

## SAN FRANCISCO LOCAL HOMELESS COORDINATING BOARD

DRAFT

Minutes

Full Board

January 9, 2017

11:00am-1:00pm

City Hall Room 408, San Francisco

Members Present: Del Seymour, Laura Guzman, James Loyce, Kim-Mai Cutler, and Ralph Payton

Members Absent: Alex Briscoe and Erick Brown

1. Called to order at 11:05

Board Member, Laura Guzman: Request to put co-chair and committee elections on the February meeting agenda

2. Update from the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH)

Jeff Kositsky, HSH

### General Comments

- Thank you, we are thrilled to be here
- Sam will regularly be giving updates on behalf of the Department
- HSH will be putting together a regular data update for the LHCB, and this will be included in our monthly update.

### Navigation Center Update

- The Central Waterfront Navigation Center is due to open in late February or early March
- The SOMA Navigation is in the fundraising process and is due to open in late 2017

### Inclement Weather Update

- HSH is currently using HSA and DPH protocols for expanding services during inclement weather.
- The shelter and service expansion during the week of January 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> is described in the circulated handout (pink doc)
- Over the weekend the Homeless Outreach Team made 50 placements into shelter
- HSH would like to extend appreciation and thanks to the Homeless Outreach Team, the shelters and the resources centers that all expanded operations over the rainy weekend.

### Heading Home Update

- Heading Home is a collaborative campaign to address family homelessness. It is a partnership between HSH, the School District, and Hamilton Families to expand rapid re-housing for homeless families. The goal is to end homeless for families within 90 days of becoming homeless.
- Heading Home is \$30 million for an additional 800 rapid re-housing slots
- The City of San Francisco contributed \$4.5Million

- An additional \$7million has been raised
- The Benioff family has committed \$10million in a challenge grant
- Heading Home campaign - end homelessness within 90 days
- The City, Hamilton, and School District are looking to raise \$10M

#### Online Entry and Navigation (ONE) System Update

- The database vendor has been selected. BitFocus Clarity will be the contractor
- HSH is hosting demonstrations of the new system:
  - Tuesday, January 10, 2017
  - Tuesday, January 17, 2107

#### Point in Time Count Update

- Point in Time Count is just around the corner. There is information on the HSH website. The count will be on Thursday, January 26, 2017. Please register to volunteer on the website and look out for emails from Emily Cohen.

#### Question and Answer to the HSH Update

**Question:** Member Del Seymour – What are the current plans for encampments? Del expressed that he is impressed by the focus of the department and partner city agencies to respect the constitutional rights of people living in encampments.

**Answer from Jeff Kositsky:** The goals of the Encampment Resolution Team (ERT) are to help as many people as people move off the streets, help neighbors and neighborhoods and change the culture of encampments on the streets.

#### Principles of the ERT Include:

- Constitutionality and legality of action - paramount importance
- It's not continuation to ask people to move unless we have somewhere for them to go
- It's not humane to ask people to leave without an alternative place for them to go
- It does not work just to tell people where to go

#### ERT is working well

- We've struggled with re-encampment prevention in some areas
- We are forming a small subgroup to focus on re-encampment prevention

**Question:** Member Laura Guzman: Is it the policy of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to advise neighbors to call the police when re-encampment occurs?

**Answer by Jeff Kositsky:** We do encourage people to call the police because we don't have any enforcement authority. HSH is responsible for placing people into safe alternatives to the street, and it is the responsibility of the San Francisco Police Department and Public Works to prevent re-encampment. HAH can add an encampment update to our monthly update.

**Comment from member Del Seymour:** Jeff is an important representative for people expediting homelessness. In many ways, you are the supervisor for the homeless.

**Response from Jeff Kositsky:** People who are homeless have a Supervisor in the districts where they stay. The HSH staff is not elected, but we do take seriously the responsibility to protect and care for people who are homeless. People experiencing homelessness are equal members of our community and they should not be disenfranchised from the mainstream political process.

**Question:** Member Laura Guzman – What are the plans for Proposition Q enforcement?

**Answer from Jeff Kositsky:** I don't know the answer to this yet. This question needs to be directed to the Police Department. HSH is not an enforcement agency. We have not had a conversation with SFPD about enforcement and the role of the Department.

**Question:** What is the department's Inclement Weather Protocol?

**Answer from Jeff Kositsky:** HSH will provide this to the board. When there is significant and persistent rain or low temperatures expected. HSH will expand shelter capacity, and HOT will focus on wellness checks and transportation for people from the streets to the shelter and drop-in centers.

**Question Preston Finn** – I am a homeless web developer. You have to go to MSC south to make the bed reservation and go across the city to get to your bed. I've made an app to allow people to make the reservation to the nearest bed, so people don't have to go across town to access shelter beds. I've been homeless for a month and nine days.

**Response Jeff Kositsky:** Right now the best way to gain access to expanded beds during the storm is to call 311 or go to MSC South to get the most up to day information on shelter availability.

### 3. Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve: Board Member Laura Guzman

Second: Board Member Ralph Payton

All in favor – all members vote yes

All opposed – none

Abstentions – none

Motion Passes

### 4. Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) - Budget Priority Input

Good Morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the local homeless coordinating board.

I'm Gigi Whitley deputy director for administration and finance for the Department

I'm pleased to be here today speaking with you about the department's budget and our upcoming budget submission for the next two fiscal years.

Based on the outcome of the November election, there have been significant changes in our FY16-17 budget that you'll hear me talk about. Additionally, the Mayor' released his budget instructions to departments in December that constrain new spending over the next two years.

### Impact of November 2016 Election

- Proposition K – the local sales tax increase - did not pass, creating a shortfall in the City’s budget of \$37.5M in FY 2016-17 and \$155.3M in FY 2017-18.
- Mayor terminated Proposition J, the spending set-asides for homeless services and transportation.
- Mayor rebalanced budget in December 2016, to include preserving funding for current homeless services.
- Board of Supervisors released \$6.5 million from reserve for providers’ contracts.

#### **HSH Rebalanced Budget Details**

- No impact to current service levels
- Continued funding for new FY16-17 permanent supportive housing units and projects in final stages of development.

#### **Services funded include:**

- Continuation of existing housing subsidies for TAY, seniors, and persons with disabilities;
- Continuation of onetime family rapid rehousing expansion;
- 2 opened Navigation Centers and Central Waterfront Navigation Center opening in early 2017
- 300 new units of permanent supportive housing opening in FY 2016-17 already in the pipeline, two buildings opening in 2017 these units leverage either VASH or Shelter Plus Care funding
- Backfill of HUD reductions from 2015 CoC application;
- Increases to current supportive housing providers contracts exercising cost increases.

#### **Proposed expansions that will no longer be funded**

- Expansions and new programs not in contract;
- Un-programmed expansion in FY 2017-18 for increased mental health services, street outreach, and family homeless interventions and additional housing exists for persons experiencing homelessness

#### **City’s Five-Year Financial Projections**

- City’s economy remains strong, but growth is slowing.
- Projected revenue growth of 11% and but expenditure growth 29% over the period. In other words, expenditures are projected to grow almost three times as fast as revenues.
- Expenditure growth is driven by salary and benefit increases (particularly rising pension costs), inflation on operating expenditures (real estate, IT, non-personnel), and mandated increases to baselines and set-asides.
- This puts the two-year City budget projected shortfall at \$402 million.

#### **Mayor’s Budget Instructions**

- In December, the Mayor released his budget instructions to departments. As you're aware the City must pass a balanced two-year but to close this projected \$402 million. General Fund departments like HSH are still on a rolling two-year budget which means that the second year can be revisited.
- While HSH has been given a General Fund target of 3% in each year, we do not plan to proposed reductions in direct services as a means of reducing budgeted expenditures.(\$4.7m)
- Departments instructed not to add new positions.

#### **Mayor’s Policy Guidance to Departments**

- Proposals Should Reflect City's Five Strategic Vision Areas:
  - Residents and Families that Thrive
  - Clean, Safe and Livable Communities
  - Diverse, Equitable and Inclusive City
  - Excellent City Services
  - City and Region Prepared for the Future
- Solicit Community Input in Developing Proposals
- Consider Independent Audits and Reviews

### **Budget Timelines**

- January – February: HSH prepares budget submission
- February 21: Budget submission due to the Mayor and Controller
- March-May: Budget submission review by Mayor's Budget Office
- June 1: Mayor Submits Balanced Budget to Board of Supervisors
- June: Budget & Finance Committee Hold Budget Hearings
- July: Board of Supervisors Adopts Final Budget

### **Questions for the Board**

**Question/Comment:** Member Laura Guzman – What is planned for HESPA's request for funding \$3M for senior housing subsidies?

**Answer from Marisa Pereira Tully:** Current level of funding will be maintained, but the \$3M expansion is not included. This budget line is in Aging and Adult Services. Service expansion is frozen for the fiscal year ending in June 2016.

**Question from Member James Loyce:** Is there a relationship between the Dignity Fund and homeless services?

**Answer – Jeff Kositsky:** Unclear but something we are discussing. Dignity fund does not go into effect until next year.

**Question from Member Laura Guzman:** Was HSH asked to make cuts?

**Answer:** HSH received the same budget instructions as all departments, but we know that homelessness is a priority for the Mayor.

**Member Laura Guzman –** LHCb would like to take action to support the original fiscal year 2017-18 budget plan and to ensure that not cuts to service will be made. Community input is important to this process, and the LHCb will be working with the Department to host public conversations about the budget.

Timeline of Community Engagement:

- HSH will be back at LHCb in Feb to discuss proposal
- Feb 21st budget due to the Mayor's Office and the Controller's office

**Member Del Seymour:** The LHCB supports the efforts of the new Department and want this process to be collaborative. We do not want to see the department cut regarding services or internal capacity. The LHCB will advocate that there not be any cuts to HSH.

**Member James Loyce:** Is funding in the HSH budget currently being managed internally or is it being worked ordered to other departments? Are HSH program dollars at risk if they are in other department's budgets?

**Answer: Gigi Whitley:** Most of the HSH budget has already been transferred from other departments to HSH. There is some work ordering being done based on departmental expertise.

**Member Laura Guzman:** The LHCB wants the budget that allows for the expanded services that would have gone into place if Props J & K had passed. We are not spending enough money on homelessness, and we need to call on the Mayor to ding \$50 million in general funds to add to the department's budget.

**Question from Member Kim-Mai Cutler:** Is it possible to consider going back to the ballot to restating the question to the voters?

**Answer from Jeff Kositsky:** The next election is scheduled for 2018. If we wanted to go to the ballot before that, we could have to call a special election for 2017.

**Member Laura Guzman:** The LHCB would like to make a motion to advocate for the department not receiving any cuts. We'd like to find \$30million in general funds to fund services through the Department.

## **Public Comment**

**Jennifer Friedenbach-** Mayor Lee added items to the budget based on assumption that positions J&K. Funding by the Board and cut by the Mayor's Office will have the following impact:

- 75 housing subsidies for seniors and people with disabilities. These subsidies are essential to ending homelessness preventing homelessness. Every day we're losing people out of housing. We're calling for the restoration of the \$1.5M for senior and persons with disability subsidies.
- 50 need-based subsidies for families were funded by the Board of Supervisors and cut by the Mayor. We need to keep families in San Francisco and call for the restoration of \$1M for this program.
- We urge the LHCB to support funding for these programs.

**Brian Basinger - Q Foundation**

- We support restoration of funding of \$3.5M - 75 subsidies for seniors and people with Disabilities
- This cut disproportionately impacts the LGBTQ community
- The cut is \$1.5 from by Board allocated funds and \$1.6M from the Mayor's budget totaling 125 rental subsidies

**Member Laura Guzman:** I move that the LHCB ask the Mayor not to reduce funding for HSH and that the Mayor finds \$30 million to fund the proposed service expansions. We would like to restore \$1.5million

allocated by the Board of Supervisors for the rental subsidies for people with disabilities and seniors and \$1million for subsidies for families.

We would like to send a letter to the Mayor advocating that funding is restored to the HSH budget for FY 1-18 to the amounts and programs proposed in the budget that assumed the sales tax. Including family subsidies and subsidies for people with disabilities and seniors.

A motion proposed by Member Laura Guzman. The motioned seconded by member Ralph Payton. All in favor – all yes. No opposed. No abstentions.

The letter will be drafted by Emily and send to the Mayor's office on behalf of the LHCB.

5. Online Navigation and Entry (ONE) System Overview, Megan Owens, Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing
  - Vendor selected – BitFocus
  - Two more basic demonstrations scheduled for this week and next at the San Francisco Public Library. These sessions are demonstrations, not training.
  - No data systems are being turned off yet
  - We encourage all providers to participate in the demonstrations

**Question:** Will CHANGES be folded into the ONE System?

**Answer:** Yes, CHANGES will be replaced by the ONE system but not for the first six months of the system. HMIS replacement will be the priority. We will be working with the community to implement data migration and provide detailed training for all users.

**Question:** Will coordinated entry be folded into the ONE System?

**Answer from Megan Owens** – Yes, San Francisco has several methodologies for prioritizing people for programs and housing currently. These will all be simplified and coordinated through the ONE system. ONE system will not make policy. The Community will make those decisions, and the ONE system will help us put that decision into place. The goal of the ONE System is to simplify the service access process for people experiencing homelessness. Full integration will be completed by the end of 2018. Refinements will continue into the future. We have a partnership with DPH and HSA around sharing benefits and medical information.

Public Comment: None

6. **The US Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) Funding Announcement Overview** - Josh Jacobs from HomeBase
  - HUD awarded approximately \$1.95 billion dollars
  - The 2016 CoC NOFA was released on June 29, 2016, with a deadline of September 14, 2016
  - San Francisco held a local competition in which 58 projects were reviewed and ranked for funding. Of those, 49 were ranked in Tier 1, including one project whose funding straddled Tiers 1 and 2. Tier 1 constituted 93% of the CoC's annual renewal demand (ARD), the amount necessary to fully fund all renewal projects. Nine remaining projects were ranked fully in Tier 2.

- On December 20, 2016, HUD announced its 2016 awards. San Francisco received a **total preliminary award of \$30,885,076** in renewable funding, for 54 total projects.
- The CoC received a \$918,933 Planning Grant, which is not included in the ranked list.
- San Francisco's funded projects are strong contributors to the local system of care, and reflect HUD's preference for funding high-performing permanent housing.
- Newly funded projects will help house additional individuals and families and strengthen the overall capacity of the CoC:
  - 1036 Mission
  - Veterans Hope House I and II)
  - 2 RRH projects for families
  - 1 RRH for transition-age youth
- Salvation Army's Railton Place will no longer be receiving COC funding. Railton place has 17 PSH units. Arrangements have been made so that no one will be evicted due to the loss of funding.
- This year, HUD granted awards based on 2016 Fair Market Rates (FMRs) rather than 2017 FMRs that took effect on October 1, 2016. HUD justified this departure from expected practice by the fact that awards are based on the FMRs in place when the competition closes. The competition closed in September; new FMRs take effect in October of each year. The failure to increase awards based on 2017 FMRs will result in a substantial hardship in areas like San Francisco where FMRs already fail to keep pace with rising cost of housing.

#### Public Comment/Question

**Question, Dan Bowersox:** Is there any guidance yet on the date of NOFA for 2017?

**Answer, Josh Jacobs –** Not Yet

7. **Update on the Point in Time Count** – Emily Cohen, Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing
  - As you may already be aware, planning for the 2017 San Francisco Point-in-Time Count is underway
  - The Point in Time Count is an HUD-mandated census of the homeless population; the visual count, followed up by a peer survey helps us better understand who experiences homelessness in San Francisco. This data helps us maximize federal funding for homeless services and allows us to track progress in how we are doing to address homelessness in our community.
  - We cannot do this count without the support of **community volunteers**, and would greatly appreciate your help in recruiting volunteers to participate in the visual count aspect of this project.
  - Volunteers can register on the HSH website
  - The count will be taking place the evening of January 26th, 2017. There will be training from 7pm-8pm, and then volunteer teams will then go out to designated map areas to visually count the number of homeless persons they see.
  - Thank you for your support! We look forward to your help and participation in this year's count!

#### Public Comment/Question

**Board member Laura Guzman:** How will we capture information about the experience of trauma within the homeless community?

**Answer, Megan Owens:** Trauma will be by two questions on the peer survey

Megan: The survey asks about domestic violence and reasons for becoming homeless. The youth survey asks about victimization. Therefore instead of asking redundant and intrusive questions about trauma, experts recommend that we provide a consolidated and de-duplicated number of the total number of respondents that have a response that indicates trauma.

**Question: Member Laura Guzman:** How are we ensuring that Latinos are counted in the survey?

Answer: Emily Cohen – Flyers will be sent to providers in both English and Spanish and providers will recruit surveyors to participate in the effort.

## **8. General Public Comment**

**Comment – Ali Schlageter, HSH -** The unique youth PIT Count will take place the same night as the general count. San Francisco will employ homeless youth to do the counting and the surveying. 2017 is the HUD base year count for youth. The Youth Committee will be reporting back to the full board at the February meeting.

Public Comment - close.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:45 pm.