

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee  
Friday April 14, 2023  
Hearing Room 416, City Hall  
1:39 PM – 3:51 PM

Committee Members

Nina Catalano  
Michelle Cunningham-Denning  
Julia D'Antonio  
Jennifer Friedenbach  
Julie Leadbetter  
Shanell Williams

Members of the Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee attended this meeting in-person. 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-14-2023/our-city-our-home-oversight-committee-special-meeting>

1) **Call to Order**

Chair Williams called the meeting to order at 1:39PM.

Roll Call:

Member Catalano: Present  
Member Cunningham-Denning: Arrived late  
Vice Chair D'Antonio: Arrived late  
Member Friedenbach: Present  
Member Leadbetter: Absent  
Chair Williams: Present

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/Possible Action Item

***The Mental Health Liaison presents a draft of the Mental Health recommendations, with discussion and possible action by the Committee.***

Member Cunningham Denning, the Mental Health Liaison, presented a draft of the [Mental Health recommendations using slides linked here](#).

There were no public comments on this agenda item.

Member Friedenbach thanked Member Cunningham Denning and said she believes there is a great deal of unmet need for behavioral health services. She said she would like to see greater investment in behavioral health services for youth and an expansion of co-op housing.

3) Discussion/Possible Action Item

***Presentation of Mental Health Budget Proposals, with discussion and possible action by the Committee.***

Kelly Kirkpatrick, Director of Administration and Operations for Mental Health SF of the Department of Public Health, presented the [OCOH Mental Health budget proposals that DPH made to the Mayor using the slides linked here](#).

Member Cunningham-Denning asked for additional clarification of the amount of, and plans for facility acquisitions funding. Director Kirkpatrick said there is approximately \$130 million in one-time funding set aside for acquisition and rehabilitation of a residential care, treatment, and other behavioral health facilities.

Director Kirkpatrick said that the acquisitions funding will pay for in-county facilities for residential care, a 16 bed Crisis Stabilization Unit, a permanent location for the Managed Alcohol Program, 70 new residential step-down beds, and a possible Mental Health Service Center. Behavioral Health Care facilities must meet state licensure requirements in addition to City permitting processes.

Member Catalano asked which of those behavioral health interventions have longer-term lengths of stay, and what are the operational costs associated with those long-term programs?

Director Kirkpatrick said that DPH's goal is to keep patients at the lowest level of care that is appropriate for them. For some programs, the stay is 2-4 years, like Board and Care or Locked Subacute, and skilled nursing facilities. Co-ops are designed to be transitional, although without adequate affordable housing, Co-ops tend to operate more like PSH. Director Kirkpatrick said that purchasing buildings would enable DPH to relocate out of county treatment beds and might produce modest savings in rent. But those savings may be offset by higher costs of doing business in SF. Director Kirkpatrick said that DPH is again modeling the number and types of beds needed in the system. This will be complete later in 2023.

Chair Williams asked about the Department's staffing and capacity to manage the MHSF expansion? Director Kirkpatrick said that the Department has grown and reorganized. She acknowledged the difficulties the Department and the City is experiencing. DPH is working with the Controller's Office to identify (and resolve) the barriers that City and Nonprofits face when hiring clinicians and health workers.

Chair Williams asked for more information about protocols, training, and makeup of the Street Crisis Response Teams. Director Kirkpatrick said that the City is consolidating the Street Crisis Response Team and the Street Wellness Response Team. The Fire Department will lead this effort and Behavioral Health Clinicians will provide follow up. City Departments are coordinating to support a network of street-based teams.

Member Cunningham-Denning asked to confirm that the Fire Department is the first point of contact for street interventions? Director Kirkpatrick said that a Community-Based EMT and a DPH supported Behavioral Health Peer Advocate provide the immediate response. Behavioral Health Clinicians provide in-depth and ongoing follow up.

Member Friedenbach asked how many of the clinicians working on the Street Crisis Response Team continued on following the change in program design? Director Kirkpatrick said that the Mental Health SF (MHSF) Implementation Working Group (IWG) is looking into the impact of the transition, including staffing. Member Friedenbach said she would like to see a community-based response. She said the peers are the strongest and most important part of the response.

Member Cunningham-Denning agreed with the need for greater sensitivity and training, particularly around the Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC) community. She asked, how are teams being trained?

Vice Chair D'Antonio suggested that EMTs choose to join the teams, rather than being compelled to do so. Chair Williams noted that the Committee is passionate about this issue—and the importance of cultural humility—because the Street Response is the front line of the City's response. Director Kirkpatrick said she appreciates hearing from the Committee Members. The Mental Health SF IWG is doing “deep dives” into the street response, and she encouraged connecting on the issue.

Member Cunningham-Denning asked about the demographic representativeness of the street teams and the Department's approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Director Kirkpatrick said that she would be happy to bring back details about the department's work on this issue. Member Cunningham-Denning stressed the importance of supporting, developing, and retaining employees from marginalized communities.

Member Friedenbach said she is concerned about deferring programming in the current year in order to reserve funds for a mental health service center, which doesn't seem to be progressing. She asked Director Kirkpatrick to look at the budget and see about finding funding for a co-op site.

Marnie, Division Director for Larkin Street Youth Services, made a public comment. She said that youth of color and transgender youth avoid engaging with the Fire Department and with police. She said that youth of color need clinical services at the youth drop in and navigation centers.

#### 4) Discussion/Possible Action Item

***Presentation of Permanent Housing Budget Proposals, with discussion and possible action by the Committee.***

Gigi Whitley, Deputy Director of Admin and Finance at the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, presented the OCOH [budget proposals for Permanent Housing, Shelter & Hygiene, and Homelessness Prevention using the slides linked here.](#)

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked which buildings that will benefit from the “Capital for PSH” line item? Deputy Director Whitley said that this line item would be added to a pool of resources from the General Fund and MOHCD for capital improvements like elevator repair in any PSH site.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked, what are Money Management Services? Noelle Simmons, Chief Deputy Director of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, said the money management program provides financial case management to support tenants in paying their rent. This would expand the program to be able to serve up to 25% of PSH tenants.

Member Cunningham Denning asked if the Money Management Program has a financial literacy component? Chief Deputy Simmons said there is a separate program called “Smart Money Coaching” that provides financial literacy supports.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked about the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing's

proposal to use the \$4m in one time funding that was allocated for the ongoing expense of Women's Flex Pool subsidies to a Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) program for women. Chief Deputy Director Simmons said that because the funding for Women's Flex Pool Subsidies (an ongoing program) was one-time and because this area of the fund is already overdrawn, the Department is proposing to use the \$4m to provide two-year RRH subsidies. At the end of two years, the program would sunset without creating a fiscal cliff. Chief Deputy Director Simmons said that RRH is an effective program model. She also said that the Department has PSH backstops for households that can't assume the full cost of rent at the end of two years.

Marnie provided public comment. Marnie hopes the Department will apply for more Homekey funds and use the Youth set-aside to fund transitional and interim housing to stabilize youth before they move into supportive housing. Marnie said there is a need for clinical support for youth and permanent housing that isn't in the Tenderloin.

5) Discussion/Possible Action Item

***Presentation of Shelter & Hygiene Budget Proposals, with discussion and possible action by the Committee.***

Member Cunningham-Denning asked how HSH publicizes the services that are available to people experiencing homelessness? Chief Deputy Director Noelle Simmons said that the Department uses multiple channels to publicize their services, and they can always do more to spread the word. All services are currently listed on the [Department's website](#) with contact information including brick-and-mortar addresses, email, and telephone details. Resource cards are distributed across service locations. Providers are ambassadors who educate the public. And then of course, clients themselves communicate.

Vice Chair D'Antonio suggested publicizing homelessness services through the schools to reach youth experiencing homelessness. Chief Deputy Director Simmons thanked the Members and said that their comments echo feedback the Department received from people with lived expertise during the development of its newly released strategic plan.

Member Friedenbach expressed concern that the Liaisons recommendations were not incorporated into the budget proposals. As examples she highlighted the women's flex pool and the bridge housing program. She said she was happy to see the shallow subsidy program in the adult housing portfolio.

Deputy Director Whitley said that the Department's proposals are conservative because of the pressures on the fund over the next five years. Member Friedenbach said that the Family Housing section had unprogrammed fund balance, and the Department made a policy decision to program housing acquisition.

Member Friedenbach asked for more details about the Pier 94 site. Deputy Director Whitley said that the Department will present to the Port Commission later in April. Chief Deputy Director Simmons said the Department has advocated for a two-year extension of the trailer program at Pier 94 but has learned that the Port Commission wants to return the site to maritime use. This was a great disappointment. As a result, the Department is looking for other locations for the trailers. The Port Commission will meet again to make its decision on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2023.

Vice Chair D'Antonio said that the trailer program is popular with residents, but also with the surrounding community. She said the cabins are too expensive.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked about the success of Rapid Re-Housing programs for youth. Chief

Deputy Director Simmons said she would need to look into specific retention rates but noted that Larkin Street Youth Services operates the Youth RRH program and has given public comment at this meeting. Marnie came to the podium and said that youth struggle to be successful in RRH. Marnie said the pace of the program is too fast. They said it's not a great program model for youth.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked about fluctuations in the operating costs in the PSH budget? Deputy Director Whitley said that HSH has secured state funding for some of the operating costs.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked about the differences between Targeted Homelessness Prevention and Eviction Prevention and Housing Stabilization. Chief Deputy Director Simmons explained the differences between the interventions and the partnership between HSH and the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development.

Francisco da Costa made a public comment. He said the city is in dire straits, and that the people who are suffering the most are getting no help. He noted that providers received millions of dollars during the pandemic. He said, "we need to get a grip on what is happening."

6) Discussion/Possible Action Item

***Presentation of Homelessness Prevention Budget Proposals, with discussion and possible action by the Committee.***

Member Cunningham-Denning asked about the timeframe for implementing the youth permanent housing programs. Deputy Director Whitley said that all of the programs are in some stage of implementation. She said HSH has been successful in leveraging state dollars.

Member Cunningham-Denning asked about strategies for information about the staffing and training model in youth-serving programs, given that homeless youth are more likely to be of the TGNC community. Deputy Director Whitley said that one reason the Department contracts with community-based service providers is to capture that lens and attentiveness. She said that in addition to the Ending Transgender Homelessness initiative the Department plans to bring online a new housing project exclusively for gender nonconforming youth.

Member Catalano said that across the fund investments she sees an expansion of options for meeting the diverse needs of people at risk of—or experiencing homelessness. Member Catalano framed the points of difference highlighted by the Committee in terms of creating options for meeting diverse needs.

Member Catalano noted the significant shortfall in the next couple of years, specifically related to problem solving and workforce, so there will be challenging conversations. She requested a presentation on Problem Solving to help educate and inform the Committee's decision making. Deputy Director Whitley agreed.

Member Catalano asked about the future of mental health services funding with homelessness prevention dollars. Deputy Director Whitley said that providing mental health services in legacy buildings is crucial for those tenants, and that this is a policy conversation that the Committee may undertake in the future.

Member Catalano asked about opportunities for the Housing Authority to support the Strategic Plan goals in the context of the contracting budget situation. Deputy Director Whitley said that the strategic plan calls for more than \$600m in new investment. Particularly in this context, building a strong team with the Housing Authority has been central to leveraging those subsidies in new PSH sites.

Eleana Binder, policy associate at GLIDE, made a public comment. She emphasized the need for

homelessness prevention resources. She said that GLIDE has provided an extraordinary amount of homelessness prevention services but has been unable to meet the urgent need in the community. She asked for creativity in addressing the financial constraints.

Chair Williams thanked the Departments for presenting and working with the Committee on this issue. She thanked the Committee Members for their hard work.

7) Discussion/Possible Action Item

***Opportunity to propose future agenda items, with possible action by the Committee in response to this item.***

This agenda item was tabled for a future meeting.

8) ***Adjourn***

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

Roll Call:

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:51 PM