

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee
November 15, 2024
Hearing Room 416, City Hall
1:06 PM – 3:03 PM

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/47683?view_id=209&redirect=true

Supporting materials, including presentations and reports, are posted at:
<https://www.sf.gov/meeting/november-15-2024/our-city-our-home-oversight-committee-special-meeting>

1) **Call to Order**

Vice Chair D'Antonio called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm and roll was taken.

Roll Call:

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Present
Member Friedenbach: Present
Member Haddix: Present
Member Jackson: Present
Member Preston: Present
Member Shifrin: Arrived at 1:10 pm
Member Martinis: Absent (excused)
Member Walton: Present
Chair Williams: Absent (excused)

Vice Chair D'Antonio confirmed the presence of a quorum and read the Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement aloud.

Member Walton made a motion to excuse Chair Williams and Member Martinis from the November 15, 2024 OCOH Oversight Committee meeting. Member Friedenbach 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: Yes
Chair Williams: Absent

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.

Vice Chair D'Antonio 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 October 24, 2024.

Member Walton made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 24, 2024. Member Jackson seconded the motion.

Vice Chair D'Antonio opened public comment. There were no in-person or over-the-phone public comments on this item.

Roll Call:

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

The motion passed.

- 4) Discussion/Action Item
Presentation on Mental Health Service Area – Overview, Cost, Measures, and Impact

Kelly Kirkpatrick, Director of Administration and Operations, Mental Health SF at SF Department of Public Health (DPH) provided an overview of the OCOH Mental Health service area (linked [here](#)). Mental Health SF receives approximately \$100 million a year in Prop C funding, which is split

between Behavioral Health Services (BHS) and Whole Person Integrated Care (WPIC). The largest portion of the budget is allocated to treatment beds (approximately \$40 million a year). Other mental health services funded by Prop C include case management, assertive outreach, drop-in services, and overdose prevention and substance use treatment.

Director Kirkpatrick noted that annual OCOH revenues for the Mental Health service have historically been closer to \$70 million; however, ongoing spending is \$100 million or above. This results in an ongoing structural shortfall of approximately \$30 million. To address this issue, historically, the department has been able to continue services as planned by using one-time funds. The department believes that it should be able to maintain its mental health services for the next two years. However, the spending plan may need to be adjusted in year three to account for a growing gap between projected revenue and spending.

Director Kirkpatrick discussed high-level outcome details of the various service categories within the OCOH mental health budget. She also highlighted a few program successes and challenges.

Heather Weisbrod, Director of the Office of Coordinate Care (OCC) at DPH, provided an overview of the OCC, which was established in 2022 with the support of OCOH funding. The goal of the OCC is to support equitable and low-barrier access to behavioral health care, coordination of care, and seamless transitions between systems and levels of care. Director Weisbrod summarized the two main sections of the program – Central Access and Eligibility and Care Coordination Services. Director Weisbrod reported on the number of new referrals made to the OCC and the monthly distinct clients engaged by OCC follow-up teams. The data discussed was from the period of July 2023 to May 2024.

Emily Raganold, Overdose Prevention Quality and Contracts Manager at DPH, presented data collected from the overdose and substance use services over the past year. Overdose deaths have been reduced by 20% and overdose-related 911 calls per week have declined from 70 to 50. Manager Raganold attributed the reduction of fatal and non-fatal overdoses to an increase in treatment utilization. There has been a 35% increase in the number of methadone admissions between January 2024 and August 2024, compared to the previous year. Manager Raganold also noted a 16% increase in Naloxone (Narcan) distribution in FY 2024, compared to FY 2023.

The Committee engaged in a question-and-answer session with the DPH presenters.

Manager Raganold clarified that the 911 call data only represents the overdoses that were reversed by an EMT. DPH understands that the majority of overdoses are being reversed by bystanders and 911 may never be called. Therefore, the 911 data is used to monitor trends.

Manager Raganold stated that the department has not examined any local data related to the number of arrests and overdose fatalities. However, data on overdose fatalities by race/ethnicity is closely tracked. The department also tracks data on people who have had more than one reported overdose event. Manager Raganold shared that the department is working with an epidemiologist at UCSF to determine the service levels needed to continue to reduce overdose deaths across the city.

Several members of the Committee expressed interest in more outcome and impact-related data (versus output data). Directors Kirkpatrick and Weisbrod acknowledged that this is an area of improvement for the department. DPH is hopeful that, with the transition to electronic behavioral health records, the department's tracking capabilities and outcome reporting will improve over time.

Member Friedenbach noted that one-time funding information was not reflected in the spending plan

and requested this information be included in future reporting. There was further discussion about the mental health service area budget. Director Kirkpatrick shared that the SF Fire Department receives between \$11 million to \$13 million in OCOH funding through DPH to assist with assertive outreach services.

Member Friedenbach and Director Weisbrod discussed the services provided by the OCC. Director Weisbrod confirmed an increase in the usage of after-hours services. Members Friedenbach expressed concerns about collaborations with the Healthy Streets Operations Center (HSOC). Director Weisbrod discussed the OCC's general response to HSOC-involved situations and reiterated that the OCC's goal is to be available for those who may need assistance.

Member Haddix inquired about the activities related to the "wind down" or close out of programs. Director Kirkpatrick stated that the department has been in a period of growth over the past three years and that they have not had to wind down any programs during this time.

There was discussion about accessing mental health services, the OCC's Triage Team, and tracking referral data. Data Officer Walton highlighted the importance of tracking ongoing outreach data to convey the amount of effort it takes to successfully engage a client in services. This information is highly useful in setting priorities for future program funding. Director Weisbrod confirmed that this information is being tracked.

Director Kirkpatrick noted that, as of 2023, there is a need of 150 to 220 additional residential treatment beds across the continuum to reduce client wait times. The department continues to closely monitor bed optimization.

Vice Chair D'Antonio opened public comment. There were no in-person or over-the-phone public comments on this item.

5) Discussion/Possible Action Item

Presentation from OCOH-Funded Provider – Unity Care

Rae Suber, Program Manager at Unity Care, provided an overview of the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) focused scattered site housing program administered by Unity Care. The program provides permanent supportive housing to youth aged 18 to 29 years old. Participants may continue to receive support beyond age 29, as long as they remain program eligible and meet basic program requirements. The program currently has 47 active participants (out of 53 contracted slots) and all of them are housed. As of the end of November 2024, over 50% of the participants have remained in housing for a year. Program Manager Suber emphasized the importance and necessity of continued funding for this program.

Program Manager Suber shared examples of program outcomes and exits. It was noted that the program works with the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) and the coordinated entry program to track participants within the system. The teams also collaborate on finding alternate solutions for individuals who may not be ready for independent housing.

Program Manager Suber stated that most program participants are not single, and they have a partner elsewhere. There are a few participants who are housed with their children because they are the children's primary caretaker. Program staff are working with these participants to explore other housing options that may be more appropriate for their growing family.

Several members of the Committee expressed that they would like to learn more about the program

and provided specific topic areas and data points to be discussed in the future. Program Manager Suber provided responses to members' inquiries as time permitted. Vice Chair D'Antonio 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

Member Shifrin suggested a future presentation on data collection and management and how the existing systems can be improved. There was discussion among the Committee members and Controller's Office (CON) Staff about how to best approach the topic.

Member Haddix expressed interest in engaging with the City's new incoming mayoral administration. She also suggested a future agenda item on any recently passed propositions that could potentially impact OCOH funding.

There was discussion between the Committee and CON Staff regarding the OCOH Annual Report, which will be published in December 2024 and discussed during the next OCOH meeting.

The Committee members briefly reviewed liaison roles and responsibilities and acknowledged that liaison appointments will be discussed in more detail at a later date.

The Committee expressed interest in scheduling a retreat. CON Staff noted the request and recommended that this be calendared for the next fiscal year.

Vice Chair D'Antonio opened public comment. There were no in-person or over-the-phone public comments on this item.

7) Adjourn

Vice Chair D'Antonio adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:03 pm.

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