unhoused and have a high likelihood of having experienced assault. She stated that as many as 2,600 women get turned away from victim and emergency services every year due to lack of capacity. She encouraged the Committee to incorporate women's safety into their planning for new projects and acquisitions. Ms. Rayner added a final statement honoring Kelly Koike, a local woman who was victim of assault.

Chair Williams joined the meeting at 9:50.

Eleana Binder, Policy Manger at GLIDE, gave a public comment over the phone. She expressed a need for an emergency supplemental appropriation for youth and families. She added that families are often undercounted during the PIT count as they are couch-surfing, sleeping in cars, and SROs. Ms. Binder stated that ending homelessness for children and families prevents them from becoming the City's next generation of homeless adults.

3) Action Item

Approval, with possible modification, of the meeting minutes from April 14, 2023; April 27, 2023; and June 9, 2023.

Member Friedenbach made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from April 14, April 27, and June 9, 2023. Member Catalano seconded this motion.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Yes

Member Cunnigham-Denning: Absent

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes

Member Friedenbach: Yes

Member Preston: Abstained (not present for meetings being approved)

Member Walton: Abstained (not present for meetings being approved)

Chair Williams: Yes

There was brief discussion as to whether the motion passed with only four approvals and two abstentions. Following the meeting it was confirmed that the motion did not pass and the minutes for April 14, April 27, and June 9, 2023 remain unapproved. The minutes will be marked as 'draft' when posted to the website.

4) Discussion/Possible Action Item

Overview and discussion of the final approved OCOH budget for FY23-24 and FY24-25.

Gigi Whitley, Deputy Director of Finance and Administration with the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) presented information about the final approved OCOH budget for FY2023-2024 and FY2024-2025.

The presentation began with slide 1 in the [presentation deck link here](#) and a budget summary handout was provided to members. The [summary handout is linked here](#).

At the end of the presentation, Director Whitley added that recently updated revenue numbers will likely affect the budget plan going forward. She stated that these projections will be brought back to the Committee once current-year revenue numbers are finalized, but that closing the deficit may liquidate much of the savings and one-time reserves. Director Whitley added that there will be no immediate impact or cuts to services already underway.

Director of Administration and Operations for Mental Health SF with Department of Public Health, Kelly Kirkpatrick, provided an overview of FY23-25 OCOH budget plans for DPH. Director Kirkpatrick explained that there were no changes to budget plans from what was shared with the Committee in April.

Chair Williams opened public comment.

Hope Kamer from Compass Family Services and the family sub-committee of HESPA provided a public comment. Ms. Kamer referred to Marnie Regen's earlier comment that any narrative that TAY and family providers don't have capacity to expand Prop C programs is not true. Ms. Kamer stated that they are seeing a rising acuity of need and instances of toxic stress in caregivers navigating homelessness. She encouraged shifting future investments into programs such as Flex Pool and Access Points to ensure funding for childcare providers.

Marnie Regen from Larkin Street Youth Services and HESPA provided a public comment. She thanked HSH for the updates and explained that they are looking forward to leveraging restrictive HUD funding with OCOH funds, especially around housing. She added that there is an aggressive push for acquisitions and that they're looking forward to future conversations regarding OCOH and TAY and family providers.

Miguel Carrera provided a public comment. He thanked HSH for the presentation on the budget. He explained that he has experienced homelessness and that he is fighting to move homeless families and youth into stable housing. He stressed that the purpose of OCOH funding is to help homeless people and that families and youth need help.

Dejan gave a public comment regarding supplemental appropriation for TAY and families. He stated that he feels that there should be some funds set aside for these populations for unforeseen events, especially since we may not have a real count of these people experiencing homelessness.

This concluded public comment on this agenda item. Chair Williams opened the floor to Committee discussion.

Member Friedenbach asked HSH about the status of unallocated funds and proposed the Committee discuss some recommendations on how to spend the money. She added that from the Coalition on Homelessness's perspective, there are many families who are not getting their needs met. Member Friedenbach asked if the unallocated funds in the TAY category are ongoing or one-time.

Director Whitley stated that \$11.7 million is what was budgeted as unallocated but that there is an additional fund balance that is not shown on the chart. Director Whitley noted that all the funds shown on the summary document have been appropriated and do not require any further budget appropriation action but do need to be allocated to a spending plan.

Director Whitley further explained that the \$11.7 million in TAY and additional \$8.8 million in unallocated funds in the Family Housing category have additional funds not shown on the handout, making a combined total of about \$40.5 million, or roughly \$24.7 million in TAY Housing and \$15.8 million in Family Housing. Ms. Whitley stated that the money is all one-time money and confirmed

that the money is appropriated but unprogrammed. She noted that in future years there are additional acquisition funds in the TAY and Family Housing categories, but that those funds are not included in the unprogrammed \$40.5 million.

Member Friedenbach asked if there have been any buildings identified for the acquisitions on the family side. Member Friedenbach also asked for clarification regarding the presentation back in the spring in which TAY and Family Housing revenue projections seemed to be increasing and whether projected revenue could sustain on-going operating costs.

Director Whitley said that she will need to go back and check what the Family Housing acquisition fund balance is. She added that HSH is still grappling with the extreme volatility of the fund and that based on updated revenue projections from last year the ongoing money is slowly being used up. TAY and Family Housing funds are still on balance, but relatively tight, as there will likely be deficits where they thought the fund would be steady state.

Member Catalano and Director Whitley discussed what “financial services” refers to in the Homelessness Prevention section of the budget. Member Catalano requested that HSH separate out items related to SF ERAP (Emergency Rental Assistance Program) from other types of programs in future budget reporting.

Member Catalano asked for clarification on the total number of prevention and problem-solving slots as they relate to the strategic plan goal as well as if the funds are going towards SF ERAP.

Director Whitley said that she will have to check on the total investment and how funds are being used, but confirmed that the reported 750 slots are additive, as they work towards the goal of at least 860 slots, and funds are generally expanding emergency housing assistance.

Member Catalano asked who will oversee the shallow subsidies program within HSH.

Director Whitley stated that she will have to verify, but believes the program will be managed by HSH’s “Scattered Site Subsidy” team. MOHCD already has an SRO doubled-up program so there will likely be a conversation about who is best positioned to get the family money out as soon as possible.

Chair Williams asked if she could hear more about HSH’s perspective on the need for expanding capacity across programs and providers.

Director Whitley said that she will have to check in with where HSH is on their own staffing. She acknowledged the public comments regarding local provider’s needs and stated that she would follow up with a more detailed answer.

Chair Williams asked if Director Whitley could speak more about improvements to the Coordinated Entry process. Director Whitley said that she will relay this question to the Planning Director Cynthia Nagendra who has been leading working sessions on improving Coordinated Entry and will follow up with more information.

Vice Chair D’Antonio noted the significance of working upstream and the need to continue working with TAY and families. She reiterated that the Committee would like to keep the allocations as they are and want to ensure funds are not reappropriated into the Adult Housing category.

Member Walton noted that moving forward, especially in the context of the uncertainty of the revenue, it would be very helpful to see a clear presentation of investments that will be ongoing

versus those that will be one-time.

Member Catalano asked Director Kirkpatrick is she could speak to any additional State funding received that compliments the Prop C funding for some of the acquisitions and expansions.

Director Kirkpatrick said that the most recent announcement is for Behavioral Health Bridge Housing (BHBH) which is a portion allocation based on census and PIT count to the City and County. The City's allocation is \$32 million over the next four years, so about \$8 million per year. She added that it is a partnership that they are working on with HSH. She added that the State parameters of the funding have been defined as "roofs over heads, quickly" for people experiencing severe behavioral health needs with a priority for those who are Care Court clients. Additionally, it cannot be housing or treatment that is Medi-Cal eligible.

Director Kirkpatrick explained that DPH is also working with HSH to expand shelter expansion as well as more transitional housing such as residential treatment housing and emergency stabilization programs. There is also funding available for services providing linkage. She noted that she can circulate the BHBH press release that was put out by DPH.

Chair Williams asked if they could hear more about dual diagnosis offerings, long term high acuity residential facilities, and an update on street outreach and Director Kirkpatrick said that she will follow up after the meeting regarding these questions.

Member Friedenbach asked if there were any updates on acquisitions and whether the state dollars could be partnered with an acquisition to create capacity.

Director Kirkpatrick stated that they have received state money that will help leverage Prop C for a handful of projects. DPH is working on an expansion of residential step-down beds on Treasure Island and has received state money to support this through the CCE preservation funding. They have also received state money through BHCIP to support the construction costs for the crisis stabilization unit that was purchased with Prop C money. She added that they are looking for approximately 3-5 buildings for additional facilities including a TAY residential program, board and care/dual diagnosis beds, and managed alcohol program.

Member Friedenbach asked if there was any potential room in the acquisition budget to meet the need for a behavioral health building that focuses on women. She added that a timeline as to when the acquisition fund will be exhausted would be helpful and expressed concern about setting aside one-time funds in reserve.

Director Kirkpatrick explained that DPH is in negotiations for a few buildings they hope to acquire using the existing accumulation of one-time funds. DPH may need to use these one-time funds as a back-stop for ongoing programming in the future should OCOH revenues decline any further, as DPH projects a \$20 million structural shortfall in the long-term based on current revenue projections. Any unspent acquisition funds may have to be utilized to maintain ongoing spending and avoid cuts depending on where revenue goes in the coming years.

Vice Chair D'Antonio expressed concern regarding the accrual of interest that is lost when money that is set aside for future acquisition investments is reappropriated.

5) Discussion/Possible Action Item

Overview and discussion of the Committee's FY23-24 workplan and future meeting agenda items.

Chair Williams shared the FY23-24 work planning document [linked here](#) and opened up the floor to discussion on potential agenda topics for future meetings.

Vice Chair D'Antonio requested inviting the Housing Authority to the September meeting since they operate many of the low-income units and put money into programs like Home Point and rapid rehousing programs. She said it would be helpful to know an updated number of vacancies.

Member Catalano suggested a focus on sub-populations, specifically TAY and families since the HSH Strategic Plan does not yet have a focus on these populations, and this could help inform future work for these sub-populations.

Vice D'Antonio added that another sub-population to include is survivors of domestic violence.

Member Friedenbach suggested that at the September meeting Committee members vote on the allocation of Youth and Family Housing funds to avoid a situation in which money is unprogrammed while there is a tremendous need. Member Friedenbach added that she would like for the Committee to do the voting on liaisons earlier as well, maybe in October.

There was brief discussion about liaison titles and roles, specifically that the Impact and Data liaison role was combined and that this may not be reflected on the website.

Member Catalano asked if this fiscal year has an earlier budget recommendation timeline because of the Homeless Oversight Commission and whether the Committee would be voting on these agenda topic ideas in the current meeting.

Laura Marshall, staff from the Controller's Office, explained that the Committee does not need to vote to approve agenda topics. Additionally, Ms. Marshall noted that there is a slight change in process for the Committee with the creation of the Homeless Oversight Commission. The ordinance delegates OCOH to make recommendations both to the Mayor and the Board as well as the Health and Homeless Oversight Commissions. She added that there is still a need to determine the timeline for coordination in making recommendations to the Homeless Oversight Commission, but that departments will not have to propose their OCOH budgets for the February submission, and that this coordination with the Homeless Oversight Commission can occur during the typical spring timeline for OCOH budget recommendations.

Member Walton noted that regarding ongoing work with TAY and families, it is critical to consider that they are not distinct and permanent populations since TAY become adults and adults can become families. Member Walton added that the Committee keep this in mind as the needs of one population can overlap with other populations.

Vice Chair D'Antonio requested that the Housing Authority, in conjunction with the MOHCD group that oversees the RAD (Rental Assistance Demonstration) program, present at the October meeting about vacancies, the Section 8 waitlists, and any other plans and funding they have going forward. She added that understanding if or how Coordinated Entry is playing into their systems would also be helpful to know.

Chair Williams suggested having DPH and HSH return for the December Special Meeting to address the key questions asked earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Marshall noted that the annual report will be part of that meeting but that there should also be time to have DPH and HSH return for that meeting.

Chair Williams reviewed the tentative timeline for agenda items discussed so far and mentioned Mental Health SF as another group eager to come and present to the Committee. The Chair expressed interest in hearing from Office of Racial Equity as well as having departmental Racial Equity leads present on the work they're doing.

Chair Williams discussed the possibility of incorporating cross-committee collaboration in the November retreat. She suggested inviting other City leaders to have a dialogue with the Committee including the Homeless Oversight Commission and the Mental Health SF implementation working group.

Vice Chair D'Antonio and Member Preston discussed having presentations from all the sub-populations present at the September meeting. Chair Williams agreed.

Member Walton asked that we clarify what the Committee would like to hear from these groups, including what is happening now and what they see going forward from the perspective of their respective sub-populations.

Chair Williams agreed and added that domestic violence can be incorporated into the September meeting. Chair Williams confirmed interest in inviting Racial Equity leads and ORE to the October meeting.

Member Walton and Chair Williams discussed the option of having presentations and discussions at subsequent meetings if time is limited.

Member Preston and Chair Williams discussed framing the sub-population presentations within the context of the Needs Assessment. Chair Williams reviewed the timeline for proposed agenda topics.

Member Friedenbach asked when updated revenue projections will be available for the Committee.

Ms. Marshall confirmed that the following budget timeline:

- By September, the Controller's Office will have the final numbers for the previous fiscal year
- By the November retreat, the Budget Analysis Division will have revenue projections for the current year
- By December, the Controller's Office will present an annual report about what happened in the previous fiscal year
- By February, the Controller's Office will present a FY23-24 mid-year update

Member Catalano affirmed the presentations of Racial Equity Action Plans asked whether it would be useful to have departments submit their plans in advance so that the Committee could review the plans prior to their meeting.

Chair Williams agreed and noted that if anyone has specific questions around any of these presenters to please send the questions to her so she can relay them appropriately. Chair Williams and Ms. Marshall reminded the Committee to complete the survey with their availability to schedule the November retreat.

Chair Williams opened public comment.

Robert Perena gave a public comment regarding an update from his earlier public comment about the 74-year-old man he is advocating for. Mr. Perena explained that he has been volunteering at St. Antohoiny's Foundation for over 40 years with the Veterans Recovery group and is a recovered

addict himself. He reported that Michael is going to be housed in permanent supportive housing unit and thanked the Committee for the work they do to fund this.

Christin Evans from the Homeless Oversight Commission gave a public comment over the phone. Ms. Evans noted that she heard the tail end of the work planning conversation and wanted to raise the opportunity for the Commission to share information across bodies and asked whether there may be ideal times for the two bodies to share information with one another.

Member Friedenbach noted that at the November retreat we should have the opportunity to have a dialogue with the Commission and thanked Ms. Evans for calling in.

6) Adjourn

Chair Williams requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Vice Chair D'Antonio moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Walton seconded the motion to adjourn.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Yes

Member Cunningham-Denning: Absent

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes

Member Friedenbach: Yes

Member Preston: Yes

Member Walton: Yes

Chair Williams: Yes

The meeting adjourned at 11:18AM.

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