

Present: Amy Sawyer (Mayor's Office), Noelle Simmons (Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing), Hugo Ramirez (Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development), Julieta Barcaglioni (Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing), Nina Catalano (Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee), Nikon Guffey (Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing), Jessica Shimmin (Controller's Office)

1. Welcome

2. The strategic goals guiding last year's 2-year investment plan:

No more than 15% of the annual OCOH Fund balance can be budgeted for homelessness prevention services.

- Develop a core homelessness prevention and diversion system.
- Support PSH residents in retaining housing.
- Tailor supports to the unique needs of adults, justice involved, youth, and families with children.
- Expand access to workforce training, employment programs, and job placement services

3. Implementation Updates: Homelessness Prevention

SF Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) (Julieta Barcaglioni, HSH)

- In the process of transitioning from a COVID relief response to an ongoing homelessness prevention initiative.
- Together, OCOH funds combined with the SF Emergency Rental Assistance program have served 5,557 households, \$38m dispersed. 95% of households served are Extremely Low Income.
- Member Catalano asked how data is being collected?
 - Programs are using the BACS-All Home data portal, which is integrated with San Francisco's ONE data collection system.
- Planning to launch the redesigned targeted emergency rental assistance program (ERAP) that will target those at highest risk of homelessness. The new approach puts the emphasis on providing timely supports, when people need them and without delay. It will be different from the COVID relief response in that some applicants will be denied because they don't meet the more targeted approach.
- City worked with Focus Strategies to develop the method used to target the households most likely to become homelessness and to ensure that the method isn't racially biased.
- Member Catalano asked: what funding changes do you anticipate in the coming year? Will the program use all the funding? Yes. All the money will be used. Moving into next year, OCOH will be the only funding source for the ERAP. Demand remains very, very high and providers are getting the dollars out the door. The more significant risk is that the need for the program is greater than the funding available.
- Member Catalano asked if the BACS-All Home data collection system can track unmet need? Yes. As well, the City is working with Focus Strategies to ensure ongoing evaluation of the program so that the Department can demonstrate the impact of the program in the Community, as well as identify concerns and challenges.

- CBOs will be launching a hotline to increase accessibility.
- Greater cooperation between MOHCD and HSH has improved client experience by strengthening connections between parts of the homelessness prevention system across departmental boundaries.

Eviction prevention and housing stabilization (Hugo Ramirez, MOHCD)

- These programs include legal services, ongoing subsidies, pre-eviction intervention strategies in partnership with the Bar Association. Funding from OCOH has expanded Eviction prevention and housing stabilization capacity, bring capacity to scale
- MOHCD is working to expand programs and develop materials to support housing stability in PSH. As an example, expanding money management/rent payee services and providing technical assistance for property management like trauma informed processes, etc.

Problem Solving (Julieta Barcaglioni, HSH)

- Incorporating Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) workforce development as a homelessness prevention strategy has involved a lot of bridge building.
- OCOH funding problem solving has been implemented in 12 family shelters as a best practice.
- OCOH funding added problem solving capacity for adults and youth serving programs.
- Implemented a fiscal agent model that allows providers to serve families and fiscal agent can cut checks instead of asking one organization to do both functions. The division of labor increases efficiency.
- Opened an access point for veterans and will open an access point for justice involved people in collaboration with SF pretrial diversion services.
- Direct cash transfers for youth will launch in the spring (end of march/early April) with Larkin Youth, Chapin Hall, and UpTogether.
- There are concerns because a great deal of the homelessness prevention funding is one time. One time funding is one reason that HSH and MOHCD have prioritized evaluation, which will build an evidence-based case for continuing/acquiring new funding.

4. Questions, discussion, etc.

- Member Catalano said she thinks OCOH hasn't done enough to engage with stakeholders about their needs for homelessness prevention and housing insecurity. She asked what HSH and MOHCD have already done or already are doing to collect client/community feedback about what's working or not?
 - HSH has done some engagement as part of the design process, contacted former consumers to learn what additional services they would have liked/needed.
 - MOHCD has done planning around anti-displacement, eviction prevention, housing instability/stability.

5. Coming Up

- a. Liaison Meeting #2 is scheduled for Thursday March 16
- b. The Liaison and team will present their priorities and goals for the coming year as well as the challenges and opportunities they see ahead.