

Our City, Our Home Fund
Notes from Behavioral Health Partnership Meeting
February 17, 2022

Present: Kelly Kirkpatrick (Department of Public Health), Brett Andrews (Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee Behavioral Health Liaison), Jennifer Friedenbach (OCOH Oversight Committee), Nina Catalano (OCOH Oversight Committee), Ken Reggio (OCOH Oversight Committee), Jenny Louie (DPH), Shalini Rana (OCOH Oversight Committee), Sneha Patil (DPH)

At least 25% of OCOH Fund is to be invested in mental and behavioral health, with the goal of providing treatment and supports to 4,500 people annually. To this end, the budget reflects strategic intentions to:

- Expand street-based services.
- Increase residential and drop-in behavioral health treatment services.
- Specialized temporary and long-term housing options for people with significant needs.
- Make sure services are culturally competent and meet the needs of the transgender community, youth, and families with children.

DPH staff affirmed shared commitment to the investment plan's strategic vision and described their implementation so far. Some highlights include:

- By the end of this fiscal year DPH expects that all services will be launched.
- Board has approved acquisition of 2 buildings for the Mental Health Services Center
- 89 Residential care and treatment beds are now open
- SOMA Rise will open this spring and provide 24/7 care to people experiencing homelessness
- Street Crisis Response Teams (6) are operating, responding to crises in the field and working with care coordination to connect those clients with ongoing supports.
- Some one-time savings are showing because programs are engaged in stakeholder input processes, contracting, and/or hiring phase of implementation.
- Tenderloin emergency declaration removed some barriers, making it easier to hire case managers.
- Building treatment beds takes 18-36 months in county between state licensing, finding and buying a building, board approval, etc.

The group discussed:

- Challenges related to nonprofit infrastructure, pay equity, and hiring/retention. Discussed Controller's Office pay equity work that is underway.
- Mental health rehab beds: some are out of county, and the Dept is pursuing in county options. Trying to strike a balance between adding beds quickly (out of county) and building facilities that will enable participants to remain in county, close to family and community.
- DPH is actively looking for residential step-down beds and see opportunities in next year or so.
- Some OCOH members would like to prioritize bed acquisition.

Revue Weakness

- In the current operating year, services will continue building momentum toward fully implementing the investment plan. Future year fund balance projections will be communicated in March.
- DPH is working closely with Controller's office to figure out ways to smooth out revenues over time to ensure stable funding.

Next Steps

- Transparency on beds is appreciated and important, the Committee likes the dashboard.
- In the coming year, DPH will revisit bed need and demands study.
- Are there ways to quantify need/demand for treatment beds/services from outside DPH/system requests?