

MEETING MINUTES

Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee
September 26, 2024
Hearing Room 416, City Hall
9:40 AM – 11:35 AM

Committee Members

Shanell Williams, Chair
Julia D'Antonio, Vice Chair
Jennifer Friedenbach
Lindsay Haddix
Jabari Jackson
Bonnie Preston
Ruby Bolaria Shifrin
Zia Villias-Martinis
Scott Walton

Members of the Our City, Our Home (OCOH) 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/47019?view_id=209&redirect=true

Supporting materials including presentations and reports are posted at:
<https://www.sf.gov/meeting/september-26-2024/our-city-our-home-oversight-committee-regular-meeting>

1) **Call to Order**

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 9:40 am and roll was taken.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Absent at roll call, arrived at 9:48 am
Member Friedenbach: Present
Member Haddix: Present
Member Jackson: Present
Member Preston: Present
Member Shifrin: Absent (excused)
Member Martinis: Absent (excused)
Member Walton: Absent (excused)
Chair Williams: Present

Chair Williams confirmed the presence of a quorum and read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement aloud.

Member Friedenbach made a motion to excuse Member Martinis from the September 26, 2024 OCOH Oversight Committee meeting. Member Jackson seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call:

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Absent
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Member Haddix: Yes
Member Jackson: Yes
Member Preston: Yes
Member Shifrin: Absent
Member Martinis: Absent
Member Walton: Absent
Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed.

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

Chair Williams opened general public comment. There were no in-person or over-the-phone public comments on this item.

- 3) Discussion/Action Item
Approval, with possible modification, of the meeting minutes from August 22, 2024.

Member Preston made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 22, 2024. Member Haddix seconded the motion.

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

Roll Call:

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Absent
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Member Haddix: Yes
Member Jackson: Yes
Member Preston: Yes
Member Shifrin: Absent
Member Martinis: Absent
Member Walton: Absent
Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed.

- 4) Discussion/Action Item
2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Presentation

Sarah Locher, Manager of Data and Performance and incoming Deputy Director of Planning, Performance and Strategy at the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH), presented on the summary findings of the 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) count (linked [here](#)). She

discussed the PIT count objectives, design components, and data collection challenges. She also discussed recent design improvements that were implemented to better identify “hard to count” populations, such as unsheltered families and people living in vehicles.

Deputy Director Locher summarized the trends observed in the 2024 PIT count and addressed notable changes from the PIT counts conducted in 2019 and 2022. In response to the data trends, HSH has made several efforts to improve services. These include an investment of \$50.1 million in the FY24-26 budget to support the implementation of the Safer Families Initiative, an expansion of shelter and rapid rehousing, and significant investments in the Ending Transgender Homelessness Initiative, which resulted in new, dedicated shelter and flexible housing subsidy resources.

Deputy Director Locher also discussed the results of the PIT surveys, which were administered to a sample of people experiencing homelessness in the weeks following the PIT count. The results are used to estimate the demographics and household characteristics of the unsheltered population as needed for federal reporting. The survey also serves as an opportunity to ask questions that are not captured anywhere else.

Member Friedenbach inquired about the number of residential beds that were not operating at the time of the PIT count. She also noted the increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness in the Bayview District. In response, Dariush Kayhan, Deputy Director of Programs at HSH, provided updates on the flexible housing subsidies that were designated for the Bayview District.

Chair Williams and Member Haddix asked follow-up questions regarding the race and age trends in the 2024 PIT count. Deputy Director Locher explained that there were some stratification changes to the demographic buckets in 2024. Though HSH cannot directly compare these results to prior PIT count years, the department maintains supplemental administrative data and can analyze the cumulative information over a longer period of time.

There was further discussion about the increase in people living in their vehicles. Deputy Director Locher attributed some of these changes to the addition of the supplemental vehicle count, increased engagement efforts by partner agencies, and to the PIT count being conducted in the early morning instead of during the night.

Vice Chair D’Antonio noted an increase in the number of people entering the system due to domestic violence. Deputy Director Locher explained that there is a question regarding domestic violence in the PIT survey, which has provided more insight about this population. Vice Chair D’Antonio also highlighted an upward trend in family and youth homelessness. The Chair and Vice Chair suggested that a representative from San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) should speak on this topic at a future OCOH Oversight Committee meeting.

Member Jackson inquired about HSH’s next steps. Deputy Director Locher provided an overview of the department’s strategic plan and equity goals.

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

5) Discussion/Action Item

Presentation on Prevention Service Area – Overview, Cost, Measures, and Impact

Nikon Guffey, Director of Coordinated Entry, Housing Placement, Prevention and Problem Solving at HSH, provided an overview of the department's initiatives in Prevention and Problem Solving ([linked here](#)).

The Problem Solving component is focused on helping individuals identify pathways to resolve a current housing crisis without needing ongoing shelter or housing resources from the Homelessness Response System (HRS). The Prevention component aims to prevent homelessness across the City, therefore reducing the inflow into the homelessness system through comprehensive strategies. Examples of interventions include Shallow Subsidies for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Permanent Housing Advanced Clinical Services (PHACS), SF Emergency Rental Assistance Program (SF ERAP), Home Match, and Housing Location Assistance.

Director Guffey discussed the impacts and outcomes of the prevention programs. Additional details will be included in the upcoming OCOH Fund Annual Report. She highlighted several successes within the programs as well as some challenges that the department continues to face.

Helen Hale, Director of Housing Services at the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) summarized the various prevention and housing stabilization programs supported by MOHCD. She noted the department's limited ability to assist new clients, particularly those in severe poverty, due to the lack of additional funding throughout the year. Director Hale also emphasized the need for increased funding within the senior programs. She mentioned that the subsidy programs are at capacity, resulting in a waitlist for those seeking assistance. Despite these challenges, the programs are seeing positive results and are supported by strong providers.

Mor Xiong, Adult Workforce Program Manager at the Office of Economic Workforce Development (OEWD), presented on the workforce services provided through a partnership between OEWD and HSH. Ren Floyd-Rodriguez, Acting Deputy Director at OEWD, provided an overview of the outcomes and impacts of OEWD/HSH workforce services.

Member Jackson expressed gratitude to the departments for their work and asked a few follow-up questions. He raised concerns about justice-involved individuals who face additional housing barriers due to their background. Director Guffey explained that HSH collaborates with organizations focused on supporting justice-involved individuals. She emphasized the importance of developing pre-release housing plans to help with the transition.

Vice Chair D'Antonio inquired about the Home Match program. Director Hale provided a summary of the program's design. Vice Chair D'Antonio asked whether OCOH funding was newly being allocated to this program, as it was the first time members had seen information about it.

Vice Chair D'Antonio reiterated the importance of demographic data. She pointed out that programs like Problem Solving and Housing Location Assistance require participants to have a certain income level, which may exclude the most vulnerable populations. She is interested in exploring more programs that support individuals who frequently return to ERAP. She also requested additional data on OEWD job placements and retention.

Member Haddix asked follow-up questions regarding OEWD's barriers to job placements and MOHCD's Home Match program. She suggested that the department reach out to neighboring counties, such as San Mateo, that have been operating similar programs.

Chair Williams requested additional outcome data, which will be shared in the upcoming OCOH Annual Report.

There was discussion about the HSH prevention budget between Member Friedenbach and HSH Budget Director Christine Rolan.

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

6) Discussion/Possible Action Item

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

Chair Williams suggested a presentation from SFUSD to discuss homelessness among families and the youth. She also suggested a presentation on outreach and community engagement from the departments.

Member Friedenbach suggested a presentation from the Housing Authority to discuss vacant units in San Francisco. This discussion could also include members from the community who would like to share their experiences with public housing.

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

7) Adjourn

Chair Williams requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Vice Chair D'Antonio made a motion to adjourn. Member Jackson seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Member Haddix: Yes
Member Jackson: Yes
Member Preston: Yes
Member Shifrin: Absent
Member Martinis: Absent
Member Walton: Absent
Chair Williams: Yes

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

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