

## MEETING MINUTES

Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee  
December 8, 2023  
Hearing Room 416, City Hall  
1:30 PM – 4:30 PM

### 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/45030?view\\_id=209&redirect=true&h=1f16dad3e925c5ec0a77833036080fc](https://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/player/clip/45030?view_id=209&redirect=true&h=1f16dad3e925c5ec0a77833036080fc)

Supporting materials including presentations and reports are posted at:

<https://sf.gov/meeting/december-8-2023/our-city-our-home-oversight-committee-special-meeting>

### 1) **Call to Order**

Chair Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting at 1:30PM but did not call the meeting to order as there was not a quorum. The meeting did not have a quorum for its duration and members did not take any actions. The meeting's content included informational presentations, committee dialogue, and public comment. The following members attended the informational meeting:

Member Cunningham-Denning: Absent  
Vice Chair D'Antonio: Present  
Member Friedenbach: Present  
Member Preston: Absent  
Member Walton: Present  
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 Item

#### ***FY22-23 OCOH Fund Annual Report and FY23-24 OCOH Fund Revenue Update***

Ivy Huwald, Performance Analyst from the Controller's Office, provided a presentation on the recently published FY22-23 OCOH Fund Annual Report linked [here](#).

Member Friedenbach asked if the annual report included program data from outside of HSH.

Laura Marshall, staff from the Controller's Office, confirmed that the annual report's data includes numbers from all operating programs that were OCOH funded over the FY22-23 year. Housing that was purchased in FY22-23 but did not begin operations are not included in the report.

Member Friedenbach asked if the report includes the projected number of units expected to open in the current year, FY23-24. Ms. Marshall confirmed that these are not included but noted that the February meeting will feature a six-month report with information on the progress made since July 2023 provided by departments.

Member Walton asked and received confirmation that the formatting for this year's annual report was the same as the previous years.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked how the information is being disseminated to the public. Ms. Marshall and Ms. Huwald explained that the report is accessible to the public through the OCOH homepage, [www.sf.gov/ocoh](http://www.sf.gov/ocoh) and the Controller's Office distributed to organizations, departments, and members of the public who are on the OCOH email distribution list.

Chair Williams asked whether there was a hard copy version of the report and Ms. Marshall explained that the report is not available in hard copy due to accessibility reasons – it was created as a series of five webpages that include interactive components. Chair Williams suggested creating a printable version of the Executive Summary that members could distribute to partners and community members.

Chair Williams asked if the Households Served data included duplicated or unduplicated counts. Ms. Marshall clarified that no data is unduplicated across service areas but that certain programs within service areas may or may not be unduplicated.

Chair Williams asked whether HSH and DPH can share data across their systems. Ms. Marshall explained that that kind of work is external to the OCOH reporting and this report does not have that type of integrated data.

Member Friedenbach noted the importance of the City reporting in a way that is easily accessible to the public. Member Friedenbach expressed concern with the low rate of positive outcomes for Shelter and Hygiene programs as well as the low Homelessness Prevention numbers serving African American populations. She recommended a future focus on targeted prevention to address the racial disparities in homelessness and prevent further displacement.

Member Walton encouraged the Committee to take time to look at the report in more depth as it may answer outstanding questions and inform where the Committee wants to focus on going forward. Member Walton added that departments who have received notification of the published report should also share the report with their own respective contacts.

Yuri Harden and Carol Lu of the Budget Analysis Division (BAD) in the Controller's Office presented an update on the forecast for the Homelessness Gross Receipts Tax (HGR). The presentation is linked [here](#).

Member Friedenbach noted a \$10 million difference for FY22-23 numbers on two different slides and Ms. Hardin confirmed that the \$247 million number is the correct actual for FY22-23.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked if BAD had projections for the total number of payers paying into the fund for future years. Ms. Lu explained that when forecasting, BAD does not forecast payer by payer. Instead, they forecast the overall tax base which is a dollar value from which they calculate potential growth based on various factors.

Vice Chair D'Antonio asked how long the tax litigation lasts and if revenue is still collected if the business loses the case.

Ms. Lu stated that they cannot specifically speak to confidential taxpayer information but noted that it is a large amount. Ms. Lu added that the length of time for litigation can vary although the bigger the business, the longer it can typically take. Ms. Lu explained that BAD works with the City Attorney and the tax collector to determine projections that are subject to change for litigated funds.

Chair Williams acknowledged that the City is in a challenging time with the budget and expressed concern with the slow recovery of downtown businesses. The Chair asked if there were any current conversations between the Controller's Office and the Downtown Recovery group.

Ms. Lu noted that she is not directly involved in that work, though others in the Controller's Office are. She believes the focus has been on the General Fund but that it is a good idea to think about how this could also relate to the HGR tax in the upcoming cycle.

There were no in-person or phone public comments.

### 3) Discussion/Possible Action Item

#### ***Transitional Aged Youth (TAY) Housing Fund Allocation Proposal***

Chair Williams noted that the Committee could not vote on this item as they did not have a quorum.

The Chair opened public comment on this item.

Marnie Regen of Larkin Street Youth Services and HESPA gave public comment. Ms. Regen thanked the Committee and HSH for working with TAY providers to collectively strategize on how to best program remaining one-time acquisition funds for TAY. Ms. Regen explained that the proposal was developed to provide a range of housing options for 158 people fleeing domestic violence, moving from transitional housing, or exiting supportive housing.

Miguel Carrera with the Coalition on Homelessness provided a public comment. Mr. Carrera explained that as someone who was once homeless and who has children of his own, it is important that children have a place to live. Mr. Carrera explained that it is important that funds go towards keeping children housed because they are the future of the City.

Adam Varoqua, TAY Navigator at the SFLGBTQ Center provided a public comment. Mr. Varoqua thanked the Committee and asked that they continue to provide support for LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness. Mr. Varoqua asked that the Committee continue to prioritize housing underserved communities including the youth in BIPOC and LGBT+ communities through means such as supporting current services offered, acquiring new buildings for TAY housing, funding on-going TAY supportive housing, and creating more Rapid Rehousing slots for TAY impacted by violence or exiting other supportive housing programs.

Sherilyn Adams, Executive Director of Larkin Street Youth Services gave a public comment. Ms. Adams stated that she would like to reiterate previous comments stressing the importance of identifying and programming funds for TAY. Ms. Adams expressed concern with the funds being

moved elsewhere if the Committee is not able to vote in support of the proposed use of the funds.

A policy associate from Glide provided a public comment over the phone. The commenter stated that Glide is a proud member of HESPA and supports a 'yes' vote on proposed funding to invest in housing options for TAY. The commenter added that as someone who has experienced youth homelessness, the proposal to invest in 158 youth is appreciated. They thanked HSH and providers for working towards reducing homelessness, especially in black and brown communities.

Ilsa Lund with Larkin Street Youth Services gave a public comment over the phone. Ms. Lund stated that she supports the plan for funding TAY housing and urges a 'yes' vote on the proposal. Ms. Lund explained that many providers worked together to create this plan and that it aims to help young people exit supportive housing into flex subsidies, and to create as highly functioning of a youth housing system as possible.

Bonnie Preston, member of the OCOH Committee, gave an over the phone public comment. Ms. Preston apologized for not being able to make the meeting due to illness and stated that she is looking forward to discussing these issues further in the new year.

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

There was discussion among the Committee and the Controller's Office regarding quorum and whether a member could be present to vote over the phone. Ms. Marshall of the Controller's Office confirmed that the guidance from the City Attorney is that in-person presence is needed for quorum.

#### 4) Discussion Item

##### ***Citywide Strategic Plan on Homelessness***

Cynthia Nagendra, Director of Planning, Performance and Strategy at HSH provided a presentation on HSH's Strategic Plan with a focus on Transitional Aged Youth. The presentation is linked [here](#).

Vice Chair D'Antonio expressed appreciation that the presentation distinguished Native American from Pacific Islander demographic identities. Ms. Nagendra noted that there are new HUD data standards that programs are working to incorporate in their work. Ms. Nagendra added that she will bring this feedback back to her own team.

Member Friedenbach commented that she would like to see a strategic plan focused on families and that there are issues with the overall system flow, especially in the shelter programs.

Ms. Nagendra explained that the issue of system flow is being explored and noted that gathering consistent data can be difficult especially with shelter exit data. Ms. Nagendra and Member Friedenbach discussed work that should be done to reform Coordinated Entry and the need to track data across systems. Ms. Nagendra referenced the Strategic Plan, noting that one of the system goals is to include more data on who is entering and exiting the system.

Chair Williams asked how returning households are being flagged so that the appropriate additional services and support can be offered to them.

Ms. Nagendra explained that only if a person exits a program and enters another program within the Online Navigation and Entry (ONE) System can it be tracked. Ms. Nagendra noted that systems are not linked across providers and communities, which means that there is no data on whether a household has exited homelessness or is just receiving services elsewhere.

Chair Williams asked about recidivism and how extra support is being given to communities to prevent returns to homelessness. Ms. Nagendra explained that HSH is currently working with the criminal justice system, funded by the MacArthur Foundation to better understand who is revolving within both the jail and homelessness systems. While the systems are not fully linked, they are able to create strategic access points such as one at Pretrial Diversion, where there are in-reach assessments for Coordinated Entry so people don't have to exit before they can get assessed.

Member Walton added that success rates based on who stays in programs is helpful data and that it is also important to track who leaves, why they leave and where they go. As an example, this could look like separating out who leaves permanent housing versus who is evicted.

Vice Chair D'Antonio commented that another issue to be considered in the development of a strategic plan for families is that youth are not always captured at youth access points because they are already receiving family services. Ms. Nagendra agreed that the overlap of populations at access points is an issue that HSH is currently exploring.

Ms. Nagendra noted that input from the Committee would be helpful for family system planning. Some options to be discussed are whether to have ad hoc planning processes or to have a governance group that oversees a respective subpopulation (i.e. family system, youth system, pregnant people, etc.).

Chair Williams opened public comment.

Marnie Regen with Larkin Street Youth Services thanked HSH for the work being done to develop system plans for TAY. Ms. Regen expressed concern with the extension of the definition for TAY to include 18-29 year-olds, noting that many 18-24 year olds do not want to live with older adults and that older adults may be prioritized over the younger. Ms. Regen added that it can be a challenge for TAY providers to work with varying definitions of TAY and referenced the Ellis Street apartments which housed older TAY who became adults while housed.

Miguel Carrera gave a public comment. Mr. Carrera expressed concern with the current age bracket that defines children as aged 0-17 and stated that he would like to see it expanded to those aged 21 since many of the youth are still living with their family experiencing homelessness and are not ready to move on their own. Mr. Carrera added that he is concerned with families receiving short-term rental subsidies returning to homelessness, sometimes outside of the City.

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

Member Friedenbach and Ms. Nagendra discussed the TAY budget proposal and the role of HSH in implementing the proposal. Ms. Nagendra explained that she does not have all of the information on the matter and cannot speak on behalf of HSH regarding the proposal.

Member Friedenbach stated her stance in support of HSH implementing the TAY budget proposal as an individual and acknowledged that as a body, OCOH cannot vote on recommendations at this time. Chair Williams added that she, as an individual, supports the proposal as well.

Member Walton added that it is his understanding that the plan was developed with HSH's input so if HSH does plan to move forward with the proposal, the Committee's vote should not preclude HSH's next steps.

Chair Williams reiterated to the Committee and the public that although a member is not attending due to illness, special accommodation can only be granted unless they have approved ADA

accommodations.

5) Discussion

***OCOH Coordination with Homelessness Oversight Commission (HOC) and Mental Health San Francisco Implementation Working Group (MHSF IWG)***

Chair Williams welcomed MHSF IWG Members Jameel Patterson and Dr. Hali Hammer.

IWG Member Patterson expressed appreciation for Member Walton's previous time working in HSH and noted the importance of understanding how mental health and homelessness overlap and influence one another.

Dr. Hali Hammer gave historical context to MHSF IWG, explaining that the group was first formed in 2019 with a goal of improving the quality and access to mental health and substance use services including those who are homeless.

The OCOH Oversight Committee and MHSF IWG Members engaged in an open dialogue around collective efforts, challenges, and strategies for collaboration.

Some key topics discussed include:

**MHSF IWG Background**

- The Mental Health SF ordinance established the 13-member advisory board who meets monthly to evaluate the progress and effectiveness of services and programs in five different domains: Office of Coordinated Care, Street Crisis Response Team, Mental Health Services Center, Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Expansion, Office of Private Health Insurance Accountability.
- Dr. Hali Hammer added that Overdose Response, while not explicitly outlined in the original ordinance, has recently become a large focus area as well.
- Street Crisis Response Teams (SCRT) are newer and may not be a known resource for everyone in the community.
- The Fire Department recently took over SCRT and there was discussion around which service providers have the cultural competency to provide crisis response services.
- Members discussed the importance of proper training and ongoing education for peer monitors to provide appropriate levels of care and referrals.

**Gaps in the Mental Health and Homelessness system**

- There is a large-scale shortage of behavioral health service workers including clinicians and psychiatric skilled nurses. There is an ongoing struggle to keep positions filled and a high need for clinicians with cultural competency.
- There is a need for more safe places for people to use and sober up from drugs, including more sobering centers.
- There's not enough communication and collaboration between programs, organizations, and efforts. Some examples for potential collaboration include harm reduction and abstinence programs or hosting Narcotics Anonymous meetings in homeless shelters.
- Many barriers exist for those seeking immediate help and there is a need for more accessibility throughout programs.
- Resources and referrals should be tied to the shelters and there should be more expansion of drop-in centers.

**Racial Equity and Mental Health Stigma**

- Programs like Hospitality House's arts program or SRO banquets where people from all walks of life can share their stories are ways of bringing different communities together.
- Grapevine communication among people of color is a powerful tool for educating about opportunities and programs.
- Some of the most stark and alarming data that highlights racial inequities are in the Overdose data. There is a lot of work happening around engaging these communities on how to best intervene, but this remains an outstanding issue for the City. Working with those who survived an overdose, which programs like POET and SORT are doing, is needed to learn more about effective intervention.
- Data driven improvement is in its early stages as DPH begins setting targets and measuring improvements. When data is presented to the IWG, racial breakdowns are included but there exists an opportunity for diving into the data more to explore how disparities can be addressed programmatically.
- There was discussion around providing appropriate health access points and potential for collaboration with the African American health access point being led by Rafiki Coalition.
- Reducing stigma around seeking mental health services is a difficult thing to address. Representation from local artists, creating collaborative spaces open to the community, and integrating mental health and substance use services into all services offered can help normalize and destigmatize seeking services.

#### 6) Adjourn

Chair Williams noted that the meeting did not make quorum therefore the meeting was never officially called to order.

There was no need to make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting ended at 4:30PM.

Committee staff and members can be reached at [OCOH.CON@sfgov.org](mailto:OCOH.CON@sfgov.org)