

MEETING MINUTES

Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee
October 26, 2023
Hearing Room 416, City Hall
9:45 AM – 11:36 AM

Committee Members

Michelle Cunningham-Denning
Julia D'Antonio
Jennifer Friedenbach
Bonnie Preston
Scott Walton
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/player/clip/44765?view_id=209&redirect=true&h=e8d70a2b8a1aa66186494b9167396dca

Supporting materials including presentations and reports are posted at:

<https://sf.gov/meeting/october-26-2023/our-city-our-home-oversight-committee-regular-meeting>

1) **Call to Order**

Vice Chair D'Antonio called the meeting to order at 9:45 AM.

Roll Call:

Member Cunningham-Denning: Absent (unexcused)
Vice Chair D'Antonio: Present
Member Friedenbach: Present
Member Preston: Present
Member Walton: Present
Chair Williams: Absent (arrived late)

The Committee did not have quorum.

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

Marnie Regen from Larkin Street Youth Services and co-chair of HESPA, gave a public comment. Ms. Regen stated that she was anticipating a motion to support a TAY spending plan that many providers have put together. She explained that the plan focuses on getting more youth off the street and housed for longer. She noted that there are many youth experiencing homelessness who are of

color and from the LGBTQ community and thanked the Committee for their consideration.

Sherilyn Adams of Larkin Street Youth Services provided a public comment over the phone. She stated that TAY providers have done a lot of work to create a plan to create recommendations on how to allocate funds to help serve young people experiencing homelessness. Ms. Adams stated that she was saddened this was not on the agenda and that she hopes it is on the next meeting's agenda.

Hope Kamer from Compass Family Services and HESPA provided a public comment over the phone. Ms. Kamer explained she was calling to echo her colleague's comments and that she hopes that the plan for TAY spending can be voted on as soon as possible.

This concluded public comment on this agenda item.

Chair Williams arrived to the meeting at 9:50. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologized for any confusion regarding the TAY housing fund planning. The Chair explained that the item would be discussed at the next meeting. The chair called for an updated roll call.

Roll Call:

Member Cunningham-Denning: Absent (unexcused)
Vice Chair D'Antonio: Present
Member Friedenbach: Present
Member Preston: Present
Member Walton: Present
Chair Williams: Present

Quorum was confirmed.

3) Action Item

Approval, with possible modification, of the meeting minutes from September 28, 2023

Vice Chair D'Antonio made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 28, 2023 and Member Preston seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Member Cunningham-Denning: Absent
Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Member Preston: Yes
Member Walton: Yes
Chair Williams: Yes

The motion passed and meeting minutes from September 28, 2023 were approved.

4) Discussion/Possible Action Item

Presentation on Racial Equity Action Plans and homelessness response

Sarah Tseng, Policy Director for the Office of Racial Equity provided a presentation linked [here](#).

Anthony Bush, Chief Equity Officer for the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) gave the presentation linked [here](#).

Jessica Brown, Behavioral Health Services Equity Lead from Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) at San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) shared the presentation linked [here](#).

Chair Williams thanked the presenters and opened the floor to Committee discussion and questions.

Member Friedenbach asked Ms. Brown of MHSA if there were still unspent dollars from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).

Ms. Brown explained that past unspent dollars were allocated to services and salary savings to keep a prudent reserve to maintain programs in the case of an economic downfall. More recently, funds have been added to population-focused programs due to increased needs since Covid. Ms. Brown explained that the unspent balance has also been used to expand their housing portfolio and transitional housing. She noted that San Francisco has never had to revert their MHSA dollars as they have always allocated the dollars to where they are needed.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked Ms. Brown if the additional units referenced were accessed through Coordinated Entry.

Ms. Brown confirmed that MHSA partners with HSH to fill 191 permanent supportive housing units using Coordinated Entry. She added that they also have emergency stabilization units and transitional TAY housing.

Member Preston asked if Ms. Brown could share more about DPH's work with Human Resources.

Ms. Brown explained that DPH had launched a pilot of several different equity initiatives with HR and the Office of Health Equity. Examples include a recruitment list of different organizations that could share job announcement postings and adding lived experience as a desired qualification. Ms. Brown added that although it's just a pilot, DPH saw a more diverse pool of candidates and successfully hired clinicians with lived experience with African Americans for their culturally congruent program.

Member Preston asked if Ms. Brown had any recommendations for improving the City's hiring process.

Ms. Brown explained the current process regarding equity, noting that the Office of Racial Equity mandates every City department to have a racial equity action plan. Each department and the Office of Health Equity have their own initiatives which also include Department of Human Resources (DHR). Departments partner with DHR to assess the current state of equity in hiring and employee retention and equity teams can serve on interview panels as well as add equity questions in the interviewing process.

Sarah Tseng, Policy Director for the Office of Racial Equity, added that most HR activities happen within each respective department. Most hiring managers are from within the department and receive support from the City's broader HR department. Director Tseng added that BHS has pioneered many practices that HR is looking to expand to other departments.

Member Friedenbach asked Mr. Bush of HSH for an update on trans-focused services after the closure of St. James Infirmary.

Mr. Bush stated that there is an intermediary organization helping with the transition before Community Health can take over. He noted that he cannot recall the name of the intermediary organization but knows that they are expecting the full-time provider to be on within the next two

months.

Member Friedenbach asked whether there have been any service interruptions up to this point.

Mr. Bush stated that as far as he is aware, no. He added that some flags may have come up during the transition though so he would like to look into this and get back to the Committee regarding any potential service interruptions that may have occurred.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked Mr. Bush how the Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool vouchers are being targeted and what the current allocation of the 112 vouchers are by sub-population.

Mr. Bush stated that he doesn't know population-specific numbers but that in the past regions have been used as a proxy for race to work around limitations of Prop 209. Mr. Bush referenced the 2022 Emergency Housing Voucher program in which HSH prioritized District 10 to ensure that many of the people receiving the vouchers were BIPOC.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked Mr. Bush when the TGNCIA building for TAY is expected to come online and if a building has already been identified.

Mr. Bush noted that the solicitation is coming out soon but because the Equity Division doesn't lead that work, he will have to get back to the Committee on the updated timeline. He explained that a building has been identified but due to the protections of the classification they are waiting to broadcast the address.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked what the process currently is for developing Coordinated Entry assessments for specific access points as opposed to a one-size-fits-all assessment.

Mr. Bush clarified that the assessment is still going to be a universal assessment but that the specificity is in reference to how criteria is scored. He noted that there cannot be differentiated Coordinated Entry assessments at each site, but the working group is exploring a way to uplift certain demographic factors to better reflect other needs that are not being met.

Vice Chair D'Antonio stated that she is hearing about requests for assessing the needs and history of how the LGBTQ population has become homeless.

Mr. Bush also noted that HSH is exploring the role of the assessor and how to ensure that the person providing the assessment is better matched for the individual taking the assessment so that their identity and/or lived experience can provide more safety for the individual when having to recount their trauma.

Member Walton asked Mr. Bush to elaborate on the parts of their plan related to capacity building, contracting, and the BIPOC Equity funds, specifically what some of the things they are hoping the funding can focus on to build up the providers HSH is trying to serve.

Mr. Bush confirmed that funding has just been finalized. He explained that many applicants have expressed issues with not having the right infrastructure to enhance their workstreams. Mr. Bush added that regarding capacity building and one-time funds, the department is focusing on helping with initial startup followed by a gradual release model to enable partners to eventually sustain their own programs independently.

Chair Williams asked Ms. Tseng of ORE what her thoughts regarding the strategic framework and working around the challenges of Prop 209 were.

Ms. Tseng explained that ORE has been working with the new team within the City Attorney's Office that exists to centralize guidance on Prop 209. Ms. Tseng noted that due to the intersectional aspects of identity and the City being so segregated in areas such as income levels, illness levels, educational outcomes, and housing tenure, the City can use these measures to serve the sub-populations directly correlated with race, gender, and sexual orientation without necessarily having to specify these demographics. She added that regarding language in contracts and grants, the current guidance is that if the opportunity is still open to everyone, recruitment can be more focused.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked if Ms. Tseng could explain what zero-based budgets were.

Ms. Tseng explained that in a typical budgeting year for most cities and companies, a base budget is used which counts how much it will take to pay the employees, ongoing operation, planned projects, and accounts for their financial forecast. Alternatively, zero-based budgeting starts at \$0 and assesses how much spending is needed to work towards the intended impacts of the organization. Ms. Tseng added that in terms of racial equity, this is a helpful way for departments and organizations to do incremental fund requests by identifying what the impact of the funds would be for their respective projects.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked if Ms. Tseng could speak more on what the City is doing to address challenges in providing equitable services, especially in contracting.

Ms. Tseng explained that the City has a Local Business Enterprise (LBE) program which allows for certain ethnic groups to register and have their proposal for City contracts get 'bonus points' for being an LBE. ORE found that many eligible businesses owned by people of color were not registering for LBE's. She explained that there has been ongoing work with the Controller's Office to improve the registration system by adding an interface in which sole proprietor applicants have the option to enter their demographic data. Ms. Tseng noted that this is a newer addition, and it will take some time to see what the impacts of this addition will be.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked how the application process for hiring consultants can be made more accessible.

Ms. Tseng agreed that this is issue for the City and explained that ORE has been working on a design for a Request for Information (RFI) which is a non-binding, informational means of creating a more diverse pool of applicants that can be segmented into more specific Request for Qualifications that is low barrier and open to all departments.

Chair Williams thanked all the presenters for their presentations and discussions. Chair Williams opened public comment.

There were no public comments in person or over the phone.

5) Discussion/Possible Action Item
Officer elections and Liaison appointments

Chair Williams asked for nominations for the following vacant positions: Data Officer, Housing Inventory and Pipeline Liaison, and Diversion and Homelessness Prevention Liaison.

Member Preston nominated Member Walton as Data Officer. Member Friedenbach seconded the nomination. Member Walton asked to hear more about the role before accepting and Controller's Office staff, Laura Marshall, explained that the role is to advise the Committee on the use of data and analysis for strategic decision making and may include convening with the various partners for data-

specific projects, such as the Needs Assessment. Member Walton accepted the nomination.

Member Walton nominated Member Preston as Diversion and Homelessness Prevention Liaison. Member Friedenbach seconded the nomination. Member Preston accepted the nomination.

Ms. Marshall noted that the Officer Roles can't be voted on until November and must be at a regular meeting, unless filling a vacancy like the currently vacant Data Officer role.

Chair Williams announced that Member Catalano who had been serving as the Prevention Liaison and representing the Controller's Office has resigned as she is moving out of the country.

Member Friedenbach confirmed that she would like to stay in her current liaison role as the Shelter and Hygiene Liaison.

There were no in person or over the phone public comments.

Roll Call Vote on the nomination of Member Walton as the Data Officer and Member Preston as the Diversion and Homelessness Prevention Liaison.

Member Cunningham-Denning: Absent
Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes
Member Friedenbach: Yes
Member Preston: Yes
Member Walton: Yes
Chair Williams: Yes

Member Walton was elected to serve as the Data Officer. Member Preston was elected to serve as the Diversion and Homelessness Liaison.

6) Discussion/Possible Action Item

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

Chair Williams shared the update that due to APEC events, the November special meeting is cancelled.

Ms. Marshall from the Controller's Office explained that the alternate plan is to incorporate the November agenda items into the already-scheduled December 8 special meeting. These items include the TAY Housing Fund spending plan conversation and potential vote, the FY23-24 revenue update from the Controller's Office, an overview of the FY22-23 annual report, and the HSH strategic plan discussion with Cynthia Nagendra. The Housing Authority is tentatively planning to join the January meeting. Ms. Marshall also noted that the Controller's Office is still working on scheduling details with the Homelessness Oversight Committee (HOC) and MHSF Internal Working Group (IWG).

There was Committee discussion regarding the duration for the December meeting and the possibility of consolidating any content that does not fit into the next regular meetings in January or February. Ms. Marshall confirmed that the current schedule for the December meeting is from 2-4pm but that it may be possible to extend this.

Chair Williams proposed that the TAY discussion and vote be at the beginning of the December meeting followed by the retreat content. Members generally agreed to the timing and plans for this changed options of the retreat, and Controller's Office staff will work with the Chair on additional planning elements.

Chair Williams opened public comment.

There were no in person or over the phone public comments.

7) Adjourn

Chair Williams requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Member Walton made a motion to adjourn. Member Preston seconded the motion.

Roll Call:

Member Cunningham-Denning: Absent

Vice Chair D'Antonio: Yes

Member Friedenbach: Yes

Member Preston: Yes

Member Walton: Yes

Chair Williams: Yes

The meeting adjourned at 11:36AM.

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