SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee Meeting
November 3, 2021
9:36AM – 12:11 PM

This meeting was held by WebEx pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders and Mayoral Emergency Proclamations suspending and modifying requirements for in-person meetings. During the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) emergency, the Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee (OCOH) will convene remotely until the Committee is legally authorized to meet in person.

Note: The Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee meetings are live streamed at SFGovTV.org. The agenda, video recording, audio recording, and caption notes are posted at https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=209. Supporting materials including presentations and reports are posted at https://sfcontroller.org/meetings/220.

1) ***Call to Order/Roll Call.***

   The meeting was called to order at 9:36AM.

   Roll Call:
       Member Andrews: Present
       Vice Chair D'Antonio: Present
       Member Friedenbach: Present
       Officer Leadbetter: Present
       Member Miller: Joined Late
       Member Reggio: Present
       Chair Williams: Present

       Quorum confirmed.

2) Discussion Item/Possible Action:
   Equity as North Star: Themes from Housing and Homelessness Data; a facilitated conversation with possible action by the Committee.

   Chair Williams introduced Andrea Evans, of Tipping Point, and Gail Gillman, of All Home.

   Gail Gillman described the work of All Home to address poverty and homelessness at a regional level in the Bay Area. All Home approaches poverty and homelessness as direct consequences of racism.

   Andrea Evans said that Tipping Point has a Community Advisory Board of people with lived expertise of homelessness in San Francisco that advises on all their chronic homelessness work. She said that data is essential in moving from good intentions to effective strategies with racial equity at the core.

   Chair Williams asked panelists to describe biggest challenge in using data to develop policy responses to racism and homelessness.

   Andrea Evans said that the systems homeless people interact with are very siloed, using different data systems and definitions, which makes it difficult to combine data and work systematically.

Gail Gillman said that state and federal prohibitions against considering race in housing are barriers to increasing racial equity.

Chair Williams asked the panelists, where are there gaps in the data? What would be useful to track that isn't currently being tracked?

Gail Gillman said that All Home is concerned about homelessness and poverty, and it's hard to count and serve people on the fringes. She recommended working with faith-based organizations and community-based organizations.

Andrea Evans said disaggregating data will offer a clearer picture of who is homeless. She said she would like to see ONE System data used to guide policy making.

Chair Williams asked the panelists, how can the Oversight Committee incorporate data driven equity goals into its work? And disparities by race and LGBTQ+ status have persisted over time in San Francisco, in California, and the United States; what will it take to reduce those disparities?

Andrea Evans said that the OCOH Committee made equity recommendations to the Mayor and Board. Using data will help make equity recommendations more targeted and increase their impact.

Gail Gillman said San Francisco has resources to do this work effectively. She encouraged the Committee to consider deeply subsidized, low service intensity interventions.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked for an example of "disaggregating data." She asked the panelists if they had ideas on why the silos exist between departments. Vice Chair D'Antonio also expressed a desire to hear more about data in communities that are more similar to San Francisco, perhaps Los Angeles or Washington D.C.

Andrea Evans offered as an example of disaggregation, breaking out the number of people assessed through coordinated entry by racial and ethnic group. She said there is a need to support nonprofit service providers to collect and input data. The Committee could help initiate a culture shift, in which people see the data is being used and so they value inputting the data.

Gail Gillman said that part of the solution will be trust building between the departments, which is a role the Committee could play. She suggested highlighting data silos as a barrier in recommendations to the Mayor and Board of Supervisors.

Member Andrews said that multiple strategies are needed. There's a need to rehouse people and prevent people from becoming homeless. And, root causes must be addressed and redressed to get to the core of this issue.

Member Leadbetter said that getting wrapped up in the data can distract from the big picture, which is that two-thirds of people experiencing homelessness are people of color. She said the Committee should consider the ways it can help move the equity conversation from intentions to actions. She said system modeling will help get to the final step of targeting solutions.

Member Reggio asked if there are examples of communities that have been successful in decreasing racial disparities, and if so, how? He said he thinks the OCOH interventions are on target. It may be the case that those interventions are effective at reducing homelessness but the disparity remains. He said that he does not see a way around Fair Housing rules because OCOH dollars are leveraging other local, state, and federal resources. He said, once communities have the data, and know about disparities, what do they do?

Gail Gillman said there is modeling coming out of Alameda County that looks closely at racial disparities. And, Contra Costa has made a good start. It remains to be seen in the next couple of years if these strategies show impact.

Andrea Evans said that another step would be to look at where people are getting tripped up. For instance, documentation can be a barrier, but it doesn't have to be. Rules allow for people to provide documentation after move in. Andrea Evans said she hasn't seen another community emerge as a leader in bringing about these changes and suggested that San Francisco could lead the way.

Member Miller asked that if ending homelessness is not a matter of resources, then what is it? With Safe Sleep, she discovered that curfews were a barrier in shelters that when removed, increased occupancy to 100%. She wondered, what is the practical thing—the policies, or practices—that can be done to fix this.

Gail Gillman said, first ask the City Attorney for an opinion about using race as a preference for the Local Operating Subsidy Program. Second, ask for data on outcomes disaggregated by race. Third, ask the Mayor's Office of Housing to disaggregate eviction data by race.

Andrea Evans said that there are barriers at every single point in the system. She said that each of those are an opportunity to "upset the setup."

Member Friedenbach said that Prop C was not intended to end homelessness. She said that Prop C doesn't address historical and structural inequities that perpetuate homelessness. She said that unhoused people know how to end homelessness, and those insights are captured in the *Stop the Revolving Door* report.

Chair Williams thanked the presenters.

There were no public comments on agenda item 2.

Chair Williams took a 5-minute recess.
The Committee reconvened with all members present.

3) Discussion Item/Possible Action:
   Exploration of current data on homelessness and homeless populations, with discussion and possible action by the Committee.

Jessica Shimmin of the Controller's Office presented needs assessment data on the scale of homelessness in San Francisco, and the characteristics of the City's homeless population and subpopulations. Presentation slides can be found here.

Chair Williams said she identifies as a Black woman and the prevalence of Black men in the homeless population weighs heavily on her. She said the service experience of homeless people is an area she would like to know more about. She said she would like to look at intersections of identity as well.

Member Friedenbach said certification of homelessness is an issue for homeless families. Said that families may double up, but often those doubled up situations are unsafe or unhealthy. Member Friedenbach said that we must take a different approach to counting family homelessness.

Member Miller said the data is jarring. She has been working with a city in Texas and saw in their data that the numbers of homeless Black people were double the general population. She was impressed that their system was designed to address the disparity. She said there needs to be some

will and action behind solving the problem of racial disparities.

Vice Chair D'Antonio said that she thinks the family numbers are low, and thinks the numbers are intentionally suppressed. She said she would like to see a no-barrier system that allows people to self-identify as homeless. She noted that Black families are overrepresented in the homeless population. Vice Chair D'Antonio said she would like to see a deeper analysis of domestic violence.

Member Andrews said changing systems is important, and persons must be in a physical and psychological place to access the care. He wondered how the OCOH Fund can ensure that the system meets them where they are, instead of forcing them to become very sick before being able to access help.

Chair Williams thanked Member Andrews for making the point. She said that it's important not to put the onus on individuals, but on systems. As the Committee begins to think about investments, how can they make the system of care less racist for Black and Brown people?

Member Leadbetter said thinking about Community Accountability, it's not just a reporting out, but of seeing and acknowledging what is happening. She said once the data starts flowing, then engaging the Committee and the community in the process of reflecting and talking about that data. Member Leadbetter asked the Committee to think about who the partners are or should be to address these issues.

Member Friedenbach said that a major tenet of Treatment on Demand was centering culture. She suggested the Committee may advocate for a systemic analysis that makes direct connections to racism and trauma.

There were not public comments on Agenda Item 3.

4) Discussion Item/Possible Action:
   Committee discussion of items for future meeting agendas, with possible action by the Committee.

   Item 4 was tabled.

5) **Adjourn**

   Member Andrews moved to adjourn the meeting. Member Friedenbach seconded the motion.

   Roll Call Vote:
       Member Andrews: Yes
       Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes
       Member Friedenbach: Yes
       Officer Leadbetter: Yes
       Member Miller: Absent
       Member Reggio: Yes
       Chair Williams: Yes

   The meeting adjourned at 12:11 PM.