

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee  
**April 21, 2022**  
11:02AM-12:57PM

Committee Members

Brett Andrews  
Nina Catalano  
Michelle Cunningham-Denning  
Julia D'Antonio  
Jennifer Friedenbach  
Julie Leadbetter  
Lena Miller  
Ken Reggio  
Shanell Williams

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](https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=209). Supporting materials including presentations and reports are posted at <https://sf.gov/meeting/april-21-2022/april-21-2022-our-city-our-home-oversight-committee-special-meeting>

1) **Call to Order**

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 11:02AM

Roll Call:

Member Andrews: Present  
Member Catalano: Present  
Member Cunningham-Denning: Present  
Vice Chair D'Antonio: Present  
Member Friedenbach: Present  
Member Leadbetter: joined late  
Member Miller: Absent  
Member Reggio: Present  
Chair Williams: Present

Quorum confirmed.

Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement:

**We acknowledge that we are** on the unceded ancestral homeland of the Ramaytush Ohlone who are the original inhabitants of the San Francisco Peninsula. As the indigenous stewards of this land and in accordance with their traditions, the Ramaytush Ohlone have never ceded, lost nor forgotten their responsibilities as the caretakers of this place, as well as for all peoples who reside in their traditional territory. As guests, we recognize that we benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland. We wish to pay our respects by acknowledging the ancestors, elders, and relatives of the Ramaytush Community and by affirming their sovereign

rights as First Peoples.

2) Discussion Item/Possible Action:

***OCOH Community Liaisons present draft recommendations, with discussion and possible action by the Committee.***

**Lived Expertise / Administrative Allocation**

Chair Williams, Vice Chair D'Antonio, and Data Officer Leadbetter proposed a Community Research Program as a component of the OCOH Needs Assessment. The presentation used slides [located here](#). The Community Research Program would partner with nonprofit organizations to hire people with lived expertise of homelessness as researchers on needs assessment data collection and analysis.

Member Reggio said the proposal reflects the Committee's commitment to incorporating the perspectives of people with lived expertise.

Member Friedenbach said that effective systems hinge on the voices of people with lived expertise.

Member Cunningham-Denning said the Committee's work is having a positive impact. She suggested canvassing people with lived expertise to understand barriers to services.

Member Catalano asked how the Community Research Program will inform the Committee Member's work? Chair Williams said that having capacity in the Controller's Office to work with community based research partners will ensure cross pollination and transparency. Officer Leadbetter added that the proposal ties closely to the legislative mandate so the voices of people with lived expertise are linked with recommendations. The goal is to maximize the expertise of people who have been homeless, of staff in the Controller's Office and of CBOs.

Member Andrews said the Community Research Program will deepen and integrate engagement with people with lived expertise in the Committee's work.

Chair Williams asked for public comment on this item.

Eleana Binder, Policy Associate at GLIDE, made a public comment. She said it's important for people with lived expertise of homelessness to inform the Committee. She recommended that the Committee offer fair compensation, stipends, and job opportunities in support of the Needs Assessment process. This will ensure that people experiencing or at risk of homelessness remain at the center of the Our City, Our Home initiative.

Vice Chair D'Antonio made a motion to adopt the Community Research Program and issue an RFP. Member Friedenbach seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

- Member Andrews: Yes
- Member Catalano: Yes
- Member Cunningham-Denning: Yes
- Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes
- Member Friedenbach: Yes
- Member Leadbetter: Yes
- Member Miller: Absent
- Member Reggio: Yes
- Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed.

## **Homelessness Prevention and Diversion**

Member Catalano, Homelessness Prevention and Diversion Liaison, presented budget recommendations using slides 6 and 7 [located here](#). Member Catalano noted that Homelessness Prevention and Diversion are developing components of the system that need to be brought to scale. Her presentation reflected conversations with the Departments (HSH and MOHCD) and other stakeholders as well as the shifting landscape of federal and state resources for homelessness prevention and diversion.

Member Andrews asked whether the benefits advocacy proposal advanced by nonprofit legal advocates is incorporated into the Eviction Prevention & Housing Stabilization funding? Member Catalano said that line item includes tenant right to counsel and other services connected to anti-displacement. Jessica Shimmin, Controller's Office staff relayed that SSI benefits advocacy is funded through other sources administered by Human Services Agency (HSA).

Member Friedenbach said that the Committee recommended public benefits advocacy—including veteran benefits—in last year's recommendations. Member Andrews added that people with disabilities were also included last year's recommendation. She asked staff to confirm that benefits advocacy is sufficiently funded through HSA to meet the needs of people at risk of homelessness.

Member Friedenbach asked whether problem solving resources are being used for short term subsidies? Member Catalano confirmed that short term subsidies are an eligible use of prevention funds but may not be reflected in current plans.

Office Leadbetter said funding invested in benefits advocacy returns to the City four or five times over and she would like to see Benefits Advocacy included in recommendations for OCOH prevention funding.

Committee Members thanked Member Catalano for her work.

Vice Chair D'Antonio said that domestic violence service providers have said there's a need for more legal services for survivors living in public housing. She asked for more information on the interventions included under the umbrella of "problem solving." What can the Committee know about the effectiveness of the problem-solving intervention?

## **Mental Health**

Member Catalano presented budget recommendations using slides 7-14 [located here](#) on behalf of the Mental Health Liaison, Member Andrews, and small team of Committee Members who participated in the Mental Health conversations with the City (Member Friedenbach and Member Reggio).

Vice Chair D'Antonio said she was happy to hear the community's needs reflected in the budget proposals. She said the Listening Sessions elicited unmet needs in the Bayview neighborhood, including for a Teaching Therapeutic Community for Justice Involved Women. Vice Chair D'Antonio asked how mental health programs are geographically distributed? Member Catalano suggested that geographically mapping services may be a good exercise for the needs assessment.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked for information about the Dimensions Clinic services for Transgender and TAY persons experiencing homelessness. Kelly Kirkpatrick of the Department of Public Health

said that Dimensions is a physical space where some OCOH funding is being used to support programs for youth and transgendered persons. Vice Chair D'Antonio said the listening sessions identified for increasing young people's access to therapy and psychologists. Vice Chair D'Antonio and Member Friedenbach noted a shortage of culturally and linguistically competent therapists.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked for information about the one-time funds earmarked for a Behavioral Health Access and Drop In Center. Member Friedenbach asked if this is the Tenderloin Linkage Center? Kelly Kirkpatrick (DPH) said there is no specific site in mind. The building, once identified and purchased, will provide a footprint for meeting the goals of Mental Health SF. The Department is actively evaluating the Tenderloin Mental Health Linkage center and how to increase access for people experiencing homelessness (including expanding outreach and drop in).

Member Reggio and Friedenbach said that mental health services delivered by community-based providers and co-located in permanent supportive housing, homeless shelters, and homeless drop-in centers is a tested model of care. Kelly Kirkpatrick said contracting opportunities for providing behavioral health services in PSH will be put out to bid in a few months. Likewise, behavioral health services in shelter will likely also be contracted out through a Request For Proposals (RFP).

### **Emergency Shelter and Hygiene Services**

Member Friedenbach, the Emergency Shelter and Hygiene Liaison, presented budget recommendations using slides 15-18 [located here](#). Member Friedenbach recommended decreasing the Housing Navigation operations budget by \$1.2million in FY23 and re-direct that funding to increase the number of emergency hotel vouchers for victims of domestic violence and pregnant people.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked about the average length of stay in congregate family shelters, and whether families in shelters have access to meals, case management, Wi-Fi, and educational supports for children? Member Friedenbach said that non-congregate family shelters provide three meals each day, case management, Wi-Fi and tutoring for children.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked if the Emergency Shelter & Hygiene proposals include expanding shelter in the Bayview neighborhood. Member Friedenbach said there are no new beds added in the proposed budget; adding new programs would require cutting back in other areas.

Emily Cohen of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing provided an update on scaling up the Vehicle Triage Center at Candlestick, which has been impacted by supply chain delays.

Vice Chair D'Antonio shared some needs at Safe Sleep and Safe Parking sites: greater access to drinking water, showers, Wi-Fi, and electricity.

### **Permanent Housing**

Member Reggio, the Permanent Housing Inventory and Pipeline Liaison, presented budget recommendations using slides 19-24 [located here](#). Member Reggio supported proposals that maintain the investments approved in 2021, as well as new spending proposed for housing ladder units for families, and a new PSH development also for families, as well as the reserve. Member Reggio asked the Committee to carefully consider whether it is appropriate to use the OCOH Fund for the PSH Equity Services proposals that would lower case management ratios across the full PSH portfolio.

Gigi Whitley from the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing said the proposal would prevent a two-tiered system, by bringing the full portfolio in line with the case management ratios in OCOH funded PSH. Member Reggio said that his recommendation is that the Department and City look to other (non-OCOH) funding sources.

Chair Williams asked Members to reach out to the Liaisons with their questions and recommendations. She asked Members to reach out to Jessica Shimmin, OCOH Policy Analyst in the Controller's Office with questions for the Departments.

Chair Williams asked for public comment.  
There was no public comment on this agenda item.

- 3) Discussion Item/Possible Action:  
***Propose Agenda Items for Subsequent Meetings, with Discussion with Possible Action by the Committee.***

Chair Williams tabled this agenda item for a future meeting.

4) ***Adjourn***

Chair Williams requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Member Reggio provided a motion and Member Andrews seconded the motion to adjourn.

Vice Chair D'Antonio said she thinks members should be flexible to extend the meetings during the budget process. Member Friedenbach said the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting would need continue until the Committee completed its work. Member Leadbetter requested to start with Permanent Housing on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Chair Williams encouraged Committee Members to use the Liaison structure and staff capacity to raise questions and obtain answers before the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Andrews: Yes  
Member Catalano: Yes  
Member Cunningham-Denning: Yes  
Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes  
Member Friedenbach: Yes  
Member Leadbetter: Yes  
Member Miller: Absent  
Member Reggio: Yes  
Chair Williams: Yes

The meeting adjourned at 12:57PM.