

MEETING MINUTES

Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee

February 08, 2024

Hearing Room 400, City Hall

9:15 AM – 11:30 AM

Committee Members

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/player/clip/45374?view_id=209&redirect=true

Supporting materials including presentations and reports are posted at:

<https://www.sf.gov/meeting/february-8-2024/our-city-our-home-oversight-committee-special-meeting>

1) **Call to Order**

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Present

Member Friedenbach: Present

Member Preston: Present

Member Walton: Present

Chair Williams: Present

The Committee had quorum.

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

There were no in-person or over-the-phone public comments.

3) Action Item

Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Housing Fund Allocation Proposal

The Committee previously discussed the Transitional Aged Youth Housing Fund Allocation proposal at the September 28, 2023 meeting, linked [here](#).

Member Friedenbach provided the background for this proposal – including that the City applied and received state funding through Project Homekey that freed up \$19.2 million in one-time funding and \$7.2 million in ongoing funds in the TAY portion of the Permanent Housing service area within the OCOH fund. An advocacy group, the Homeless Emergency Service Provider’s Association’s (HESPA) Youth Committee, developed a proposal for the funding, which Member Friedenbach brought forward to the Committee:

1. Allocation of \$8.5 million in one-time Youth Housing funds for small site acquisition to support nonprofit ownership of Permanent Supportive Housing for youth outside of the Tenderloin neighborhood.
2. Allocation of \$3.7 million in ongoing Youth Housing funds to provide support services for the new Permanent Supportive Housing sites purchased through the small site acquisition.
3. Allocation of \$8 million in one-time Youth Housing funds to support rapid rehousing of youth that are leaving transitional housing.
4. Allocation of \$2.7 million in one-time Youth Housing funds to support rapid rehousing of youth impacted by violence.
5. Allocation of \$3.7 million in ongoing Youth Housing funds to provide rental assistance and supportive services for youth exiting Permanent Supportive Housing.

Member Friedenbach noted that the Committee previously voted on a funding proposal in a similar manner for the Family portion of the Permanent Housing service area within the OCOH Fund. Member Friedenbach stated that the department put a portion of that Family Housing funding out for competitive bidding, and Member Friedenbach expressed concerns that the final structure of the programming was not in alignment with Committee recommendations (rental subsidy amount, case management ratio, etc.).

Chair Williams opened the item up for public comment.

Marnie Regen from Larkin Street Youth Services, and Co-chair of the HESPA TAY sub-committee expressed support for the TAY Housing Fund Allocation, citing the importance of flow within a homelessness response system.

Adam Varoqua from SF LGBT Center expressed support for the TAY Housing Fund Allocation, citing the importance of housing unhoused LGBT youth. Adam also cited support for the flexpool subsidies that are part of the proposal.

Miguel Carrera with the Coalition on Homelessness expressed support for the TAY Housing Fund Allocation, citing the need to invest more in the youth.

Jessie Stout from the Tenderloin neighborhood expressed support for the TAY Housing Fund Allocation, citing the need to allocate the City’s resources towards housing young homeless people.

Hope Kamer from Compass Family Services, and chair of the HESPA Family Provider Committee expressed support for the TAY Housing Fund Allocation, citing in particular the need to help TAY parents.

Solinn Ven from the Coalition on Homelessness expressed support for the TAY Housing Fund Allocation, and cited additional support for the flexpool subsidies that are part of the proposal.

Bo Rellings, member of the San Francisco community expressed support for the TAY Housing Fund allocation. Bo Rellings also asked the Committee how people can access this funding.

Member Friedenbach and Chair Williams responded to the query and asked Bo Rellings to connect with providers present at the meeting for more information on how adults can access homelessness resources.

Colleen Pagter from First Place for Youth dialed in and expressed support for the TAY Housing Fund Allocation

Christin Evans from the Homelessness Oversight Commission and expressed support for the TAY Housing Fund Allocation, citing the need to fund housing in addition to shelter.

Chair Williams opened the item up for Committee discussion.

Member Walton expressed support for the proposal and noted that entities responsible for deploying the funds should pay close attention to the subsidies funded by one-time funding and prioritize effective use.

Member Friedenbach made a motion to approve the proposal, seconded by Member Walton.

Roll Call:

- Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes
- Member Friedenbach: Yes
- Member Preston: Yes
- Member Walton: Yes
- Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed and TAY Housing Fund Allocation Proposal was approved.

4) Discussion Item

Budget Priorities & Liaison Planning

Radhika Mehlotra, Homelessness Policy Specialist from the Controller's Office, provided a presentation on the process the Committee will use to establish budget recommendations [here](#).

The presentation included two discussion prompts for the Committee members: what would members like to learn from the upcoming liaison meetings, and what are members' overarching budget priorities, given the City's fiscal context. Chair Williams opened the discussion.

Member Friedenbach commented that it would be helpful to know for each service area, the ongoing funding that has been procured and the unallocated funding. Member Friedenbach also would like to

understand the one-time funding that has been procured across all service areas. She added that this information would help the committee understand how much funding is available to address the shortfall within the fund. Furthermore, Member Friedenbach mentioned that her budget priorities include protecting successful programs. To that end, Member Friedenbach is interested in learning about measures of success across programs, as well as performance along those measures at the upcoming liaison meetings.

During the discussion regarding Homelessness Prevention, Member Friedenbach raised that she would like to better understand the impact of the loss of state funding on overall prevention efforts.

Member Walton added that he is interested in narrowing the focus of the upcoming liaison meetings to the programs specifically proposed by the Committee. In addition, he would like to understand what has been funded and implemented so far, as well as any associated metrics. He also echoed Member Friedenbach request to received program performance information. Member Walton also added that he is interested in understanding how much funding departments expect will be unspent in the current year, even if they have been attached to a specific program.

Member Walton also raised a specific question for the Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing to report back on what percentage of OCOH funding is dedicated to serving TAY and how that compares to the portion of TAY that are already or at the risk of experiencing homelessness. As part of that query, Member Walton also would like to be able to tease apart the TAY that are being served as part of the family system.

Vice Chair D'Antonio added that she is interested in understanding acquisition plans over the next few years in the Permanent Housing service area. She also mentioned that acquisitions are a budget priority for her in the upcoming cycle. For Prevention, Vice Chair D'Antonio mentioned that she would like to understand how many people were not able to be served by programs. For Mental Health and the Shelter & Hygiene service areas, Vice Chair D'Antonio mentioned wanting to know of how departments plan to leverage and match CalAIM funding. For Shelter & Hygiene, Vice Chair D'Antonio is interested in understanding the impacts and outcomes of the closure of the Pier 94 RV site. In terms of her budget priorities, she mentioned programs that are designed for victims and survivors of domestic violence, larger family sizes, and the importance of measuring success across the OCOH Fund.

Chair Williams noted that she would like to understand how the OCOH Fund is serving pregnant people – particularly in terms of connecting that population to housing resources, as well as understanding in more detail how pregnant people are interacting with and accessing the Coordinate Entry process. Chair Williams also raised wanting to understand how departments are already leveraging state resources, like CalAIM, and whether there are other state and federal resources to leverage for this work.

Member Preston added that because she is a new liaison, she hopes to understand the contextual information for Homelessness Prevention programing, including target populations and any information on effective programs so far.

Chair Williams opened the item up for public comment.

Christin Evans commented on making a clearer connection between findings from the Annual Report regarding unspent funds and the shortfall in the OCOH fund that was reiterated in Budget Priorities & Liaison Planning presentation.

Jason Young and another member of the public, who work with TAY within the homelessness system, asked the Committee how community members can participate in the budget priority-setting process.

Miguel Carrera with the Coalition on Homelessness commented on supporting programs that serve pregnant people and victims and survivors of domestic violence experiencing homelessness, as raised by the Committee members.

Jessica Hernandez commented on insufficient funding for family housing. In particular, she raised that the unallocated funds should be more responsive.

5) Discussion Item

Opportunity to propose future agenda items with discussion and possible action by the Committee

Member Friedenbach mentioned connecting with the Housing Authority to figure out how to best utilize public housing resources to address homelessness. Other Committee members echoed, and mentioned they would like to learn more about processes by which the Housing Authority makes placements. The Controller's Office confirmed that that presentation will happen once the budget recommendations process is complete.

Vice Chair D'Antonio commented on wanting to know more about the RAD program. In addition, as a future topic, she raised the desire for more information on people experiencing domestic violence within public housing, and what efforts exist to prevent them from becoming homeless.

6) Action Item

Excuse future absences

Member Walton made a motion to excuse Member Preston from the February 22nd OCOH Committee meeting, seconded by Member Friedenbach.

Chair Williams opened the item up for public comment.
There were no in-person or over-the-phone public comments.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Member Preston: Yes
Member Walton: Yes
Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed and Member Preston's absence was approved.

7) **Adjourn**

Chair Williams requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

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

Roll Call:

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes

Member Friedenbach: Yes

Member Preston: Yes

Member Walton: Yes

Chair Williams: Yes

The meeting adjourned at 10:30AM.

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