

# MHSF Implementation Working Group Meeting Minutes

**Approved**

Note: The agenda, meeting materials, and video recording will be posted at the Mental Health SF <https://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/knowcol/mentalhlth/Implementation.asp>

## 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:19am by Member Hali Hammer. Member Hammer acted as Interim Chair in the absence of Chair Monique LeSarre. Co-facilitator Diana McDonnell completed roll call.

*Committee Members Present:* Vitka Eisen, M.S.W., Ed.D , Steve Fields, M.P.A., Ana Gonzalez, D.O., Hali Hammer, M.D., Steve Lipton, James McGuigan, Andrea Salinas, L.M.F.T., Sara Shortt, M.S.W., Amy Wong

*Committee Members Excused Absent:*  
-Monique LeSarre, Psy. D.

*Committee Members Unexcused Absent:*  
-Jameel Patterson

## 2. Vote to Excuse Absent Member(s)

Co-facilitator McDonnell reviewed the process for excusing absent members. Chair LaSarre gave prior notice regarding her absence; Member Jameel Patterson did not give prior notice. The IWG voted on their absences separately.

Member Vitka Eisen motioned, and Member Hammer seconded to vote to excuse Chair LeSarre:

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| ➤ Vitka Eisen, M.S.W., Ed.D - Yes                          | ➤ Steve Lipton - Yes             |
| ➤ Steve Fields, M.P.A. – Unable to vote due to tech issues | ➤ James McGuigan - Yes           |
| ➤ Ana Gonzalez, D.O. - Yes                                 | ➤ Jameel Patterson – Absent      |
| ➤ Hali Hammer, M.D. - Yes                                  | ➤ Andrea Salinas, L.M.F.T. - Yes |
| ➤ Monique LeSarre, Psy. D. - Absent                        | ➤ Sara Shortt, M.S.W. - Yes      |
|  | ➤ Amy Wong – Yes                 |

This vote was deferred to the end of the meeting. Member Sara Shortt motioned, and Member James McGuigan seconded to vote to not excuse Member Patterson:

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| ➤ Vitka Eisen, M.S.W., Ed.D -Yes                           | ➤ Steve Lipton - Yes             |
| ➤ Steve Fields, M.P.A. – Unable to vote due to tech issues | ➤ James McGuigan - Yes           |
| ➤ Ana Gonzalez, D.O. - Yes                                 | ➤ Jameel Patterson – Absent      |
| ➤ Hali Hammer, M.D. - Yes                                  | ➤ Andrea Salinas, L.M.F.T. - Yes |
| ➤ Monique LeSarre, Psy. D. - Absent                        | ➤ Sara Shortt, M.S.W. - Yes      |
|  | ➤ Amy Wong – Yes                 |

## 3. Welcome and Review of Agenda/Meeting Goals

Interim Chair Hammer reviewed the goals for the May 2023 meeting. She briefly introduced the speakers (Director Hillary Kunins and Kelly Kirkpatrick) for this meeting and reviewed the Mental Health San Francisco (MHSF) domains.

## 4. Discussion Item #1: Approve Meeting Minutes

Interim Chair Hammer opened the discussion for the IWG to make changes to the April 2023 meeting minutes. IWG members did not have changes to the meeting minutes.

## 5. Public Comment for Discussion Item #1

No public comment.

## 6. Vote on Discussion Item #1

Member Andrea Salinas motioned to approve the April 2023 meeting minutes; Member McGuigan seconded the motion. The April 2023 meeting minutes were voted on and approved by the IWG.

- Vitka Eisen, M.S.W., Ed.D - Yes
- Steve Fields, M.P.A. - Unable to vote due to tech issues
- Ana Gonzalez, D.O. - Yes
- Hali Hammer, M.D. - Yes
- Monique LeSarre, Psy. D. - Absent
- Steve Lipton - Yes
- James McGuigan - Yes
- Jameel Patterson - Absent
- Andrea Salinas, L.M.F.T. - Yes
- Sara Shortt, M.S.W. - Yes
- Amy Wong - Yes

## 7. Discussion Item #2: MHSF Director's Update (Dr. Hillary Kunins)

- Changes at the Board of Supervisors
  - The Committee on Homelessness and Behavioral Health, Chaired by Supervisor Hillary Ronan has met twice.
  - The committee will have a special session on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and regular meeting sessions will resume in July ( 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Fridays at 10:00 a.m.).
    - There will be two hearings in July focusing on the system of care and case management. Both topics are highly relevant to MHSF IWG.
    - **Discussion:** Member Vitka Eisen asked if this committee will have an impact on moving contracts through the system. Valerie Kirby, from DPH, stated that all efforts are being made to present all DPH expiring contracts in front of the board during the special session. Director Hillary Kunins clarified that unlike before, this committee will hear all behavioral health contracts, in addition to holding hearings on particular topics. The benefit of this adjustment is the unifying of conversation threads between contracts and hearings.
- The reconfiguration of Street Crisis Response Team (SCRT) as it pertains to MHSF
  - Moving forward, the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) aims to focus SCRT related updates around follow-up care provided to individuals who have encountered SCRT through Bridge and Engagement Services Team (BEST) Neighborhoods teams.
  - SCRT is still part of MHSF ordinance, so it will continue to be included in MHSF visuals and descriptions.
  - DPH encourages the IWG to continue to request data information on SCRT from the Fire Department and the Department of Emergency Management (DEM).
- Opioid settlement
  - On May 17<sup>th</sup>, Mayor London Breed announced that City Attorney's (David Chiu) Office have secured \$230 million dollars over years and through different settlements.
    - This funding is part of a negotiated settlement with Walgreens.
  - Generally allowable uses of the funds includes prevention treatment and overdose prevention (includes purchases of naloxone).
  - The first payment to San Francisco was in late 2022.
  - Decisions about the use of settlement dollars will go through the budget process through the Mayor's office and the Board of Supervisors (BOS).
  - These settlement dollars are critical to strengthening the reach of overdose prevention work, so it remains important for DPH to keep IWG abreast of these funds.
  - **Discussion:** Member Eisen asked if the BOS Committee on Homelessness and Behavioral Health will have a hearing on these settlements. Director Kunins did not have that information.

- Departing members
  - Member Andrea Salinas and Member Eisen will not be renewing their IWG seats.
    - Their seats expire May 31st, 2023.
    - Director Kunins provided sincere praise for their dedication to this work.
  - Member Amy Wong and Member Sara Shortt will be renewing their IWG seat term. Director Kunins announced that Chair Monique LeSarre intends to resign from the IWG. Her commitment as Chair received high praise as well. Formalizing her resignation is still in process .
  - A motion (planned for the end of this meeting) will be entertained to explore the possibility of extending expiring member seats by a month at a time, in order to satisfy quorum requirements.
- Other updates (presented at end of meeting):
  - DPH is updating the 5150 training program to include all of the community paramedics in the Fire Department (including Captains).
    - A health code update allowed for EMT training for 5150 holds.
    - 5150 quality improvement case review will continue.

## 8. Public Comment for Discussion Item #2

In person:

- (Unknown #1) – Unknown commentor #1 acknowledged the complexity of the IWG, especially attuned to the interface between government and DPH, with the integration of case management, substance abuse, and mental health. She stated that IWG’s work is impressive, complicated, and important.

## 9. Discussion Item #3: Prop C Budget

- Kelly Kirkpatrick, from DPH, reviewed Proposition C (Our City, Our Home aka OCOH) budget.
  - OCOH and MHSF use different spending categories.
  - Presenter Kirkpatrick clarified that Prop C funds largely funds new, non-MediCal initiatives.
    - This includes expansions, and one-time uses (like with the Tenderloin Center).
- Presenter Kirkpatrick also reviewed the Prop C Expenditure Plan for FY 23-24 & FY 24-25 and the DPH Behavioral goals for 2023.
  - 90% of bed goal has been met.
- Presenter Kirkpatrick summarized MHSF funding through Prop C.
  - **Discussion:** member Eisen asked if drop-in services include wellness hubs. Presenter Kirkpatrick stated that wellness hubs are not part of Prop C drop-in services. She clarified that drop-in services funding includes: mental health service center expansion, expansion of hours at Office-Based Buprenorphine Induction Clinic (OBIC) and Behavioral Health Access Center (BHAC), transitional-aged youth (TAY), mental health services staffing, and funding for transgender mental health.
  - **Discussion:** Member Sara Shortt asked for clarification on the total budget for Prop C. Presenter Kirkpatrick explained that the budget has declined around 20%, and Prop C mental health revenue is to be bolstered with one-time spending sources.
  - **Discussion:** Interim Chair Hammer recommended to have a budget presentation on other revenues that support MHSF domains. Member Shortt echoed the need to explore other revenue sources. Presenter Kirkpatrick highlighted that 60 million dollars for new initiatives through Prop C have funded MHSF; approximately half of these funds were used on residential care treatment beds.
- Presenter Kirkpatrick summarized the IWG’s discussion interests:
  - Other revenue sources that MHSF is drawing on.
  - An understanding of backbone service funding levels for Behavioral Health Services (BHS).

- Ideas and brainstorming for additional revenue sources.
- **Discussion:** Member Steve Lipton asked if there is any third-party reimbursement for the services under MHSF, and if so, how is that reflected in the budget. Presenter Kirkpatrick answered that this presentation exhibits only 1/6 of BHS total budget specific to the domains of MHSF. Further, she clarified that San Francisco leveraged Prop C for MHSF, as they began around the same time.
- Presenter Kirkpatrick overviewed the Prop C timeline and highlighted the OCOH committee's recommendations on DPH's proposed spending plan.
- Other notes:
  - There is approximately 100 million dollars available to fund building acquisition under Prop C.
  - There is one-time funding available for the redevelopment of Treasure Island for residential step down beds.
  - **Discussion:** Member Lipton asked if it is possible for current funding to be reallocated away from MHSF. Presenter Kirkpatrick answered that Prop C is a voter approved initiative, so the funds must be spent on mental health through DPH. Prop C funds are very secure for MHSF spending.
  - **Discussion:** Member Amy Wong suggested using Prop C monies on Laguna Honda. Presenter Kirkpatrick shared that efforts are being made to match real estate, legislative, and licensing needs with current programs to, sometimes, cut out the process of acquisition.
  - **Discussion:** Member Salinas asked for an update on the methodology of the bed optimization report and mentioned that COVID will have an impact on report numbers. Presenter Kirkpatrick shared that the Controller's Office and Dr. David Pating, from DPH, considered IWG feedback and will be conducting provider outreach to record methodology to inform the bed utilization report.

## 10. Public Comment for Discussion Item #3

In person:

- (Unknown #1)- Unknown commentor #1 said that Laguna Honda is a finger unit, so the building can be used to house multiple programs. She also requested that the Controller's Office provide a report on the 200+ programs in San Francisco with a description of their services, with more transparency about contracts.

## 11. Break

- 10:44a-10:50a

## 12. Discussion Item #4: Resolutions: MHSF Material Changes & Street Crisis Response Team

- Interim Chair Hammer provided background on the SCRT resolutions.
  - The resolutions stem from solidifying the IWG's role in providing input on MHSF programs.
  - The resolutions aim to align the timeline between IWG and program implementation staff.
  - The resolutions were created in response to DPH's decision to reconfigure the MHSF SCRT domain without prior notification to the IWG.
- Member Lipton provided context on the SCRT resolutions specific to this meeting.
  - The City Attorney requested to advise the IWG on resolution revisions.
  - Interim Chair Hammer, and Members Shortt, Eisen, and Lipton collectively wrote the resolutions.
  - Member Lipton met with the City Attorney to discuss revisions. The City Attorney provided three substantive comments:
    - The IWG should not be making statements of law or conclusions of law on whether SCRT was being operated in compliance under the MHSF ordinance.
      - A preamble was added to Resolution No.1.

- The resolutions should be couched in terms of IWG’s authority, which is to advise DPH, the Mayor, and the Board of Supervisors on the design, outcomes, and effectiveness of MHSF.
    - The resolutions should urge or recommend certain actions to be taken, as opposed to attempting to compel actions to be taken.
  - The resolutions have been resubmitted and the City Attorney has approved the revised wording.
- Member Lipton shared SCRT Resolution No. 1.
  - Member Shortt motioned to approve SCRT Resolution No.1 and Member Wong seconded.
  - The IWG held a temperature check for voting on Resolution No. 1.
    - All IWG members voted with a 3 or higher, on the 5-point scale. Resolution No. 1 passed the temperature check.
    - The IWG voted and passed SCRT Resolution No.1.
- Member Shortt shared SCRT Resolution No. 2.
  - The IWG held a temperature check for voting on Resolution No. 2.
    - Some IWG members voted less than a 3, on the 5-point scale. Resolution No.2 did not pass the temperature check.
- **Discussion:** Member Ana Gonzalez offered that the IWG had already provided recommendations on SCRT reconfiguration via discussion during Monthly meetings. She agrees that SCRT should fall under the oversight of DPH, as stated in the legislation. Member Shortt disagreed and offered that no recommendation consensus was agreed upon by IWG as a body.
- **Discussion:** Member James McGuigan asked about a SCRT recommendation that was presented in May 2021 that had never received feedback from DPH. Member Shortt clarified that this recommendation was on the original SCRT model, and does not apply to this discussion.
- **Discussion:** Member Gonzalez agreed that recommendations should be made by the IWG as a body. Member Lipton offered that these resolutions are the first formal communication to the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, and other agencies on IWG’s advice on SCRT reconfiguration.
- **Discussion:** Member Eisen highlighted that the IWG was never asked to participate in a temperature check or vote prior to the reconfiguration of SCRT. She said that IWG was never given the opportunity to advise on this change. Member Gonzalez said she believed that IWG had made clear, the consensus that a mental health clinician should be on SCRT rigs.
- **Discussion:** Member Salinas reminded that SCRT was a pilot program. If SCRT remained under the oversight of DPH, then it would make sense that various stakeholders would provide recommendations for program improvement from the initial rollout. By arranging SCRT under DEM, the community process has been overridden.
- **Discussion:** Interim Chair Hammer shared her opposition for and concern that Resolution No. 2 posits to go back, and change decisions made for SCRT that the IWG did not have the opportunity to previously discuss. She said she does not feel comfortable voting on something that has already happened.
- **Discussion:** Member Wong posed the question: if IWG’s recommendations are not being considered, then what is the purpose of this advisory committee? Member Wong supports Resolution No.2, and she also agreed with Interim Chair Hammer’s observation that the SCRT decisions have already been made. She also added that over time, the IWG’s recommendations have been utilized less, and this makes her feel, on behalf of the IWG, disrespected.
- **Discussion:** Member Shortt responded to Interim Chair Hammer’s previous statement. She echoed that the reconfiguration process happened quickly and added that she agrees with not asking DPH to reverse course. Member Shortt added that she supports Resolution No. 2, to recommend the

correct SCRT reconfiguration. She explained that SCRT rigs need mental health professionals to provide mental health responses. She suggested that if there are not crisis staff on the rigs, then SCRT should not be titled for crisis response. Further, if IWG is to continue receiving updates on SCRT, then IWG should have a substantial relationship in advising SCRT under MHSF.

- **Discussion:** Member Eisen echoed Member Shortt's previous statement. She added that the purpose of advisory groups is to assert some level of independence, by which they may make uncomfortable recommendations. She stated that providing recommendation is one way to add integrity to the advisory process.
- **Discussion:** Interim Chair Hammer echoed that the reconfiguration of SCRT without soliciting recommendations from IWG was disrespectful. She recommended asking for SCRT data under the new reconfiguration. Additionally, she added that this new SCRT model may work, so she is interested in satisfying a follow-up role to determine if SCRT reconfigured is successful.
- **Discussion:** Member Salinas stated that since the oversight change of SCRT to DEM, she has not received SCRT data. She explained that the monthly reports have ceased. She requested for SCRT data dissemination to resume monthly. She raised that staying informed helps stay accountable to clients, community, and staff. She asked the question: is IWG staying true to its intended purpose and practicing accountability through following up? She further offered that Resolution No. 2 is the accountable follow-up to Resolution No. 1.
- **Discussion:** Member Lipton asked Interim Chair Hammer if she would be willing to lead a follow up with IWG, or another committee about her specific concerns regarding SCRT reconfiguration. He agreed that IWG should be asking questions about the effectiveness of SCRT's reconfiguration.
  - Co-facilitator Jennifer James reminded IWG that there is information about SCRT recommendations in the 2022 December Implementation Report and informed that per the IWG's bylaws, there needs to be a quorum of seven in favor.
- **Discussion:** To include Member Steve Fields in the Vote for Resolution No.2, co-facilitator James called him via phone. She asked him if he felt comfortable voting on Resolution No.2. Member Fields declined to participate in the vote because tech issues had prevented him from participating fully in discussions. Further, he offered his concern that community-based treatment was not a big enough focus in this meeting. Member Fields reminded that IWG, the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, DPH, and the Committee on Behavioral Health and Homelessness need to work together. He suggested that there be a request for the IWG to present to the Committee.
- **Discussion:** Member Gonzalez said that she agreed with many points brought up in the discussion for Resolution No.2. Even though there is data supporting the success of clinicians on SCRT rigs, she offered that peers do have a unique opportunity for professional development and connection to people in crisis. She also stated her support for the importance of data for SCRT's reconfiguration.
- **Discussion:** Member McGuigan asked for clarification of the reasons for abstention to Resolution No. 2. Interim Chair Hammer explained her opposition specifically in the first four urges. In addition, she would like the IWG to follow up with the Fire Department and the DEM with the resolutions.
- **Discussion:** Co-facilitator James offered additional clarification for Resolution No.2. She noted that recommendation points 1-3 regard decisions that have already been carried out by DPH. The actionable step for the future is recommendation #4.
  - Member Eisen stressed the importance of defining and ensuring active evaluation.
  - Interim Chair Hammer suggested revising Resolution No. 2 to focus on processes moving forward.
- Valerie Kirby confirmed that IWG members may remain active in their seats beyond their official term.

- **Discussion:** Member Lipton suggested scheduling a presentation with DEM on the Resolutions, to ask questions despite a postponed vote.
- The IWG held a temperature check for voting on Resolution No. 2, for a second time.
  - Some IWG members still voted less than a 3, on the 5-point scale. Resolution No.2 did not pass the temperature check, so the IWG postponed the vote to the June 2023 meeting.
    - Member Shortt, Member Lipton, and Interim Chair Hammer will work revise Resolution No. 2 before the June 2023 IWG meeting.

### 13. Public Comment for Discussion Item #4

- Resolution No.1
  - In Person: (Unknown #1)- Unknown commentor #1 requested that Resolution No. 1 be read out loud for the public (Member Lipton read out loud).
- Resolution No. 2
  - In Person: (Unknown #1)- Unknown commentor #1 expressed confusion for the abstention of Resolution No. 2. She said that mental health professionals are better equipped than peer counselors to handle crises. She also offered that it is hard to hire mental health professionals because their positions are devalued. Additionally, she commented that decisions are being made politically, instead of in the interest of mental health.
  - In Person (Unknown #2)- Unknown commentor #2 posed a question asking if there is some way, moving forward, for the City to collaborate with each other and the IWG sincerely and with accountability.
  - Online (Laura Thomas, Senior Director of HIV and Harm Reduction Policy, San Francisco AIDS Foundation)- Laura said that as the Mayor and Police Chief are announcing the increased criminalization of people in behavioral health crisis, the IWG should be standing up for the importance of health-based approaches to health crises. She stated that people on the street in crisis deserve care from trained professionals. Additionally, SCRT should be under DPH and DEM.

### 14. Vote on Discussion Item #4

#### Resolution No.1

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| ➤ Vitka Eisen, M.S.W., Ed.D - Yes                          | ➤ Steve Lipton - Yes             |
| ➤ Steve Fields, M.P.A. – Unable to vote due to tech issues | ➤ James McGuigan - Yes           |
| ➤ Ana Gonzalez, D.O. - Yes                                 | ➤ Jameel Patterson – Absent      |
| ➤ Hali Hammer, M.D. - Yes                                  | ➤ Andrea Salinas, L.M.F.T. - Yes |
| ➤ Monique LeSarre, Psy. D. - Absent                        | ➤ Sara Shortt, M.S.W. - Yes      |
|  | ➤ Amy Wong – Yes                 |

#### Resolution No.2

- Voting was postponed to the June 2023 IWG meeting.

### 15. Discussion Item #5: SoMa Rise Site Visit

Discussion Item #5 will be moved to another IWG meeting agenda.

### 16. Discussion Item #6: Update on IWG Membership and Governance

- Co-facilitator James overviewed the IWG membership chart.
  - She clarified that Members Shortt and Wong are not yet stepping down from their seats.

- Valarie Kirby confirmed that DPH has received the intention from Chair LeSarre to resign and has yet to receive her letter of resignation.
  - The liaison for the Board of Supervisors has been made aware of the upcoming open seats and is working to connect Valerie with the appropriate clerks to get the seats filled.
  - Valerie will also be contacting the City Attorney for further information on seat terms and quorum.
  - Recommendations for seats should be sent to Valerie.
- **Discussion:** Member Salinas said it is more difficult to fill Mayor-appointed seats than BOS-appointed seats.
  - Member Shortt suggested making a job description sheet, that explains the roles and application process for open seats.

#### **17. Public Comment for Discussion Item #6**

Public comment for Discussion Item #6 was bypassed.

#### **18. Public Comment for any other matter within the jurisdiction of the Committee not on the agenda**

No public comment.

#### **19. 2023 Meeting Planning & Housekeeping**

Co-facilitator James overviewed the planning and sequencing for the June and July 2023 IWG meetings, including suggested topics. She asked for members to volunteer to participate in the Staffing and Wage Discussion Group. Interim Chair Hammer requested an update on the SCRT resolutions in June 2023.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 at 9:00am-12:00pm at DPH, 1380 Howard Street (Room 515).

Information about the meeting room location and IWG materials are posted on the IWG website.

#### **20. Adjourn**

Member Salinas motioned to adjourn the meeting; Member Eisen seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:49 pm.