

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee
May 6, 2022
10:05AM – 12:09PM

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. Supporting materials including presentations and reports are posted at <https://sf.gov/meeting/may-6-2022/may-6-2022-our-city-our-home-oversight-committee-special-meeting>

1) **Call to Order**

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 10:05AM.

Roll Call:

Member Andrews: Present
Member Catalano: Present
Member Cunningham-Denning: Absent
Vice Chair D'Antonio: Present
Member Friedenbach: Present
Member Leadbetter: Present
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) Action Item:
Presentation of Adult Housing Recommendations with Discussion and Action by the Committee.

Member Reggio thanked staff for support integrating recommendations. He briefly reviewed the package of recommendations for Adult Permanent Housing using slides 4-8 [located here](#).

At the end of the presentation Noelle Simmons, Deputy Director of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing offered to answer questions from the Committee as needed.

Member Friedenbach asked Deputy Director Simmons if the Department agrees with the Committee's recommendations as summarized by Member Reggio? Deputy Director Simmons said that the PSH Equity Services is the area of greatest difference in the two proposals. She said that the Department understands the Committee's perspective, and because the Department does not have another source of funding for the PSH Equity Services and the need is so great, the Department continues to hold the position that the OCOH Fund is an appropriate source.

Ms. Simmons clarified that the Department's proposal for Adult Housing Operating Costs already includes the wage increases.

Ms. Simmons said that with respect to the Flex Pool Subsidies for Cis and Trans Women, the Department recognizes that transgendered people are an underserved and marginalized population. She said the Department has been conversations with the Mayor's Office and the Office of Transgender Services, with the goal of carving out Flex Pool and EHV for that population. Member Friedenbach asked about the subsidies for women.

Officer Leadbetter said that the OCOH Fund is already supporting a number of programs and services in the "legacy" portfolio. She said she continues to support the resolution from last week. Member Leadbetter asked how the Committee might build up the acquisitions balance?

Member Reggio withdrew the recommendation to add \$0.2m to OCOH adult PSH operating costs. He also encouraged retaining the recommendation for Flex Pool Subsidies for cis- and transgendered women. He said that the OCOH would need to set aside dollars for acquisition in the adult portfolio.

Member Reggio moved to recommend to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors FY23 and FY24 OCOH funding for Permanent Housing for Homeless Adults as proposed by the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing with the following changes and notes:

- Reject HSH's PSH Equity Services proposal that \$8.0M be allocated from OCOH funds for caseload adjustment in the City's pre-OCOH permanent supportive housing sites (the "legacy portfolio"), recommending instead that the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors allocate funding from non-OCOH sources for this urgently needed purpose.
- Add flex pool subsidies for cis and trans women at a cost of \$2.4 m per year, ongoing (roughly 57-60 slots).
- Note that these changes can be made while also creating a reserve of \$9m, retaining one-time savings of \$14.5m, and leaving an unprogrammed balance of \$6.1m in FY24.

Member Friedenbach seconded Member Reggio's motion.

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion passed.

3) Action Item:

Presentation of Youth Housing Recommendations, with Discussion and Action by the Committee. (30 min)

Member Reggio, Permanent Housing Inventory and Pipeline Liaison, reviewed the package of recommendations for Youth Permanent Housing using slides 10-12 [located here](#).

Director Simmons did not have anything to add to the presentation.

Member Reggio moved to recommend to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors FY23 and FY24 OCOH funding for Permanent Housing for Homeless Youth as proposed by the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing with the following changes and notes:

- Reject HSH's PSH Equity Services proposal that \$1.0M be allocated from OCOH funds for caseload adjustment in the City's pre-OCOH permanent supportive housing sites (the "legacy portfolio"), recommending instead that the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors allocate funding from non-OCOH sources for this urgently needed purpose.
- Note that while recommending the TAY Housing Flex Pool budget proposed by HSH, the OCOH Oversight Committee, informed by themes from the listening sessions, encourages incorporating a shared housing model in implementation of these funds.
- Note that these changes can be made while also creating a reserve of \$3.1m and leaving unprogrammed balances of \$11.8m in FY23 and \$15.4m in FY24. An estimated \$58.4m will carry forward from FY22 for acquisitions during the two budgeted years.

Member Friedenbach seconded Member Reggio's motion.

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed.

4) Action Item:

Presentation of Family Housing Recommendations, with Discussion and Action by the Committee.

Member Reggio, Permanent Housing Inventory and Pipeline Liaison, reviewed the package of recommendations for Family Permanent Housing using slides 14-18 [located here](#).

Deputy Director Simmons acknowledged the difference in perspective on the source of funding for PSH Equity Services and had no further comments.

Member Reggio moved to recommend to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors FY23 and FY24 OCOH funding for Permanent Housing for Homeless Families as proposed by the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing with the following changes and notes:

- Increase the proposal for MOHCD administered Family Housing SRO Subsidies by \$2m beginning in FY24 to allow 100 additional families to move from SROs to suitable family living accommodations.
- Add 30 Family Housing Flex Pool PSH slots for doubled up families, including undocumented and asylum-seeking families, in FY23 and another 30 slots in FY24 at a cost of \$1.82m in FY23 and \$3.7m ongoing beginning in FY24.
- Reject HSH's PSH Equity Services that \$3.2M be allocated from OCOH funds for caseload adjustment in the City's pre-OCOH permanent supportive housing sites (the "legacy portfolio"), recommending instead that the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors allocate funding from non-OCOH sources for this urgently needed purpose.
- Note that these changes can be made while also creating a reserve of \$4m and leaving unprogrammed balances of \$10.2m in FY23 and \$9.3m in FY24.

Vice Chair D'Antonio seconded Member Reggio's motion.

Chair Williams invited discussion. Members offered none.

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion passed.

Chair Williams thanked Member Reggio for his work as the Committee's Liaison.

5) Action Item:
Presentation of Mental Health Recommendations with Discussion and Action by the Committee.

On behalf of the Mental Health Liaison, Member Catalano reviewed the package of recommendations for Mental Health using slides 20-29 [located here](#).

Director Kirkpatrick of the Department of Public Health recognized the equity imperative behind the Women's dual diagnosis transitional care therapeutic teaching community program. She expressed concern about using one-time savings to fund the ongoing expense of program operations. Director Kirkpatrick said that DPH is listening to the Committee's priority for providing behavioral health services to youth and families in shelter, while at the same time working with HSH to establish the scope of services for behavioral health supports in shelters.

Member Friedenbach said the Committee received a great deal of feedback from the Bayview community about services for women as well as the need for a transitional teaching community. She didn't hear participants in the listening sessions asking for a new behavioral health drop-in center, which is one reason she doesn't support using \$17.5M for acquiring a Behavioral Health Access Center.

Officer Leadbetter said that she would like to see Mental Health funds used to acquire housing, since housing is healthcare. She said she supports integrating DPH behavioral health care available in Permanent Supportive Housing and looks forward to a broadening the conversation around integrated care.

Vice Chair D'Antonio said that the listening sessions raised the need for services designed for women experiencing homelessness. She encouraged members to read the recent Turner Center for Housing Innovation's [report](#) on this theme.

Member Reggio asked for clarification on the design of the "therapeutic teaching community" model. Member Catalano, Member Friedenbach, and Vice Chair D'Antonio described the program as a sober-living, community-based transitional housing model with some clinical elements. It was developed and is being tested in the re-entry community and shows signs of success. The approach emphasizes peer to peer learning.

Member Leadbetter said that the Committee has been getting questions about the status of the Harm Reduction Therapy Center. The Controller's Office confirmed that funding for that program is included in the Overdose Prevention category, and the Department of Public Health is preparing to put that program out for competitive bid in the next several months.

Member Catalano moved to recommend to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors FY23 and FY24 OCOH funding for mental health services as proposed by the Department of Public Health with the following changes and notes:

- Add a Dual Diagnosis Transitional Care Therapeutic Teaching Community program for women in the Bayview neighborhood, with 50 slots at a cost of \$3.5m in FY23 and \$3.6m in F24. This recommendation responds to insights gained through the listening sessions. The program will increase the geographic, racial and gender equity in services.
- Implement the recommended Behavioral and Clinical Health Services in shelters and drop-in centers with attention to providing TAY mental health services for the community, including on-site extended clinical hours for youth navigation center and telehealth options.
- Re-direct the \$17.5m use of one-time fund balance from Behavioral Health Access and Drop In Center to Treatment Bed Acquisitions.
- Note that these recommendations require drawing down the full \$44.5m in one-time savings that

are estimated at the end of FY22 and drawing down \$8.2m of reserve in FY24. At the end of the second budget year (FY24), there will be \$0.0 in one-time savings and \$7.3m in reserves. An estimated \$139.5m will be available during the two budgeted years for acquisitions.

Member Friedenbach seconded Member Catalano's motion.

Francisco di Costa made a public comment. He asked if the Committee Members have experience in behavioral sciences and mental health disorders among people experiencing homelessness? He said quality of life does not exist in San Francisco. He said he will be following the Committee's work.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The motion passed.

Chair Williams thanked Member Catalano and Member Andrews for their work.

6) Action Item:

Presentation of Homelessness Prevention & Diversion Recommendations, with Discussion and Action by the Committee. (35 min)

Member Catalano, the Homelessness Prevention and Diversion Liaison, reviewed the package of recommendations for Homelessness Prevention and Diversion Services using slides 31-35 [located here](#).

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked whether any household could access the public benefits advocacy proposed? Or, would it be exclusive to adults, justice involved, and veterans? Member Catalano said that it would be available to any household at risk of homelessness who is eligible for those benefits.

Jessica Shimmin, Controller's Office, said that the Problem Solving funds that were appropriated in FY2022 and proposed by the department to continue funding Problem Solving in FY23 and FY24 are already contracted or obligated. The result is that the cost of the Committee's proposals exceed the available funds. Shifting the Rapid Re-Housing Extensions to the Family Housing portfolio would be one way to mitigate the overspending.

Deputy Director Simmons said that funding the Committee's proposals at this stage would require cutting other programs.

Member Catalano asked the Members for their priorities and comments on the proposals.

Member Friedenbach said that the Listening Sessions highlighted the need to assist families who are returning to homelessness after a two-year Rapid Re-Housing program. She said the program fits well in the Homelessness Prevention and Diversion category.

Officer Leadbetter said she supports using Family Housing funds for the RRH Extensions program. She also said that the Prevention and Diversion section of the fund includes programs that aren't Committee recommendations. As an example, PSH Shallow Subsidies, which ensures PSH residents pay 30% of their income in rent was not recommended by the Committee. The ongoing cost of these programs limit the Committee's ability to respond to current needs.

Member Friedenbach asked for clarification about whether the funds are planned to be spent, or already in contract? Deputy Director Simmons said that there are multiple programs in each of the Problem Solving line items, and program planning and allocating funds are already well along the way in planning.

Member Catalano asked for Member Reggio's point of view on using the Family Housing category for the Rapid Re-Housing Extensions. Member Reggio said his only concern is whether this is an acceptable use of the Permanent Housing fund. However, one limitation may be whether the recipients must be currently homeless.

Officer Leadbetter suggested a policy recommendation to extend length of time for Rapid Re-Housing funds from two years to five years.

Member Andrews said that overwhelmingly it is disabled people who will be recipients of benefits advocacy.

Member Catalano made a motion to recommend to the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors the package of FY23 and FY24 OCOH funding for Homelessness Prevention Services as proposed by the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing with the following changes and stipulation:

- Add Public Benefits Advocacy to the Targeted Homelessness Prevention Services at a cost of \$1M in FY23 and FY24. This two-year program will fund Community Based Organizations to provide benefits advocacy using the evidence-based model of lawyer-social worker teams to security disability and veteran's benefits for households at risk of homelessness.
- Add Family Rapid Re-Housing Extensions to the Rental Assistance category at a cost of \$1.38m in FY23 and \$1.4m in FY24. This two-year program will provide 24-month subsidy extensions to families who cannot pay market rent at the end of their Rapid Re-Housing program. The extensions will prevent those households from returning to homelessness. This recommendation builds upon insights from the listening sessions.
- Stipulate that these recommendations are contingent upon funding sources available within the Prevention category that are not already allocated, fully scoped, or part of an existing RFP. Upon the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing's and the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development's discretion, funds may be drawn from the Family Housing category for the RRH extension program described above, as a short-term rental subsidy under the ordinance.

Member Reggio seconded Member Catalano's motion.

Francisco di Costa provided a public comment. He said that the Committee won't be able to solve problems without sufficient funding, making connections to other funding sources and policy initiatives, or knowledge of the homeless population.

Roll Call Vote:

Member Andrews: Yes

Member Catalano: Yes

Member Cunningham-Denning: Absent

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Officer Leadbetter: Yes
Member Miller: Absent
Member Reggio: Yes
Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed.

Chair Williams thanked Member Catalano for her work.

Member Friedenbach appreciated the careful listening that is happening among Committee Members as well as the high level of skill and knowledge. It is a complex problem. There is a huge amount of need and intense suffering. The Committee, the Departments, and Controller's Office staff are all working hard and being respectful.

Member Andrews agreed and appreciated Chair Williams' leadership. He thanked the Members for agreeing to a second meeting to link the Committee's recommendations to careful analysis and research. He said that every year the process gets a little better.

Chair Williams thanked Members, the Liaisons, and Jessie from the Controller's Office for her tremendous work. Chair Williams said she will be seeking out meetings with the Mayor and Board of Supervisors to continue the advocacy.

Officer Leadbetter thanked Vice Chair D'Antonio for her leadership on the lived expertise work.

7) Discussion Item/Possible Action:

Propose Agenda Items for Subsequent Meetings, with Discussion with Possible Action by the Committee.

Member Andrews said he would like a presentation on disability and disabled people's engagement with public supports and services across Departments and nonprofits.

Officer Leadbetter agreed and said that benefits advocacy unlocks a depth of health and wellbeing for recipients. She would also like an update from HSH on the system modeling work.

Member Reggio agreed that an update on system modeling and formalizing the Needs Assessment is important. These efforts will inform the Committee's understanding of how much housing is needed, making it a high priority.

Member Catalano said she would like to do a deeper dive into prevention. San Francisco is in the process of building out a prevention system. As these services are being rolled out and evaluated, it would be great to get a presentation on the vision and outcomes of the at work.

There was no public comment on this agenda item.

8) ***Adjourn***

Chair Williams invited a motion to adjourn.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 12:09pm.