

MEETING MINUTES

Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee

August 25, 2022

9:35 AM – 11:33 AM

Committee Members

Nina Catalano

Michelle Cunningham-Denning

Julia D'Antonio

Jennifer Friedenbach

Julie Leadbetter

Lena Miller

Ken Reggio

Shanell Williams

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.

1) ***Call to Order***

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 9:35AM.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Present

Member Cunningham-Denning: Absent

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Joined Late

Member Friedenbach: Present

Officer Leadbetter: Present

Member Miller: Joined late

Member Reggio: Present

Chair Williams: Present

Quorum confirmed.

Ramaytush Ohlone Land Acknowledgement

2) ***Opportunity for the public to comment on any matters within the Committee's jurisdiction that are not on the agenda.***

Eleana Binder, Policy Associate at GLIDE, made a public comment. She asked for a discussion of the OCOH data dashboard. She wants to see clear representations of the impact the OCOH investments are having in the community.

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Cristin Evans made a public comment. She suggested creating one place where people can find clear information about the impact of the OCOH Fund: the number of people who have been housed, prevented from homelessness, and accessed mental health services.

3) Action Item:

Approval, with possible modification, of the meeting minutes from July 28, 2022.

Chair Williams requested a motion to approve the minutes of July 28, 2022. Member Reggio moved to approve the minutes. Member Friedenbach seconded the motion.

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

Roll Call Vote:

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

4) Action Item:

Resolution making findings to allow teleconferenced meetings under California government code section 54953(e).

The [Full text of the Resolution can be found here](#), and was provided to, and reviewed by the Members in advance of the meeting. The Committee resolved to meet exclusively by teleconferencing for the next 30 days and to revisit the topic at the next OCOH Oversight Committee meeting.

Cristin Evans made a public comment. She asked the Committee to consider ways to expand access to include people who can't easily watch or call into the proceedings, specifically people experiencing homelessness.

Chair Williams asked for a motion to approve the Resolution. Data Office Leadbetter moved to approve the Resolution. Member Catalano seconded the motion to approve the Resolution.

Member Friedenbach said she would like to meet in person, or hybrid like the Board of Supervisors. She noted it is easier for people experiencing homelessness to attend in person.

Chair Williams asked for a staff update. Jessica Shimmin, OCOH Policy Analyst in the Controller's Office, said that she receives regular updates from the Mayor's Office and there are no plans to begin meeting in person. She suggested working with Committee members to explore opportunities to expand participation.

Member Reggio asked whether other Committees or Commissions meeting in person? Jessica Shimmin said that there are one or two Boards that were legislatively required to meet in person,

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such as redistricting. Otherwise, all other Committees and Policy Bodies are meeting via teleconference.

Officer Leadbetter thanked the public commenters and said she supports making the Oversight Committee's meetings and materials accessible and transparent.

Roll Call Vote:

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

The Resolution Making Findings to Allow Teleconferenced Meetings was approved.

5) Discussion/Possible Action

Presentation of draft analysis related to OCOH Needs Assessment Part 3: System Performance, with discussion and possible action by the Committee.

Officer Leadbetter introduced the OCOH data work and needs assessment. She said she envisioned the Committee creating opportunities to engage community members in conversation about data. She said that listening to people with lived expertise can be transformative to service delivery systems.

Jessica Shimmin, OCOH Policy Analyst at Controller's Office, presented a draft of analysis of System Performance for discussion. [Slides from the presentation can be found here.](#) She described the strengths and limitations of the Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPs) homeless System Performance Measures. The presentation looks in detail at Measure 5, the number of persons who became homeless for the First Time, and Measure 2, the extent to which people who exit to permanent housing return to homelessness within two years.

Member Friedenbach said that she did four focus groups in the spring in OCOH programs. She asked that notes from those sessions be available publicly and incorporated into the Needs Assessment. Ms. Shimmin said the notes from those groups are publicly available on the OCOH Oversight Committee's website [\[and linked here\]](#).

Vice Chair D'Antonio said she would like to see the OCOH Oversight Committee have data content that is accessible online including YouTube, and a one-page executive summary of the year-end report. She proposed San Francisco develop a more granular system performance framework rather than trying to fit into a one-size-fits-all approach. She suggested adding data inputs to HUD's metrics to capture families living in SROs and doubled up.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked about the scope of the Housing Inventory Count. Jessica Shimmin, OCOH Policy Analyst in the Controller's Office, said that the Housing Inventory Count includes

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shelter and housing resources that are available to literally homeless households. Other systems keep track of housing resources for other populations. For instance, the Mayor's Office on Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) tracks affordable housing development, the Housing Authority manages and tracks PHA vouchers. Vice Chair D'Antonio suggested developing a list of all housing resources. She said that economic growth or recession will impact below market rate (BMR) housing production and availability. Hugo Ramirez from MOHCD said his department could provide a BMR pipeline report to the Committee that looks forward in time and retrospectively. [note: *the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development maintains an [Affordable Housing Dashboard](#) with pipeline information.*]

Member Friedenbach said that the focus of the Our City, Our Home Fund is people without safe and secure housing. She attributed the high numbers of people who are "new" in 2020 and 2021 to the Shelter In Place Hotels. These non-congregate shelter programs opened during the first years of the COVID pandemic and accessed by many people who previously weren't engaging the shelter system. Member Friedenbach suggested the PIT survey is another source for information about first time homelessness and returns. Member Friedenbach recommended the Latino Task Force's report [Street Needs Assessment + Proyecto Dignidad \(2022\)](#). Member Friedenbach said that it can be difficult to find specific information on the Oversight Committee's website.

Chair Williams said that she would like to think about alternative frameworks and moving beyond data gaps.

Officer Leadbetter said she is actively engaged in the data work and paying attention to the expanding data universe with a focus on what we can learn. She said that the Lived Expertise perspective is the most direct way of getting to the heart of the matter. She asked how San Francisco's rate of returns to homelessness compares with other communities? Jessica Shimmin, Controller's Office, said that HUD publishes the measures, making it possible for communities to compare their performance. She said that a 13% rate of returns is serious, though lower than other Bay Area communities. Officer Leadbetter said she would like to hear from the Department (HSH) about how they're thinking about and using the measures.

Member Reggio said that 13% returning to homelessness is concerning, as are the evictions reported in the SF Chronicle. He asked the Committee not to lose sight of 87% success rate.

Cristin Evans made a public comment. Ms Evans thanked the Committee for their commitment to transparency and making information accessible to the public. Cristin Evans said that context helps in interpreting data, and this is frequently missing from dashboards. She suggested finding a way to contextualize the data will help people understand the factors influencing the numbers.

6) Discussion/Possible Action

Presentation on Targeted Homelessness Prevention, with discussion and possible action by the Committee.

Member Catalano, Homelessness Prevention Liaison, introduced the presentation, which focused specifically on the Targeted Homelessness Prevention investments within the Homelessness Prevention and Diversion funding area. Other investments in that funding area fall into 3 categories: Eviction Prevention and Housing Stabilization, Problem Solving, and PSH supports.

Member Catalano drew attention to the estimates in the recent PIT report, that for every one person who is housed, 4 will become unhoused with around 20,000 people experiencing homelessness

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annually. These estimates reinforce the urgency of homelessness prevention work. Member Catalano said that Targeted Homelessness Prevention programs are serving households who have never been served before.

Finally, Member Catalano said that the Homelessness Prevention and Diversion programs are the result of an innovative and effective collaboration between the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) and the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD).

Julieta Barcaglioni, Manager for Homelessness Prevention and Problem Solving at HSH, presented a close look at Targeted Homelessness Prevention programs supported with OCOH Funds. [Slides from the presentation are available here.](#) The presentation discussed the implementation and goals of Targeted Homelessness Prevention programs as well as the purpose, approach, and operational structure of San Francisco's targeted homelessness prevention programs.

Vice Chair D'Antonio thanked Ms. Barcaglioni for the presentation. She said that involving landlords sometimes creates a barrier, for example, with doubled up families. Hugo Ramirez, Community Development Program Manager in the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development, said that the programs are designed to be tenant-centric. When programs have difficulty obtaining information from a master tenant or landlord, they provide assistance directly to the tenant. Vice Chair D'Antonio said that she participated in this program, and the landlord requirement was a barrier that delayed her assistance for a month.

Vice Chair D'Antonio suggested looking at the DC Flexible Subsidy pool, which offers a shallow subsidy that participants can apply to their rent in variable amounts [Note: See [this 2020 evaluation of DC Flex](#), which launched in 2017].

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked for more information on the reasons people were denied or didn't participate in targeted homelessness prevention programs. Additionally, she suggested exploring the types of housing participants were living in and breaking out the data by household composition (adults, families) and subpopulations like youth. Finally, she encouraged the City to look for additional funding for these programs.

Member Friedenbach asked if the maximum allowance is higher for larger households? And she asked about households who need longer term supports, for example, in the case of a catastrophic health issue? Hugo Ramirez (MOHCD) said that the March 2020-March 2022 does not have financial assistance cap because of the pandemic. The limits aren't based on household size or rent amount, but each case is reviewed individually. MOHCD and HSH continue to review and revise the programs in response to participant needs and other learnings. He stressed that Targeted Homelessness Prevention is one part of a larger system that includes ongoing subsidy programs.

Cristin Evans made a public comment. She liked how the presentation identified the number of households served with Our City, Our Home Fund dollars. Ms. Evans would like to know how many people were prevented from experiencing homelessness. This is a powerful way of communicating the impact of the fund.

Member Catalano thanked Julieta Barcaglioni and Hugo Ramirez for their work building the Homelessness Prevention System, and for the excellent presentation.

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7) Discussion/Possible Action

Opportunity to propose future agenda items, with discussion and possible action by the Committee.

The Chair tabled this agenda item.

8) ***Adjourn***

Chair Williams invited a motion to adjourn. Member Reggio moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair D'Antonio seconded the motion to adjourn.

Roll Call Vote:

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 meeting adjourned at 11:33AM.

Committee staff and members can be reached at OCOH.CON@sfgov.org