June 4, 2018
LHCB Minutes

Erik Brown: In the April notes should read Angela Rasmussen on page 13.

Del Seymour: Okay. So I'll set a motion to approve.

Approved:

Del Seymour: Charles, we have one item we were going to consider for the next meeting. Having Amy Weis present at the next meeting. Do the board members have any other items they want to consider for future meetings?

Ralph Payton: I would like to have the YPAC come and speak before the Board. And so we wanted also to have them present their experiences to law enforcement centers.

I'm Gigi Whitley. I'm Deputy Director for Budget and Finance for the Department. As you know, on Friday, June 1st, the mayor released his proposed budget.

Although we did not formally propose any enhancements to the budget, we were instead asked to make reductions as we went through the budget around conversations with the mayor's budget office. We asked them to prioritize investments that supported these strategic goals. Particularly around exits to homelessness, prevention and problem solving, so that we can quickly help resolve someone's homelessness before they become chronically homeless. A larger investment in permanent supporting housing, especially the case management support clients need to be successful there as they exit from the street.

So here's a two-year look at our proposed budget. Our existing budget is about 250 million. About 9 million or so about sponsoring capital funding. We saw an increase in growth year-on-year between our current budget and the mayor's proposed budget at 271 million. In the first year is an additional $13 million in general fund support. Depending on what happens with Measure B and Housing for All initiative on the ballot, there are resources about 40 million over the two years that would support the pertinent homelessness and supportive housing budget.

The mayor's proposed budget funded a 2.5% cost of doing business increase for generals and contracts. We were already assuming that with our non-profit provider first, so we got some additional good news that that amount would go up to another 2.5%, so a 5% cost-of-doing-business increase within year two.

The majority of our budget goes to direct housing or housing subsidies, including our federal dollars. We have about 6% is admin, including rent for our space and all our staffing costs, as well as the support we need to run our operations. About 7% street outreach, that's the HOT budget and some money for stabilization rooms.

Some of the new investments that are in that $20 million dollar growth, and some that's on the revenue measure. We did get funding to complete family-coordinated entry, so there's about $600,000 in the budget to open the mission family-coordinated entry access point. Beginning to pilot youth-coordinated entry in the budget, $250,000 this year, increasing to $500,000 next year. We'll now start identifying those sites for youth-coordinated entry.

Mayor Farrell's initiative Homeward Bound program, and so he put in $1.2 million to double that budget. We're broadening that definition of Homeward Bound include things like problem-solving at the access point.

Most of the new investments on the next slide are around the three new Navigation Centers that will be opening this month, and then two more over the summer. Both the Quinn Navigation Center at Division Circle opening in June, and SOMA
Navigation Center, and then 125 Bayshore, which will be opening later in August. There's also about $1.2 million to open a transitional housing program for women at the Jelani House. There's also a little bit of money to expand Winter Shelter.

There's also new exits from homelessness in the budget. We advocated strongly that, as we implement coordinated entry, that the case management support within many of our supported housing sites is inadequate, and so there's got 1.5 million in the budget to target some of those sites.

One-time capital repairs money, from the board of supervisors this year. We were able to fund most of our provider's request, but there were many kind of large elevator projects that we were not able to fund. So there's 3 million in one-time money on that.

40 million of our two-year budget is predicated on the passage of Prop D, the Housing for All Initiative. This is a highlight of what would be funded with some of the additional money if Prop D does pass, additional 100 slots for adult rapid rehousing, seating or flex housing subsidy pool with an additional 125 exits from homelessness, operating money for a new TAY Navigation Center with the site yet to be determined, and then continuing that rapid rehousing money and increasing it by up to 60 slots for also TAY.

There is some uncertainty in our budget based on the revenue measure so the next couple weeks are sure to be busy. Our first budget presentation is on the 15th at the Board of Supervisors, the Budget Finance Committee. June 18th public.

We don't know the exact date for our second hearing, it will either be the next week on that Thursday or Friday and then the Budget and Finance Committee will finalize their recommendations and send it to the full board for approval sometime in late June.

As you know, we'll have a new mayor and we'll have resolution on Prop D, so there may be some not-insignificant changes to our budget during the court days.

Del Seymour- Everyone in this building is talking about homelessness being a major priority in this city and in this building, but I'm not seeing it here in this budget.

Jeff Kositsky: There are some significant and important increases in the budget, but I believe that a lot of the increases would happen if Measure D passes I think we generally got good support from the mayor's office and the authors of Measure D to make sure what is in that Measure is filling what we see as the most important gaps in the system. However, if Measure D does not pass, I think we're going to have to revisit the budget. And as Gigi mentioned, there'll be a new mayor and I'm sure there's going to be discussion.

Del Seymour: We can't bank on the Measure passing. Maybe this budget request should have reflected doing your work without considering that that message would-- because it's hard borrowing back the money after everything has passed. And this is a process we all got to follow. In the meantime, our neighbors are outside, so I just wish this could have been more aggressive.

Kelly Cutler- I have a question about the Homeward Bound. Can you expand on that a little bit more? In the past, when there's been more funding towards there, have we seen an increase in?

Gigi Whitley So in past years, the Homeward Bound budget has been increased, and the team has done an excellent job in making-- our annual number of people we're able to serve is around 115. We have not seen a significant increase due to additional funding, and this is doubling the program. Most of the program is on internal salaries. So this would be a huge new investment, and I think this was something that Mayor Farrell felt very strongly that we could do more. And we are looking for ways to do more, it'll be a conversation we'll be having with the new mayor, I think, about what we can do. And if we can't utilize all the money, how we can expand the services more around problem-solving and some of the interventions that we think can help people quickly resolve their homelessness.
Kelly Cutler: So I'm just trying to figure out with the-- where it would come from, the Homeward Bound budgeting that is-- how could that impact the different problem-solving, or come from that instead of a different budget or provider.

Gigi Whitley: There's a $1.2 million increase in our budget for Homeward Bound, we're going to do our best to increase services based on that amount, but if not, the mayor always already has the ability to sort of rebalance and reprioritize.

Del Seymour: That position that you're going to fund in the new budget for the Healthy Streets program, would that person be out on the streets at the resolution sites ensuring that your department policies are being enforced along with DPW and the San Francisco Police Department?

Jeff Kositsky: That person's actually going to be in the Department of Emergency Management, dispatching hot staff to locations where there might be particular concerns, as well as having access to the shelter bed systems to see if there's beds available. If the hot team is out and finds folks who are in crisis. So it's really a dispatcher or a coordinator position.

Del Seymour: Is there any more from the department that routinely goes out to the tent encampments to ensure that your policies are being enforced?

Jeff Kositsky: That would be the HOT team and the Encampment Resolution Team.

Brenda Jewett: The budget states that the HOT team gets 7% of the budget annually. What does that translate to?

Gigi Whitley: That's a combination of both the HOT team, contracted staff, city staff, as well as contracts we have for stabilization rooms that are available to the HOT team as well as check writing services. The SFHOT contract is about $7 million a year.

Brenda Jewett: Has that increased over the last few years and does it need to?

Gigi Whitley: We've got some modest increases through the board for various initiatives to focus in certain areas. Most of the increase over the last year came from the Whole Person Care Initiative.

Jeff Kositsky: I would just add that without additional housing and shelter, I wouldn't prioritize expanding the HOT team because there can only be as successful as we have resources available.

Ralph Payton: Can you give me a quick summary of what is actually being newly funded in this?

Gigi Whitley: New investments-- The three new Navigation Centers, Jelani House, the Minn Lee permanent supportive housing site, the doubling of Homeward Bound, the replacement shelter money to find a new site or shelter in the Bay View, the Healthy Streets initiative, the Women's Shelter expansion, the family and youth access points, the one-time rapid re-housing money which would continue if Measure D passes, and the services enhancements for some of the permanent supportive housing buildings.

Ralph Payton: Question about the new Navigation Centers coming online. Do we have any idea how long they will be online?

Gigi Whitley: We still have the Navigation Center ordinance that the board passed I believe in 2016 still in place. So we're limited to two years for the Navigation Center unless we go back and get a board resolution. Two of the sites are Caltrans' property and Caltrans has not given us a date by where they would want us to vacate. So I think there's a lot of flexibility there on those two sites, the Division Circle, the Navigation Center in 5th and Bryant to continue that two to five years. And then 125 Bayshore I believe has a four-year lease.

Ralph Payton: So by definition that the Navigation Centers are temporary.
Gigi Whitley: They are temporary. They're not permanent shelters, and we're even limited by the board ordinance around how long a Navigation Center can stay in place. And I'm sure as you're aware, 1950 is slated to close and Central Waterfront will be closing in 2021.

Jeff Kositsky: Assuming that Measure D does not pass, there are 540 Navigation Center beds that will be in the system by some time in maybe mid-August to mid-September depending on construction etc. It's certainly our goal to maintain at least that level, and it's going to require moving to different sites. So when Central Waterfront closes, we've committed to vacating that property but the whole setup of that system is that it's mobile. So there's no reason to believe and there's no reason why we would stop pursuing keeping at least that level of navigation but it's really on a site-by-site basis.

Ralph Payton: Are there any plans to revisit the board ordinance?

Jeff Kositsky: I think that we need to revisit that ordinance and we know a lot more now than we did when that ordinance was written and it is our intention to look at setting a minimum level of a number of beds that we'll maintain because we certainly don't want to go backwards in the number of shelter beds that we have in the city until we move forward significantly in the amount of housing that we have available.

Del Seymour: Are we looking at that today in the land use committee downstairs?

Jeff Kositsky: No. It'll be a couple months still before we actually start looking into that but what you're referring today, the Land Use Committee, is that given the ordinance, and as it's written, we need to go back to the board today to extend the length of time that we're going to keep two navigation centers open. 1950 Mission, we want to extend just for a new months cause the construction isn't starting at that site which is going to be affordable housing and there's no reason to just it let sit there empty, I think everyone would agree. Then we're asking about extending the length of time in Pacific Center, same situation. The delay, there's a delay in the construction at that site so we want to make sure we maximize the use of these facilities. We've invested a lot of capital into getting them set up and there's certainly no reason to leave a resource empty for new reason.

Public Comment

Charles Pitts: One, it seems like there is no monies to make sure that the standards of care is being followed. The City and County of SF does not monitor the standards of care. The SMC is an independent of the City and County of San Francisco. The next point is is, San Francisco, Board of supervisors, they have a housing model?. Why do we keep talking about navigation centers when we have a housing first model. When the Hot team started they had a much bigger budget. They had much more stabilization rooms. Now they got cut. The HOT team, they directly provided people housing? Why are we not following that model? We're investing in temporary navigation centers where we're losing money and the HOT, they contracted with SRO’s. The Navigation Centers don't even have the infrastructure to do what the HOT team does

Ralph Payton: Thank you, Charles. Those are some really good points, especially around the housing personnel in San Francisco. But there's the assumption that there's housing available first. And I'm sure there are many of our in there that will talk more about that, but we need temporary shelter till the folk's housing units are available.

David Elliott Lewis, I'm with the Crisis and Prevention Team with San Francisco Police Department and other organizations, Community Health Partnership and Mental Health Association of San Francisco. I understand that in an ideal world, it'd be nice to think of Navigation Centers and shelters as temporary, but as long as we have people on the streets suffering, we need them. And the mayor's office has recently issue congratulating itself on cleaning some street encampments, but what I've seen, I've lived in the Tenderloin for the last decade and it's loaded and has people sleeping without tents, without shelter, right on the sidewalk. Literally, a 50% increase in the past couple of weeks. So these are coming from the cleared encampments, the clearing of the encampments solved nothing. So we need these Navigation Centers, not as a temporary basis, but as a permanent solution until we have enough housing for all and we need shelters. And we live in a city where
there's still a shelter waiting list and there are still waiting lists to get into Navigation Centers. And I understand that three-quarters of the people who cycle through Navigation Centers end up back on the street and I understand that Navigation Centers are doing the best they can, they don't places to put people so it's not their fault that people are ending up back on the street. But until we have the housing so people don't end up back on the street after they cycle through, we need to keep these going and we need to think of permanent solutions for the interim measures like shelters and Navigation Centers. Nobody should be sleeping on sidewalks, no one. We should have a house for everyone. Thank you for your time and attention.

Del Seymour: I'm sure everybody in the room probably agrees with you. Me personally, I would like to see that so-called winter shelter just be a shelter. I mean, it's cold every night, it was cold last night in San Francisco. When you're sleeping on concrete, it's cold every night. And I know that from personal experience, it's cold. And some of the facilities such as the Gubbio Project and Saint Anthony's will be glad to have that because I've spoken to them. And they would be glad to have that as a year-round project, but the funding's not there. So again, we're looking at money versus people sleeping on the street and I don't get the connection at all.

Angela from Homeless Prenatal Program: I have two quick questions. I wanted to know if a site has been chosen yet for the Mission Family Access Point and then also if the budget includes money for a new family emergency shelter since first friendship which is currently the only family emergency shelter is closing.

Jeff Kositsky: First Friendship is not closing, so I'm not sure where that rumor is coming from and would ask those of you who work with them at least to please help us in dispelling that rumor. First Friendship is not closing. We are looking for a replacement site at some point, but there is no end date when First Friendship is going to close. When we find a new site, we will move that program somewhere else. So that's number one. Number two is there is funding in the budget for a new family shelter at a middle school, Bayview Horace Mann in the mission district. We still need to get approval from the school district, but we're in conversation with the school community about that. And third, I'd like to mention, although it's not--well, it is directly related. We are opening up a new facility in the Bayview at the former Jelani House site which will serve women who are homeless and pregnant, and we expect that will open up sometime in the fall hopefully. And then should also point out, because again, it's related, is that part of the navigation center at Fifth and Bryant Street is designated to serve women only, and I'm also assuming that if we have women who are pregnant and on the streets and Jelani House is full, we'll work to help those individuals get into Fifth and Bryant. So we are making a nice investment in that space, I think, this fiscal year.

Ralph Payton: A couple of questions. For the new Jelani site with pregnant women, do we have any sort of criteria how long they must be pregnant before entering?

Jeff Kositsky: I don't think we've determined that, but I think what we have determined is that it's going to serve as, although it's being built as a navigation center, the truth is it's really transitional housing. So the idea is that you'll stay there until we're able to find a housing placement for you and your baby.

Ralph Payton: I think one of our first questions was about the mission access point.

Jeff Kositsky. I do not know. Have we finalized that yet? Looking at Gigi or anybody on HS8 staff. Thank you, Megan.

Megan Owens: I'm happy to answer questions about access point. We've established a qualified pool, and have notified non-profits about our intended selection. We are still negotiating the contracts. We're not ready to announce today a site for non-profit contractors.

Ralph Payton: Last question relating to First Friendship. So good news to hear it's not closing any time soon. But in census, it's that it needs to be replaced as soon as possible because we have a timeline, and I know you're looking at properties. Anything in the pipeline?
Jeff Kositsky: Unfortunately, we're having a very hard time finding an appropriate site. So the timeline is as soon as possible. We've been negotiating with the church, so we'll be able to stay at that site until we find a new location which is great, but we just have to keep looking. We've got a real estate broker who is working with us through the city's department of real estate trying to identify the appropriate location.

Jeff Kositsky: I know there's a lot of folks in the audience that care about the issue of family homelessness, and we'll just say if anybody knows of the site, please let us know. I mean, we've got a professional real-estate broker working on it and our staff were working on it but, as you all know, it's very, very hard to find anything in San Francisco around real-estate. So, folks have ideas, suggestions, please let us know before you leave the meeting today, or feel free to email somebody on staff. Because we are, we're really struggling with this and could use all the help we could get.

Megan Owens: On May 21st, we changed to a process and partnership by which families access a Hamilton family's congregate beds. Families of historically called in, during the day, in order to access these beds we are now directly-referring people who are in sheltered with their children and people who are sheltered while pregnant. So, families who've historically called should now direct report to an access point. Access point grant access to all Hamilton Family shelter beds, as well as shelter beds at three other sites. Any family who does not have a shelter for tonight and is seeking shelter is welcome at First Friendship. If First Friendship is full, families will be offered transportation to Providence.

Del Seymour: But a family, a woman and a child or a man and a child and whoever is experiencing domestic violence incident at 2:00 in the morning can go there?

Megan Owens: Folks who are experiencing domestic violence who are seeking confidential shelter should call the domestic violence hotline. We can share a handout with Charles, for distribution to the community. Domestic violence shelter is not funded by HSH. We work closely with those partners that the HSH shelters, are not the domestic violence system.

Next month, we'll be talking about our adult access points. Folks who have been asking for many days, "Where can folks go to get their primary assessment?" Whether we can hear more about adult access points, the answer is next month. So as you can see, there are 17 agencies from the 52 agencies who have credentials with the One System who have been participating in this meeting for the last two months. We really look forward to agencies participating in this meeting. This is where we focus on data quality, training issues. We know that adopting the One System is a big change and so we hope agencies will take advantage of this access to training and support.

We also update you monthly on the number of access point referrals to rapid rehousing. You can see that update for the month of April - you'll remember I didn't present last month - as part of your PowerPoint. This is not the right measure. So monthly, the number of referrals to a rapid rehousing program isn't nearly as meaningful as the number of people housed. We'll be presenting a different metric next month.

First up, the review subcommittee. In May, we discussed problem solving, and in April we discussed access points. We'll be meeting again next week.

Tomorrow you can get-- the next meeting of this group is tomorrow, and you can anticipate that we will be talking about family access to shelters and adult access points. Thank you very much. Are there any other board questions?

Del Seymour: As far as the youth subcommittee, we have made some course of discussions of increasing the diversity of that team. Where are we on that?

Megan Owens: So I'll respond to both and you'll tell me if I get to your question. We were pleased to see that folks from an agency that I call 3rd Street Clinic - I hope that's their real and preferred name - has started participating in the meeting. And what we've seen both more youth voices and a more diverse group of people, both by gender and race, from the agencies who are participating who've come last week.
Andrea Evans: I have this one quick question. Thanks very much for the report, Megan and so you mentioned that at the subcommittee meeting tomorrow is it your intention that you won't actually be announcing where the sites will be until July? And so tomorrow's discussion, what's happening?

Megan Owens: Update on what's been happening at the access points, some information about what's going to be live on day one in the system. There will not be a list of addresses gave out tomorrow.

Del Seymour: Oh, I got one quick question. I'm sorry. This attendance at the ONE meeting. Why is this necessary? What are you going to do with this? What is this telling you?

Megan Owens: We develop this several months ago. Some of you will ask, "What's available for agencies?" and have questions about training that want to be more influential with the one-system vendor. And so we want to clarify that we have a monthly meeting where the local lead for the one system and all of the system administrators are there. And it's both an opportunity for them to train agency leads, people at the various non-profit to serve in a leading role and for those folks who has additional training for their non-profits. We were troubled at the time that attendance was quite low. Attendance has reached about 10 or 20% but not as high as we want. Right now we think folks are not participating in that meeting and then sitting at their agencies confused. We hope that's not happening.

Charles Minor: I think right now I'm just looking for information about how the system works. So I mean we go to and offer to do something like for people in housing or what does this do? What does this track information regarding the homelessness? I mean I don't know if there's go anywhere. It just seems very vague to me as to what's going on. What's going on with this?

Ralph Payton: So Charles, thank you for your comment. I think a lot of people agree that it is a little bit more confusing with the transition to the CE System, so I would encourage you to attend the next meeting though.

Jean Fields: First, the big news, there's no NOFA as we call it yet. We do expect it this week or soon is the word from HUD. And so we have been madly preparing for that date, and we appreciate all of the cooperation and hard work by all of the programs and project applicants that has been going on behind the scenes for this date.

And just a little bit of a recap, as we recall in April, this board approved the funding committee recommendations for scoring tools and the process. Most of those changes were updates to our current process. Since that April meeting, renewal projects have accomplished the following things. They've completed and reviewed their annual performance reports, their APR data, that will be used in the competition. And first of all, I don't want to let's slow down for a round of applause for at least a pat on the back. That was not an easy process this year. People worked very hard with HSH and the OneSystem to accomplish that. So that's fantastic.

They have also the renewal projects have also submitted supplemental information for the competition. These are the two data sources that are going to be used to create a project evaluation report that's used by our priority panel to rank all of our renewable projects. And this year, I'm pleased to say that both the APR data and the supplemental information has been submitted.

That the first draft of that evaluation report has been sent to all projects for review. We sent that out late last week. So people should be evaluating that data. Now, in the meantime on May 22nd we held another funding committee to address some issues that arose during the data review process. And it was a very well attended and very robust discussion.

We knew the business changes but there are some technical changes that we wanted to make sure projects understood. And we can talk about so that they knew what data was being considered in the competition. So we had a great meeting. We are not going to bring those changes to you until July. And one of the reasons is give you plenty of time to look at them. We're going to send you a link if you want to see any of these pages. I'll give a brief rundown of them.
But number one. The new APR does not record income and benefits updates for clients unless they had, and required annual assessment within a 60-day window. Now, this is different than in past years. Past years, the APR recorded whenever you entered data, or program entered data about the client benefits. It was recorded in the APR. And the reason that is important for a competition is San Francisco ranks and gives scores to projects based on whether the clients are maintaining or increasing their income and benefits. And if those updates are being recorded then that's going to make it harder to understand what's going on at the program level. We had a great conversation on the projects. We came up for a solution this year. It's not perfect but we feel that it is fair and it does not penalize projects whose assessments took place outside of that window. And that basically we're going to be counting only those assessments that are recorded in the APR. In the future, the one system HSH, are going to make sure that we have that data aligned so that all of the assessments are in that review. We're hoping projects here are looking at their data to make sure that it's a fair resolution. We thought it was. We've looked at them but we want projects themselves to make sure that, that's a good fix and accurately represents how they're on behalf of their clients.

The second one is, is that in the past, the APR recorded health insurance benefits and non-cash mainstream benefits in the same chart. And in the past, we've scored projects on how their clients maintained or increased or had those health benefits, or non-cash mainstream benefits. This year, 13 separate charts, we can't merge them, so we came up with a solution to separately score those factors, all of the while taking into account the fact that some non-cash mainstream benefits are not available to all participants. So we think that was a good solution as well.

The third one was easier. The HMIS data quality, which is a score both on the APR and as well as our scoring tools, it now measures fewer fields. We have utmost confidence that Megan and her team will be working with projects to make sure that data quality is good. Because there are a number of other financial and accounting systems in transition as well, we want to make sure that we're using the correct numbers for projects, to make sure that they're using-- we know what number they're using, and how much of their grant they're using. So that's it. I apologize for the technical basis of that, but I wanted to maybe prime you a little bit for discussions to come.

Erik Brwon: I'm Is there a cheat sheet? Because a newbie doing it doesn't necessarily know where they might be able to get the information?

Jean Fields: That is a fantastic question. Thank you very much for that. That was discussed at the funding committee, there is, in the HMIS data standards-- it does have an outline of what non-cash mainstream benefits there are. There is a category called other, and we have flagged for Charles and HSH the need for some of that training. We think that probably should go on at the one system meeting, so that all projects are entering data in a consistent manner.

Public Comment: None

Anne Stuhldreher: I direct the Financial Justice Project in the Office of the Treasurer. The Financial Justice Project-- we've been at this for about a year and half. Treasurer Cisneros decided to start this, really, to assess and reform various fines, fees, tickets. Financial penalties that sometimes hit people with lower incomes, or people of color, particularly hard. He wanted to start this when we saw that these were spreading throughout kind of local state government. A community coalition called Debt Free SF had started that really was sounding the alarm on how a ticket could often lead to kind of a cascade of consequences, that the ticket, if unpaid, would impact someone's credit could be impacted, their driver's license could be suspended, and it could create all kinds of barriers to employment and housing. These types of approaches don't work well for government or for people, and we really knew that there had to be a better way. So we've been working in partnership with a lot of folks over the last year-and-a-half to find that better way. We staffed a Fines and Fees Task Force with a lot of community groups' supports and the relevant departments around the table. Worked also closely with the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. And in this task force, we really tried to hear like, "What are the fine-and-fee paying points?" which is what you see up on the slide there, and then really tried to back into solutions, what would really make a difference for folks, and what is doable for departments to implement. We also worked with the Mayor's Budget Office to
conduct a fine-and-fee audit to really take a hard look at all of these things across the city and county, and surface ones that we think might be having a disproportioned impact, and then look for reforms.

So just to mention a few of the things we've been able to do over the last year or so, we've done a lot of work with the SFMTA. And we heard a lot in our task force proceedings that it was hard for people to pay off on a lot of these citations. The MTA did allow people to get on a payment plan, but you had to pay $60 to get onto that payment plan. There was an option to perform community service to clear your citations, but you had to pay between 75 and 150 dollars to do that. So we worked with the SFMTA to cut the fees for community service to 0 for people below 200% of the poverty line, and also to cut the fee to get onto the payment plan to $5. People have longer to pay. It used to be 14 weeks. It's now 18 months. We just had a grace period, that we worked with the SFMTA on, where people could bring in any late citations they have and get the late fees removed. And that's important because those can double the price of a citation. And in the last three months, SFMTA's payment plans have gone up 400% for people who are using those.

We also heard a lot in the task force proceedings about getting towed and how expensive that can be. And so, again, we worked with the SFMTA, and they cut tow fees about in half for people below 200% of the poverty line. They reduced the fee if your car gets booted from $500 for the general population to $100 if you're below 200% of the poverty line, and then also to allow people to enter any citations that led to the tow or boot into a payment plan or work off by community service because again, it's so hard for people to come up with hundreds of dollars at a time. So we really want to kind of meet families where they're at.

The next thing I wanted to mention is tomorrow, hopefully, fingers crossed, San Francisco will be the first county in the nation to eliminate administrative and user fees that are charged to people who exit jail or the criminal justice system. In San Francisco, we charge people $50 a month to be on probation, up to $35 a day to rent their electronic ankle monitor, all sorts of fees for various reports and tasks etc. It doesn't make sense to hand somebody a bill for a few thousand dollars when they get out of jail. This creates huge barriers for reentry. The collection rates on these things are very, very low. So again, we're proud that we're going to be taking action to eliminate all the local fees that we control. We also after this passes are going to be working to make this retroactive. There's about $15 million in debt that is hanging over 20,000 individuals locally, and we're working with the courts and our public defender and district attorney to get that written off. I just wanted to mention just again the kind of fee that kind of surface in this finding fee audit with the mayor's office. We're doing some work with the SFPUC. About three people in San Francisco a day get their water shut off. And so there were these fees that were related to that that we were able to eliminate and make it easier for somebody to get their water turned back on. They also have a discounted program for low-income individuals that are pretty underutilized, and we're working with them to increase the take up for that.

We're working with them right now to base all finds and fees on people's ability to pay. That's moving forward well. They've also taken a lot of steps being the first county in the state to stop suspending peoples driver's licenses when they couldn't afford to pay traffic tickets. It's very hard to get a job when you don't have a valid driver's license number. There is still a lot of these that are still outstanding, driver's licenses that are suspended and outstanding, and we're working with them to clear those. Again, in our taskforce process, we heard this can be hard to access for some folks. It requires you get to the Hall of Justice, I think four separate times in like on a Friday afternoon between 2:30 and 4:30. And so we're just working to really, in partnership with a lot of community organizations and some others to streamline this program and make it more accessible. That's it. We'd love to hear what questions you have and suggestions for us.

Ralph Payton: First of all, thank you. That was a lot of encouraging information there. And I know that a lot of us some personally. So some these could be truly transformative. So really you guys, for the work that you're doing, thank you so much.
Del Seymour. I just can't thank you enough for doing it the things that you are doing. I mean, now, what you're doing sounds like California. It sounds like San Francisco or something. You know what a lot people don't know is that when we do have permanent supported housing or permanent unsupported housing, doesn't matter. These are property managers and rental agents. They go all through you, and if they can find anything on there to prevent-- they got 1,000 people applying for an apartment. So they have to find a way to narrow that down, and they do it through looking at your record and seeing what you have on there. What you're doing will help someone actually get in the housing because this is big. When we look at the cultural makeup of our permanent supported housing, there's a reason for that. And that's really the reason they've chosen to keep people out that should be in. So this is really important. Really important. Everything you've done is really important. Again, there's two sides to San Francisco. There's the side that you on, and there's the side giving a homeless man a light rail ticket. That's crazy. He can't pay it. Put it on the train. Don't give him a ticket. There's really two sides to this city which is weird. And this year I've gone through about 10 major cities just in my journeys doing works, and talks, and stuff. I've never seen a city like this where people said... But thank you for what you're doing, and please, convey that to the treasurer.

Sophia Isom: I just wanted to say this is a great project that you guys have taken on. And what else are you doing to reach out to people who may not be connected with agencies but who could benefit from this service?

Anne Stuhldreher I mean, we work in really close collaboration with a lot of community groups. And we do our best to work with them to get the word out. And we also have a newsletter, and social media, and etc. But we always can and should be doing more in that space to make sure that people are aware of some of these reforms that are happening.

Brenda Jewett: I have a quick question. What is the hourly rate that you’re giving these people who are paying down their debt for community service?

Anne Stuhldreher: That’s a really good question. It used to be below minimum wage, but that is now going up to minimum wage. And there’s a lot of activism, actually, around the state, and city, and county to move that even higher.

Charles Pitts: They said 200% below the poverty line. I’m wondering, how much is that? I mean, the poverty line is maybe less than 20,000, but 200 below that? I mean, what numbers is poverty find somebody for parts of this program. And especially with San Francisco, those numbers are totally inadequate. I mean, you’re talking about community. You also mentioned blacks and homelessness, and different things. Blacks are 47% unemployed. So blacks have problems keeping their job. So you wonder why we have so much poverty and problems, blacks are being literally blocked out of the economic system. What's this 200%?

Anne Stuhldreher: And I’m so sorry it wasn't clear. It's double the poverty line, so for a single person, it's, I think, $24,000. $24,000 annually. For a family of four, it's $48,000.

So what's the math of the 200%?

Do we have any other public comment on this issue?

Public Comment I'm in the positive resource center. My question was, is there a possibility of getting this information out with the citation? So, for example, if someone is marginally housed or homeless and they're receiving a citation from a law enforcement officer, I feel like there's an opportunity to give out information on this program with the citation. Thank you.

Anne Stuhldreher: So since we've been working with the SFMTA, there now is something on the citation that says that you can get one of these payment plans or do community service. So that option is now on the citation. And we're working with them on ways to get the word out. I mean, I think that's greatly important. People need to know about these options, and the best place to make that happen is right when someone gets the citation.

Del Seymour: Has there been any conversation, with maybe the homeless department, to actually offer low income or homeless folks a free pass to get on Muni?
Anne Stuhldreher: There is a Muni-pass program called LifeLine, for folks to get a discounted pass. We worked with the MTA to-- if someone gets a fare evasion citation, they can go and sign up for LifeLine and then get that citation waived. I'm looking over at my colleague, Krista Brown. Is there anything else that's relevant here?

That's good to know. Thank you.

Public Comment

Del Seymour: I just want to interrupt for just one minute. I just want to acknowledge a member of our community. And she's a filmmaker, and her films are about women's inequity, homelessness, and-- tell them a little bit about what you do.

Hi, everyone. Thank you so much. This is my first time at one of these meetings, and and I needed those answers though. I've been to almost every neighborhood, I'm a filmmaker and to be in a room like this and hear all the things that are going on, it's just mind-blowing. And sadly, I feel quite ignorant about all the things that you guys were doing. So number one, how can we afford it? Number two, I am a filmmaker, I made a film called Palm Trees Down 3rd St., it's 13-year anniversary. It focused on all the neighborhoods of San Francisco that might not be in Hollywood movies. I don't know of the work that's happening here and I think, how do we get everyone invested, involved, and do my job as a filmmaker to make that available and communicate that in my films. So anyways, I guess that's the best.

Jeff Kositsky: I'll go ahead and walk through our monthly report for you. I have some updates on the 1,000 People Project. As of May 1st, we helped nearly 500 people get into shelter or housing through this program initiated by Mayor Lee. The main reason is just delays in opening up the sites that are listed here, but as you'll see we've got three new Navigation Centers opening, we have a new supportive housing site opening, as well as Jelani House, transitional housing, which isn't on this slide, but is part of this project.

Next slide-Our goal of getting to a single-data system and coordinated entry up and running.

Next slide. And next slide. We continue working closely with community members. I think we're trying to get better about making sure we're more systematic about getting input. We have regular meetings on family and adult systems for a coordinated entry, the first Tuesdays of the month from 9:30 to 11:30 and then one on youth coordinated second Monday of each month from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., so. And then now these are the goals that we've established and were specific goals around reducing homelessness in the city. Our goal of reducing chronic homelessness by 50%.

You'll see we've got some new supported housing site has opened. We're proceeding with projects at 1064 Mission Bay block 9 to add additional permitted supported housing for chronically homeless adults. As well as moving forward into next fiscal year, we're setting up what's called a flexible housing subsidy pool program which will allow us to try and leverage housing in the private sector and have services and housing subsidies for people experiencing chronic homelessness.

Next on reducing any family homelessness by 2021, many of you may have heard a couple weeks ago maybe it was last week at the opening of SalesForce Tower the city in Hamilton and the school district achieved our goal of raising $30 million to add 800 more units of rapid rehousing for children whose families are homeless and are in the San Francisco unified school district. We're also opening an additional 150 or actually during the next two years it will be about 350 new units of permit supportive housing for families opening up which will also assist in these efforts.

We're updating this goal actually because this was a-- the goal was to create a plan which isn't much of a goal. The goal is actually now around youth-- is reduce homelessness around transition-aged youth by 50% by the end of 2022.

We already talked last week or last meeting about the work of the Encampment Resolution Team. To date, on this slide here, we had resolved 29 encampments. 1,100 people or so were engaged in that process. 787 accepted shelter. And then on policy updates, so, in May, the board the supervisors passed the resolution through a special to add more rapid re-housing particularly focused on transition-aged youth.
So currently, there's a number of measures in the Assembly and Senate that we're moving forward to increase funding around homelessness at the state level which is very exciting because California spends very little per capita on homelessness relative to many other states. We're not sure how much that's going to be. The numbers have ranged anywhere from 300 million to 1.5 billion.

The Assembly passed 80, 21, 62 to streamline permanent supportive housing projects. There's also some bills out there around data collection which isn't that exciting but I think an important step in the city or the state getting better information on homelessness. And there's also a move to make what's currently called the homeless and housing finance committee kind of serve us more of a more important state-wide inter-agency council on homelessness.

The Senate passed AB 918 which is a homeless youth act which will bring in a few million dollars into a state for youth homelessness which will be great. And that’s ongoing revenue streams so we could extend housing and rapid rehousing programs for transition-aged youth. It's moved to the Assembly. The city has actually written a letter requesting that any allocation for this funding that comes out of San Francisco or large counties that that goes through the local homeless coordinating board.

Even though this is a Department of Public Health issue, Senate Bill 1045 I believe it is, which was a law to strengthen or change conservatorship laws, has passed out of the Senate and I assume is moving towards the assembly. So we have a lot going on. Kudos to Emily, who manages all of this for the department, and also Katy from the Mayor's office and our city and federal lobbyists.

I should also let you all know that we've been working very closely with Senators Harris and Feinstein and Congresswoman Pelosi's office. And on the pieces of federal legislation to expand permanent support of housing, both on the capital and the operating side, I don't know that it's going to get much traction in the current political climate, but it is part of a bigger effort that Mayor Lee actually started called the Mayors and CEOs Committee on Investing in Housing in the United States, or something like that. It doesn't roll off the tongue. I can't remember the name exactly, but 15 cities right now have their mayor and at least one CEO from a prominent company signing onto this initiative to try to put pressure-- and most of it is an advocacy effort at the federal level, so funding advocacy work and lobbying to move these two pieces of legislation forward and then other initiatives related to housing the group that's helping run this will be in San Francisco this week. We will be meeting with them.

Some of you may have heard that Kaiser Permanente just made an announcement that they'll be investing $2 million in permanent support of housing nationwide. I'm not exactly sure where, but that was part of this initiative as well and their CEO is the CEO brought to the table by Mayor Lee, as they're headquartered in Oakland. And then, there are a number of positions available in the departments. And then lastly, we need to move on to the data. Sorry, this is very difficult to read, but this is the Thousand People Project update, which I already talked about.. Next slide is the Homeward Bound, and you'll see that Homeward Bounds were on track to their goal of 850 people for the year, so those folks are doing great work.

Next slide next slide is at your request the shelter waitlist dashboard. This is pretty consistent with what we've been seeing for at least 18 months, between 15 hundred and 17 hundred people on the waiting list. And just to be clear, this is for the 90-day shelter beds only. This doesn't include family shelters, transitional housing, stabilization units, navigation centers. But this is what's available through the 311 system.

Next slide, you'll see we finally are starting to see the vacancy rates from shelters go down. But we're now seeing a pretty consistent three percent vacancy rate, which is below what we hoped for. Our goal was to keep it below four. And now we're seeing it at around three in the past couple of weeks. So we're moving in the right direction there.

This next slide is the, not really slide, the housing summary report. This is the last time you ever will see this report again. This is the quarterly housing placement slide that we spoke about. Starting in July, as we had said in the last meeting, we will be providing a different format that will show you monthly all of the housing placements that are made into our system. I can
tell you we are achieving our goals for permanent supportive housing in general. Rapid re-housing has been getting harder as rents continue to go up, and it's hard to find slots in the private market. Moving On is going well and is finally up to where they should be.

I mean, we can't provide any individual information or even--

Just the scope of how many people from the tent encampments are going into versus someone living--

Our goal as you all hopefully have heard Megan and others talk about during the past two years, that we're not prioritizing people in the encampments into housing. We're prioritizing people who have the highest needs and the longest term homeless people into housing which is why roughly, as far as the encampments go, about 25% of the people who we encounter are high priority clients based on their length of homelessness and their acuity and those are the ones that get prioritized for housing. So it's not about where you are, it's about who you are. And what your needs are. That's what determines priority access to housing. With some exceptions in that certain programs have other requirements layered on top of. So we've got to first focus on that requirement and then focus on our priority. For example, Care Not Cash housing is set aside for people who are in a CAAP program, so. But amongst those populations then we're trying to prioritize within those groups.

Del Seymour: So does your department have a lobbyist in Sacramento?

Jeff Kositsky: No, the city does. The city has lobbyists in both Sacramento and in DC and there's a process that we go through with the city in terms of as a department head we bring forward legislative priorities to a committee that ends up deciding what the lobbyist is going to do.

Del Seymour: So you're not able to deal directly with them?

Jeff Kositsky: Although our lobbyist is looking much-- I will tell you that assembly members Chu and Ting and Senator Scott Wiener are obvious allies. We work really closely with them. We don't have to advocate or lobby honestly. What we just need to do is ask. And then what our lobbyist is doing is working on all the other members of the elected bodies in Sacramento and in DC and trying to bring them on board with oftentimes coordinating very closely with the offices of our allies who are pushing forward legislation that we support or bringing up their own ideas and asking us to support them.

Brenda Jewett: I had one question about the adult emergency shelter wait list dashboard. I'm sort of confused but what does it mean when it says, wait list resolution summary? Case closed. There's one case closed. No response. Dropped from list.

Jeff Kositsky: So if we try to find somebody who's on the list and they don't respond, they get dropped from the list. I'm sorry. I can't answer the specifics of when that happens or how it happens.

Brenda Jewett: And the other question was total number of emergency adult beds available by week. There's a huge variable. Why is that? One week it's 61 and one week it's 265.

Jeff Kositsky: Just depends on when people's reservations are running out and when those beds become available.

Brenda Jewett: Is there any way to make that more consistent for you guys?

Jeff Kositsky: It's somewhat random. It's human beings who maybe decide to stay in the shelter, leave early. Or there's people who for whatever reason need to extend their stays. So there's a lot of variables. Although you'll see it does swing a little bit. It generally is sitting at an average of about-- if you took the median and the mean, it's probably around 170, 180.

Ralph Payton: So there are some additional reporting metrics that I forwarded to Charles a few weeks ago. Well, then when you guys are in the position to more thoroughly access your database and gather more useful information for us and hopefully Charles will be able to forward that information on.
Jeff Kosistky: Okay. Charles, if you could forward that to me that would be great. Yeah, we'll keep adding to this as we. We should be able to produce. We should be able to produce a report on families at this point. Yeah, so we should be adding that to the queue next time as well. And also all the Nav Center beds, we were sort of in limbo trying to figure out what to do. Whether the Nav Center beds were going to go into the one system or in the existing database but we've decided just given some of the challenges we have on rolling out the one system, all the Nav Center beds will be in the Nav Center database. But we're kind of in process of making that happen.

Kelly Culter: so what do you actually want from the budget?

I want 3 or 4 hundred million dollars a year more but realistically, that's a hard question to answer but I'll do the best that I can. When we wrote our strategic framework, which doesn't say we're going to end homelessness. It talks about significant reductions in homelessness. We identified as you know, and I'll just say "As you know" because the coalition sunshine this information, so I can just go ahead and say it. We estimated that there were about $85 million in service gaps. And it was kind of split between shelter, a little bit around street outreach, and just administrative-type stuff, and then most of it was housing and prevention. And we did that work almost two years ago. So I think we've identified that number around August, September of 2016. Since that time, that number has been reduced down to about 65 million. So we've seen about $20 million of increased funding, most of that coming last fiscal year. If Measure D passes, that will close about half of that gap and the state funding and federal funding that maybe-- we're also, I forgot to mention, applying for 200 new Section 8 vouchers just for individuals who are homeless and disabled, and to prevent them from going in institutions like jails and hospitals and whatnot. So if some of these stuff comes together, I think the gap will probably end up being around 25 million or maybe at around 65 million. I think everybody agrees that housing first is important. And I agree with Charles and others who have spoken about this. But we still need, we estimated about 800 more shelter beds. I want you to know that they need to be NAV Center beds, but I think-- so I need about $20 million in that space. And the rest of it would be for more housing. A lot of what is in the Measure D really reflects the priorities that we have, but the gaps still is in the housing, right? So in the housing, we think we need an additional-- above what we have now, 7 to 800 more permanent supportive housing exits and then maybe another 300 rapid rehousing exits and just to get to the point where we can reduce the chronic homeless population 50%, youth population by 50%, and then achieve some of the other goals. So to achieve our goals, and then that's what the gap is, to really end homelessness in the city, it would be a significant investments in the, I would say, $300 million minimum and probably more than that than we've estimated. If our only strategy was permanent supportive housing, then we will need to build another 21,000 units of permanent supportive housing to deal with the inflow of newly homeless people. And by inflow, I don't mean inflow from other places, I just mean newly homeless people. So let me correct that, addressing newly homeless people, and then have enough units, that the turnover is producing enough to meet the demand on any given year. That will cost about $10 million to construct and about $600 million to operate. But I would say right now the immediate need is somewhere in the neighborhood of 60 to 70 million dollars, less if Measure D and these other initiatives pass, which I'm hopeful, at least some of them.

Kelly Culter: And then I think also a part of-- I feel like there's kind of elephant in the room, like last month's meeting, was about the increased sweeps. And we've seen that has continued. It's really been consistent every day. And so, as I'm looking through-- every time I see the list of areas that are resolved, I wonder who the results is for. Because if we're not having more resources where people can actually go, people are just being stuffed along. And so, yeah, so there's still a lot of concern about that because I'm seeing it on a regular basis just in the reports that I'm getting are consistently on a daily-- also I've been hearing an increase with people that are living in their vehicles where they feel like they're being targeted more. And I think they just need to pay more attention or to be focusing on that a bit more to be also finding alternatives, but to be holding the city accountable for-- because the sweeps are not okay and we're abusing people's basic human rights. And so-- I know I didn't put a question at the end of it. I know. How about with when It comes to HSOC. Okay? How can the board be having access there and to be-- since HSH plays a role in what's going on there. Because I feel like there hasn't been the transparency that's there at all?
Jeff Kositsky: The board would like a tour and just to come over and talk to the people and see if we can arrange for that for that for you. And actually, Del or Ralph or Kelly, whoever wants to make this, all you need to do is contact Sam Dodge, he's responsible for setting those up. So feel free to do that. Also Mr. Dodge is responsible for establishing a community group that's supposed to meet on a regular basis related to HSOC. I just don't know what the status of this. I'm meeting with that group on Thursday and I'll inquire what's going on. But as far as responsibility for community outreach, that lies with Sam.

Ralph Payton: So the policy group that we've been talking about for a couple of months?

Jeff Kositsky: It's not a policy group. I mean there is a policy group of department heads that meets. Again, HSOC kind of follows the FEMA model of unified command in which there's a group/ that does kind of community relations and that's where this would live. And, again, Sam is in charge of that.

Ralph Payton: That'd be so important and nice but I know we've been talking about having the policy group that LHCB board members have access to and the message we've been getting from you over the last couple of months is that something's been in the works. But now you're saying that--

Jeff Kositsky: Saying that something is in the works, I just wouldn't call it a policy committee, community advisory committee. So yes, something is in the works. I just don't know exactly what the status of it is. I brought that forward to the policy group of the department heads and asked that that be created and Sam's working on doing that.

David Elliot Lewis. I understand the Mayor's office is putting a lot of pressure on your department to clear and resolve encampments. I have a lot of trouble with the term, "encampment resolution." Being, again, I live in the Tenderloin and, again, I walk street after street and see so many people, hundreds of people lying, living on the sidewalk untented, often without even a sleeping bag. It's heartbreaking. And the increase in this untented sidewalk living people has been dramatic just in the past few weeks. And I believe, but I cannot prove it, I believe it's because of the recently cleared encampments that our mayor's office counts as a success. Now I understand that only-- as was recently set by Jeff Lesinski, that only 25% of the people in encampments are considered high-acuity, and does qualify for some kind of temporary housing or permanent housing. That leaves 75% to cycle back on to the hard, cold concrete. Now a short-term shelter offered to encampment residents doesn't really solve anything because those people end up in my neighborhood. They would never be allowed, by the way, near the 1.1 billion dollar Salesforce tower. Never. But my neighborhood allows them to stay. But there's also issues with neighborhood equity, that the Tenderloin is disproportionately burdened with sidewalk sleeping, untented, unsheltered homeless. I'm going to continue to hope that your board will advocate for more shelter beds, more navigation centers, more funding that brings, maybe, Jeff's department that extra 60 to 80 million dollars they need and maybe we'll make progress. Thank you.

Del Seymour: And we are advocating for all of those things that you said and the same token, on the other side of the coin or whatever, it was your respect for the people who have chosen to live in a tent. Because the number one thing about living in a tent, it's yours. It's yours, man. That's what we all want to have, our own. So if that's the only thing you can claim as your own, claim it. Bless you.

Celie Wright. I'm with San Francisco Health Plan. Thank you so much for that update. I was really excited to hear the Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool mentioned. I think we've heard a lot lately through LA County Housing for Health that they've had a lot of success through this model. I saw that it was listed under some of the actions that may come out of Measure D funding if that was passed. I was curious just to hear about if that's something the department would be able to move forward in setting up even if that measure is not passed at this time? And then my other question was just around local policy updates. I know on May 22nd the board of supervisors had passed an ordinance around the privatization of housing for those exiting residential behavioral health treatment programs.

Jeff Kositsky: The Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool is being set up regardless of whether Measure D passes. If Measure D passes, it will be much bigger. And the other question around Supervisor Sheehy's legislation which has passed and I believe
will be voted on today? So yes, that will be part of coordinated entry. There's a number of factors that determine who gets prioritization for housing, length of homelessness, acuity, kind of your current situation, if it's an emergency situation, and now added to that will be participations in programs like this. We still-- I think we have 90 days to work that out so we will figure that out within 90 days. I'm also been working closely with Jeff Adachi and the public defender's office and they've got some great alternative treatment programs that we want to include as that as well. I just wanted to give them kudos and thanks because, like yourselves, there's a lot of city agencies or organizations doing great work with this population and kind of helping put all that together through coordinated entry. I think we'll make a difference for people who are really struggling on the streets with severe mental health and other issues.

Neil Swan: It sounds like there's progress being made. I just want to highlight someone I met last week at Lava Me Pop-Up Care Village where we provide compassion and safety. Her name is Julie. She's a mother. Her seven-year-old daughter's in the San Francisco Unified School District. Her husband, and herself, and her daughter are living in a car right now. They are San Francisco natives. They came back from Georgia a few months ago. We exchanged numbers. She was looking for shelter because they had gotten asked to leave Friendship House after two weeks. They were in Hamilton Families for 60 days before that. And so I got the number of her case manager or-- sorry. No. They don't call them case managers there. Intake specialist at Compass. And she was basically just pushing a cart asking for help. So I called the HOT team dispatch and I spoke after three different numbers. But they told me that she had to go back to 995 Market Street and she was telling me that Compass told her that she needed to go to Friendship House-- First Friendship. I'm sorry. First Friendship. And wait for HOT team to come and get her so that she could get back in the intake system.

So she left. I was waiting for a call back from Compass. I texted someone at HSH She said, "Thanks. I spoke to Compass this last week in May 29. Wow. Thank you for your help. I guess we homeless families always get the shit end of the stick." I said, "For real though?" She says, "Thank you." I said, "Let me make a couple of calls and get back to you. No response today yet from your intake specialist or the person at the homeless department." She said, "It's okay. I'll try tomorrow. Thank you so much." I said, "I heard back from both of them. The person at the homeless department said First Friendship is not closing as rumored." This morning, I was texting her from my seat and I said-- because there was a lot of information about family homelessness and I wanted to transmit it to her because a lot of women don't have time to come in here because they're out there trying to survive. I said, "Wondering how you're doing, and if you're able to get in the shelters because we met last Tuesday, please let me know as I now have updated your info on how to get families into shelter right away." She said, "Well, we are in First Friendship for now. A lot has happened but it's okay. Just trying to stay above water." I said, "Okay. I'm pleased to hear you are in First Friendship as a Band-Aid but at least a roof for now. I admire your ability to stay above water. I know it's hard. Our organization--"  

Ralph Payton: There's somebody behind you that has a public comment. If you can please excuse yourself from the floor

Neil Swan: I understand but I just want to let you know that there's a human face behind all this too and they are not here today. So I just made--  

Charles Pitts: He's highlighting part of the problem. And I think we need to go back to shelter shock. somewhere along the line we need to go back to shelter shock. And with that, I'm also wondering about the shelter-resistant people. The people who are shelter-resistant because-- and they go to the shelters and they get abused. This situation is, these one-week stays at MSC North-- I can't get a contract, an agreement regarding these one-week stays, and of course, you're going to get 700 new numbers if you provide one-week housing. I guess another question is, is San Francisco administrative code of disbarment of a contractor when they don't provide the services as provided, such as the Standards of Care/. The crystal meth lab, the MSC. Have they disbarred anybody?

Ralph Payton: Good point, Charles. Thank you. So we have-- you're correct.

General Public Comment
Neil Swan: I apologize if I got a little over-heated there. All I want to say is that we're launching a new program for any service provider in here that has people that are experiencing homelessness, mental health issues, or self-abuse issues, please refer them to us. We are launching a program to support Kaiser doing a Behavioral Health Outreach for homeless populations and we're going to be activating people who currently experience homelessness, to be escorts and navigators for people who need to get connected to services and provide social/emotional support.

Charles Pitts: I mean, when I asked you what prevents a service provider from hiring a rapist or a child molester at a family shelter, you said, "Trust me." How does that look in front of a jury? So we have no protections and we just have to trust people who are just aloof to the suffering of citizen that are homeless. Shelter shock has made it very clear that you go into these shelters, you get abused, right now, Jeff is making it clear through these documents that he's been using, is that they have-- it's like malicious violation of acute, overtly, and malicious. Because those people that you're pushing around, that 75% that these guys talked about, they're supposed to providing good housing. Meaning, those people that are connected with-- those people that are still being moved around, shouldn't we be trying to find some type of infrastructure to publicly keep the streets clean, maybe toilets, maybe some routine trash pick up. I mean, but it seems like those things are continuously negated so people no place to use the bathrooms, step on somebody's million dollar. I just wonder why Jeff doesn't have a better solution to anything. But I also wanted to-- there's plenty of vacant places, vacant schools, vacant housing, warehouses, that people could be put, but that's the question, is he looking?

Ralph Payton: I just wanted to make a quick point about staff hired at family shelters. All staff hired at family shelters have to background screening, fingerprinting, and a very thorough reference check. So it's not a matter of just, "Trust us." You're going to a family shelter with staff who have been screened for appropriateness. Thank you all for coming here today and joining us for our June meeting of. I look forward to continuing this conversation next month.

I'm sure no one here has to be reminded to go vote tomorrow. We need to show up, thank you so much. Have a good week.