

Our City, Our Home (OCOH) Fund

Listening Session #3: Budget Recommendations Town Hall

April 22, 2022

10:00am – 11:30pm

Virtual - Online

Attendees:

OCOH Committee Members: Chair Shanell Williams, Vice Chair Julia D'Antonio, Member Ken Reggio, Member Brett Andrews

Controller's Office Notetakers

Members of the Public

Welcome & Introductions

- Chair Shanell Williams provided an overview of the agenda.

Spending Bucket Draft Recommendations

- Homelessness Prevention and Diversion by Julia D'Antonio
- Mental Health by Shanell Williams
- Emergency Shelter and Hygiene Services by Jennifer Friedenbach
- Permanent Housing by Ken Reggio

Open Mike

Open Mike Session – Public Feedback

General Summary – After presenting draft recommendations to members of the public, the floor was open to comment. The Committee also provided a Spanish- and Cantonese-speaking rooms for inclusive feedback.

The following responses are the input from the public comment room participants that are comprised of city employees, program provider, nonprofit employee, and members of the general public.

The responses below are color-coordinated by the organization represented by the respondent:

- **Green text** is for City employees
- **Orange text** is for members of the general public
- **Blue text** is for a program provider or nonprofit employee
- **Black text** is for unknown or no representation

Housing

- **City-funded Behavioral Health Services should be administered at housing sites.**
 - Increased support for female Justice-Involved with abstinence housing models.
 - **Section 8 housing is often dilapidated and in major need of maintenance.**
 - **Better access to clinicians and support staff. Client advocacy.**
 - **More families should be added to the current investment so more families can be taken out of SRO's and be placed into houses. More pathways to leave supportive housing need to be created.**
 - **SROs are cramped and not safe for families.**
 - **The amount of affordable housing is not enough. The lottery system to gain access to affordable housing leads to longer wait times in housing that is inadequate for families.**
 - **Rent is too high for large families.**
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- Housing scarcity and unaffordable prices has led to ten years of waiting with no response for housing.
 - Childcare costs, coupled with housing scarcity and unaffordable rent has led to a family being confined to an SRO.
 - A combination of income thresholds and rent prices has made finding a house in SF very difficult.
 - Income thresholds and long wait times make leaving the SRO difficult for a family.
 - Hope that Prop C will increase housing subsidies so families with children will not have to live in SROs.
 - Many residents in Chinatown cannot afford higher rent and are unable to move out of the cramped quarters there.
 - Chinatown is crowded with limited housing. Families have no privacy and has to leave the SRO when family members need to switch clothes.
 - SROs are not ideal conditions for a family to be raised in. Children in SROs have developed skin conditions, asthma, and other chronic conditions.
 - Compounding difficulties make it impossible for families to leave SRO's. Government officials should visit the SRO site to witness their condition.
 - Difficult to find a place to rent even with a rent subsidy from the City.
 - More affordable housing around Chinatown, like 20% of AMI.
 - SRO families should be a priority option for applications into other affordable housing.
 - Having a rent subsidy in the city can still mean that the rent is too high
 - Not enough space for families in low rent areas
 - Housing offered to families is too small and often not cared for
 - Concern over renter's rights and often being taken advantage of as a low-income renter

Mental Health and Homeless Services

- Expansion of services into the Bayview. Many of the clients who receive treatment in the TL are Bayview residents.
- Town Hall was conducted in Bayview and OCOH Committee should review notes from this meeting.
- Better alignment is needed between DPH and the needs in the Bayview
- Coordinated entry process is antiquated and is in need of an update.
- Adult Probation is committed to members of the community, especially committed to those helping in the Bayview.
- Housing sites should be distributed outside the TL. Bridge housing needs more supportive services on site and a more diverse pool of providers should be available.
- Funding of more services to assist specific target groups such as those living in cars, victims of domestic violence, and individuals living in living rooms or nontraditional housing.
- Pregnant women should not be on the street and need specific attention now
- Need more training for all those involved in housing to better assist homeless individuals.
- There needs to be fewer obstacles to services for homeless individuals
- Qualifying for coordinated entry should not be so difficult

Contracting and Funding

- Front-level staff should be compensated, while funding limits are placed on management and administrative costs
 - Increased pay at nonprofits to remain competitive with DPH's wages
 - Contracting with City is difficult and limits ability for new CBOs to participate
 - Proposing a change in DPH requirements to allow more organizations to work with the city.
 - Filipino Providers Network offers care to clients from the Philippines, which in turn helps the city.
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SUMMARY

- CBOs without city contract experience are still able to make meaningful contributions to the city's efforts.
- **More technical assistance is needed for CBOs to better help them qualify for contracts.**
- **Equity needs to be reflected in the RPH process, to better align with DPH's core values.**
- OCOH recommendations can still be dropped, despite having OCOH be fully behind the recommendations.

Return from Breakout Sessions

The following information was shared with the participants once they returned from their breakout sessions.

1. Thursday April 28, 9:30am – 11:30am: OCOH Oversight Committee finalizes recommendations to Mayor and Board of Supervisors.
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