

MHSF Implementation Working Group Meeting Minutes **Draft**

August 27, 2024 | 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Note: The agenda, meeting materials, and video recording will be posted at:

<https://www.sf.gov/departments/mental-health-san-francisco-implementation-working-group>

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Land Acknowledgement

The meeting was broadcast audio-only due to technical difficulties.

The meeting called to order by IWG Chair Andrea Salinas. Co-facilitator Valerie Kirby completed roll call.

Committee Members Present: Steve Fields, Amy Wong, Steve Lipton, James McGuigan, Jameel Patterson, Andrea Salinas, Sara Shortt, Ana Gonzalez

Committee Members Excused Absent:
None

Committee Members Unexcused Absent:
Jameel Patterson

Chair Salinas read the Land Acknowledgement statement.

2. Welcome and Review of Agenda/Meeting Goals

Chair Salinas reviewed the goals for the August 2024 meeting.

3. Discussion Item #1: Director's Update (Dr. Hillary Kunins, Director of Behavioral Health Services and MHSF)

- ❖ Director Kunins reviewed the strategies SFDPH is using to improve workforce development and retention that respond to the recommendations of the Controller's MHSF Staffing and Wage Analysis (see meeting slides).
- ❖ Discussion: Members Wong expressed that the Staffing and Wage Analysis raised questions for her as to why the City contracts out as much as it does. Dr. Kunins reviewed the broad use of this practice across jurisdictions. Member Shortt noted that contracting out can bring in cultural competency.
- ❖ Discussion: Member Lipton emphasized the importance of considering the differential in benefits, not just salary, between City and CBO workers. Chair Salinas concurred and inquired as to whether the analysis accounted for these benefits.
- ❖ Discussion: Chair Salinas wondered if the City tracks CBO vacancy data and note that at times, vacancies at CBOs help provide budget flexibility.
- ❖ Discussion: Member Shortt noted experience that CBOs do not always receive a cost-of-doing-business adjustment and that this may at times need DPH advocacy.

4. Public Comment for Discussion Item #1

No public comment.

5. Discussion Item #2: Presentation from HSH (Adar Schneider and Peter McElroy of HSH)

- HSH attended to present an overview per IWG request. HSH reps reviewed:
 - An overview of HSH
 - Housing in the homelessness response system
 - Accommodations and services for people with disabilities

- Pipeline projects

(see meeting slides)

- ❖ Discussion: Member McGuigan asked for additional information on how HSH found lack of affordable housing as the primary driver of homelessness, and on how they establish residency. HSH noted research available to share.
- ❖ Discussion: Member Fields noted the importance of interface between HSH and DPH for individuals with active substance use and requested more data on individuals who are housed with HSH but then must leave due to active behavioral health issues. He also noted the 161-day placement timeline and asked how HSH addresses needs that change during that time, HSH noted that clinical review may re-occur as needed. Member Fields emphasized the importance of working with SFDPH to coordinate treatment for those in or seeking HSH housing. Member Lipton inquired into prioritization.
- ❖ Discussion: Chair Salinas noted her experience of a lack of transparency in housing placement decisions and cited instances of denials that she observed. She expressed the impact of low accountability over navigating clients through the process and noted that there is not a smooth placement pathway for skilled nursing needs.
- ❖ Discussion: Member Shortt concurred with the perception of a lack of transparency in placement decisions and observed that in her experience, clients were not aware of where they were in the placement process or why they were denied. She noted that a case manager needs a great deal of resources and savvy to follow the process and sort out what has occurred. Her experience is that navigators do not connect to SFDPH and that clients—particularly those with behavioral health issues—may fall off the radar during placement. She expressed that more provider partners would be useful and encouraged HSH to engage with the community more with presentations and technical assistance to CBOs.
- ❖ Discussion: Members concurred that they were interested in providing more robust feedback to HSH if an appropriate venue for this could be identified. HSH and SFDPH to follow up. Members expressed interest in better understanding the role MHSA funding plays in housing units, currently.

6. Public Comment for Discussion Item #3

- ❖ A member of the public from a CBO expressed interest in forming a committee to advise HSH.

7. Meeting Adjournment

Member McGuigan departed for the remainder of the meeting due to a personal appointment and quorum was lost. Remaining agenda items postponed to a future meeting.

Chair Salinas asked for a motion to adjourn and received a motion and second. The meeting was adjourned.