

Del Seymour: Charles, as we go over these minutes. I am going to ask you if we can amend the agenda to move item seven permanently closer to when the department speaks because some issues that we'll be talking about, sometimes the department is not here for the whole meeting at that time.

Del Seymour: Starting today.

Ralph Payton: I vote.

Charles: Do we have a second?

Erik Brown: I second.

Del Seymour: All in favor? Any oppose? The minutes are approved for the January 8th meeting.

Del Seymour: The next item on the agenda is the Department of Homelessness.

Jeff Kositsky: Okay, thank you all very much, happy to give our second and more formal report to the local homeless coordinating board.

We'll start with program updates, continuing on our effort to get a thousand people permanently off of the streets. We are close to 195 people having been placed but we are still far away from achieving this goal.

Division Circle will be 125 beds and is expected to open in May and I have had a number of community meetings about this. It's been approved by the board of supervisors. At this point we are waiting for final sign off by Caltrans. Same deal at Fifth and Bryant at 88 beds that will be opening in probably, June or July on Caltrans property. We are still waiting on approval from them but expect to have.

There was a Bidder's Conference on January 19th and the deadline for applications is on February 21st. All of this information is of course available on our website.

Strategic framework updates. We have launched coordinated entry for families that have Bay View and Central City access point. We've received proposals to open up a new site in the Mission district, which hopefully will get opened up in the next few months.

We continue to work with the access points for a family coordinated entry to refine the roll-out of coordinated entry. We have designed and conducted trainings on problem solving, which is also known as prevention and diversion.

Some policy updates issues. January 30th the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution authorizing 125 Bay Shore. February 1st, the budget Finance Committee passed out with the other committee with a positive recommendation and an ordinance to declare a shelter crisis that will help expedite the process of opening up Navigation Centers and shelters and other services will be heard by the full Board on February 13th.

The Budget and Finance Committee also passed out a positive recommendation resolution to allow the city to work with Caltrans on putting that centers on Caltrans properties. Will be heard by the full board on February.

On January 23rd, the board approved financing and renovation costs for 440 Turk, the department's homeless acts in support of housing headquarters as well as an access point on the first floor, we expect that that site will open up sometime in January of 2019. Then lastly, Senator Scott Weiner introduced the Homeless Youth Act of 2018, to create an office of homeless youth at the California Department of Housing and Community Development and establish a \$60 million grant program for homeless youth.

Department updates, just as you see here we still have quite a few positions open. Please feel free to let the individuals know. You can find this on our website or the city's website.

Then lastly, moving onto the monthly data. You have before you a number of the reports which we have committed to providing to you on a monthly basis.

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Del Seymour: I've got a couple of questions Jeff. Does the new Navigation Centers you're proposing on Caltrans property is there an end date for those properties?

Jeff Kositsky: Each site is different and this extends not only to the two sites. We're talking about but potentially other sites for use in the future. At this point, both of those sites are, I believe, what Caltrans calls surplus property, which they eventually will try to sell and the city will have an option to purchase those. The leases are essentially in a year-to-year basis. The Division Street Property the city has been leasing for many many years. We have no reason to believe that that won't continue and the structures that we are putting in place are meant to last for at least, 40 years. This remains to be seen. This is the first time this has been done on Caltrans property in the state. We're all figuring this out as we go along.

Del Seymour: Okay, so the program won't have to be bowing down to the supervisors or assistants?

Jeff Kositsky: We take the supervisors and citizens' concerns into account when we're opening up these sites. What we have told people in both of those neighborhoods is that there's no hard end date for these sites. We have not told the public that these sites will close on this date.

Del Seymour: So individual discussions with other members of the board, hearing that the Fifth and Bryant shelter actually has more vacant beds at night than this report shows. Could that be? Or how could that be?

Jeff Kositsky: I do not believe that that is true.

Del Seymour: Okay.

Jeff Kositsky: I have been and I have not seen a lot of vacant beds and will tell you that this is one of those ongoing myths that we hear in the city that people don't want shelter or that shelters are sitting vacant that generally has not been the case. There's lots of people waiting for beds, and again, we're continuing to work to keep the vacancy rate below 4%. I don't think we can ever get to zero, but I believe that we should be at around 4%

Del Seymour: What's the maximum number of Fifth and Bryant? 300 people or?

Jeff Kositsky: Let's take a look. I don't know off the top of my head, I believe it's in this report. Yes it is. Total capacity is 340 beds.

Del Seymour: Okay, so that's 14 beds, at the most. Okay, that's the maximum. According to your report you're saying that's 14 beds? Okay.

Jeff Kositsky: Yes, there could've been a lot of vacancies on one night, and then no vacancies at all on one night. This is an average. It's possible somebody went on a night and saw something that was alarming, but again, this is over an average.

Del Seymour: It seems to be the percentage of African Americans in the 1515 Bay Navigation Center seems to be way out of the line with actual number of homeless African Americans in the city of San Francisco.

Jeff Kositsky: The only reason that I will tell you, and again, we're about to release and we'll present it to the board. I think Emily Cohen has spoken about this before, we had an outside organization come in and do an audit of all of our programs and look at also the homeless population in this city in general-- I think this may have been presented to the board, but I cannot recall, where you will see no under-served-- if you look at a system wide level, the percentage of African Americans experiencing homelessness is equal to or less than the number of African Americans in our shelter system, in our housing system, etcetera.

Whereas, there's a huge equity issue in terms of the relative number of homeless people in the city, 6% of the city is African American or less. Over approximately 35% of the homeless population is African American, which is unconscionable. Due to a large variety of factors the

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service delivery system seems to reflect the population that we're serving. We were concerned about this as well coming in. We're also concerned about the number of organizations serving homeless individuals led by people of color, we'll say that that has improved greatly during the past year as well.

I don't see system-wide, there being any issue. There may be issues in different programs, based on the proximity of those programs and who tend to access those services. If 1515 South Van Ness has been serving primarily, almost exclusively, people experiencing homelessness in the Mission district. If there's a difference it is because that's who's been in the Mission district.

Del Seymour: Are you comfortable with that?

Jeff Kositsky: I always want to look at a system wide level how we are doing. I think we tend to get obsessed with particular programs or particular parts of the system and I think what's important is we look systematically what makes sense. I think some programs are going to be more culturally appropriate for certain populations, and that's okay, they're going to gravitate towards those programs. Certainly we want every program to be able to serve everyone, but I think we need to look at this at a system wide level.

We have over 2,300 beds in our temporary shelter system. Navigation Centers make up perhaps 12% of that system. I don't anticipate that that's going to grow significantly either. Just want to point out that what may happen in a 125 bed facility could be very problematic and could be an indicator of a bigger problem, but I think we need to look systematically at what's happening. I don't see, fortunately, Huge disparities or any disparities in terms of how we're serving the homeless population.

Del Seymour: Okay, just wanted to know. The other people, including me, are looking at it non-systematically but as reasons why this certain of the homeless population encampment areas are being served exclusively. At the end of the day it eliminates the African Americans who are being provided with the same services that are provided by Navigation Centers and that's how people are looking at it.

Jeff Kositsky: That is I think a good point, in terms of where are these sites getting located and who is running these sites is going to drive this issue. I think the issue of geographic equity is an important one, in terms of where our services are located. We did last year an analysis of the un-sheltered homeless population by district, versus the number of shelter beds available in that district. We're actually updating that right now, I think it will be worth bringing that back to you when it's updated to take a look at that.

It's always good to hear these individual concerns, just reminds us to keep looking at the systematic level to make sure we don't unintentionally tip the balance one way or the other.

Del Seymour: I didn't say anyone is not intentionally doing this. I know that your department isn't, but we need to take a look at this.

Jeff Kositsky: That's also a really good point, in terms of the decisions about what encampments we choose to resolve, I will tell you-- we can go look at the list right now and see which supervisorial district or which neighborhoods we're in, because- you're right, that will change the demographic of who we're serving and create a situation of inequity, which we're trying not to do.

Unfortunately this report is actually not up to date because the last two encampments that we addressed were actually in the Bay View, but I think what we can do next time, Charles, is we should add a column to this report, that at least says the supervisorial district that they're in so that we can make sure that we are balancing.

Del Seymour: Do we have any other questions from any other board member?

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Jeff Kositsky: Thank for you that question. Not for the a Thousand Person project, but overall to have a better homelessness response system.

Honestly, the whole challenge here is finding this balance between investing in housing versus investing in shelter. How long you let people stay in the Nav Centers or the shelters, is an issue as well. Our approach has been to try to find the right balance because we've got obviously not enough -- I think people need to understand we have shelter beds that people can stay at for one night and we have shelter beds that people can stay at for 18 months or longer in our temporary shelter system.

I think that we essentially need enough Navigation Center beds in the system that will allow us to make sure everybody whose prioritized for housing that year is going to get into an Nav Center and be able to stay there until we can find them housing. Then we also need Nav Center beds that help triage situations or encampments and need more shelter beds as well in the conventional shelter system.

Jeff Kositsky: Yes. There is also no information on the family shelter system, on the youth shelter system, on stabilization beds or on transitional housing. I agree. There's a lot of gaps in the data and we are working on -- we'll slowly, as we're rolling out our data systems, we'll slowly be presenting on all of these things. The reason that we have, this data on the adult shelter system is because it uses Changes which is a data system that manages the shelter beds.

Kelley Cutler: My concern there is just because it's talked as another shelter. And so, being within legal shelter system and Navigation Center, I think that's important information that you're getting out there.

Jeff Kositsky: No and it wasn't meant to exclude any particular group or organization. The only groups that are now attending are the groups that are actually involved in the operations of the encampment resolution team because those meetings had gotten quite large and weren't as productive as they could have been. We will be having regular policy meetings that the Local Homeless Coordinating board and anybody else is welcome to attend. I don't have the schedule for that yet. We're essentially trying to follow more a unified command type structure for how we are coordinating better with other departments and having an operations group or policy group, communications group. In this case, a case conferencing group are being stood up. We'll keep you posted as that stuff starts to roll out.

Ralph Payton: Del, I know you were attending those encampment groups, did you find them beneficial to have a LHC representation at those groups?

Del Seymour: I think it was very important that a citizen would have been able to attend that meeting. To keep the fact knowing that we're all doing this thing together. The Coalition of Homelessness, you guys, Department of Public Works, the board of supervisors, we're all working to fight this disease of homelessness together. It is not like we're fighting each other. Sometimes it seems like, this is top secret. We need to just get in this room and close the door. We're all fighting the same disease. There need to be more involvement with each other.

Jeff Kositsky: Well this body is certainly a place where we can have whatever discussion you would like and the public can come and bring their concerns but I would also say, in daily and weekly operations meetings of departments, generally, we don't have -- We are people who are doing the work in those meetings. Deciding which staff person is going to go where and talking about staffing and other related issues typically isn't done.

Andrea Evans: Yes. Thank you. Just following up on that, if we're not able to attend the meetings, is it possible that the statistics that we get are helpful but it doesn't really give a full sense of what is happening, the decisions that are being made and how those decisions are

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being made. Is that something that would be taken up in policy meetings that we would be able to --

Jeff Kositsky: Which types of decisions are you talking about?

Andrea Evans: Any decision that would make a big difference if we were focused on the encampments on the Bay View for example. We're not privy now to those conversations about where you're deciding to go and I understand your reasons for that.

Jeff Kositsky: Yes. That's a policy decision that will be made with a wider audience in attendance. Yes. How those decisions get made is a policy decision. Then, the other issue that is coming up on this is that, we are HIPAA compliant entity and there are certain information that I know people have asked me for that we simply cannot provide, which is like the number of mentally ill people in a particular encampment. Unless given, because the number of people there is so small, we are not able to present that information in a public setting. It's a violation of HIPAA laws. There's other reasons as to why meetings are being kept smaller, is because generally these discussions need to be happening freely.

Del Seymour: What other agencies besides this board that was eliminated from that meeting?

Jeff Kositsky: I don't know who was exactly attending but the only people who are there now are public health, us, public works and the police. So, Caltran, sheriff, fire, MTA, ports, could go to those meetings and it would be a large number of folks.

Kelley Cutler: Do you have any idea how frequently this policy meetings will be held and the next one will be held?

Jeff Kositsky: No, not at this time, but by the next meeting. We just made this change a couple of weeks ago.

When we started there were 256 tents in the Mission District including the encampment under 101 and Cesar Chavez as of Friday, there were 42. I will tell you it's been stuck at 100 for months and months and months. This increased coordination has allowed us to operate in a way that I'm very comfortable with in terms of offering services first.

It just works a lot better when we're all working together. Then, it's just really profoundly helpful just to have public works at the table with us on a regular basis because that's where most of the coordination is now occurring. It's allowing us to help people faster and to ensure that it's being done in a way that I think reflects the city's values.

Kelley Cutler: How do you decide which in encampments?

Jeff Kositsky: To be honest with you, Kelley, we haven't really figured that out yet. Ultimately, needs to be the policy group or at least making the decisions on how we're deciding to do it. The schedule had been set before. Usually, they set like a quarter in advance. We're still going through the already previously scheduled encampments. We haven't quite figured it out how to make decisions moving forward.

Kelley Cutler: Because the transparency I think it's just really important. Because I think with human rights violations taking place. I just think that the accountability these days is really important on the policy on encampment and how the things are going. Like I said in one meeting and then, it's important that they no longer able to access it, is a concern.

Jeff Kositsky: I think you're right in terms of that it's important that we're transparent on how decisions are getting made. We'll certainly make sure that this is happening with the wider audience at a policy committee which I think is the appropriate place to be making these types of decisions

Michael: First of all, I really appreciate the couple of people that just brought up the issue of the encampments because the fundamental issue of homelessness is actually unsheltered

homelessness, street homelessness. There are different types of housing in different decades. In years, they've been defined as homeless. They did not define as homeless.

The definition that lumps people living on the street versus people living in some type of housing is not good to begin with. I appreciate any effort to be able to be more engaged to the stuff that's going on on the street. I know that this is a problem normally between those government departments and the homeless community whether it's a board or whether it's department.

One particular thing and I know I'm running out of time. On the Homeward Bound summary, it would be good to know where these people are coming from.

Mary: Good morning. I've worked with the homeless population for the last almost six years in Western Addition. Looking through this encampment report, I'd like to know why we're not moving up towards the Western Addition. Because walking this morning to here, I came across more African American sleeping on the streets than anybody.

I think the numbers are drastically off. I think that African American population is not being served properly because as you look on the streets, that's the population I see everywhere I walk. Dealing with African Americans and helping them get into shelters, it would be more viable for them as a population to be with the population that understands their needs.

If you put the shelter that's all Latino councilors, all Latino staff, they're not going to understand what the African Americans go through and their needs are. That's what I have found through research that I have done for grants that I've been working on. I think it would be more viable if you start focusing on the population separately because African Americans are not being served.

Participant One: Good morning. I'm currently at the Next Door Shelter and on your waiting list to get an SRO and they sent to me two SRO to look at. I can tell you I would rather stay in the shelter than the place they sent me, it was absolutely horrendous. It was the older hotel on 6th street and it wasn't so much the folks outside. It was; bathroom's horrible, the shower was horrible, the room. I couldn't live there.

I honestly think like you were saying, this is an economic thing where people are homeless. I've college education. We are not going to take that kind of stuff. I don't understand why the city is offering somewhere that is just an unlivable situation as if it was going to be some kind of solution for me. That's it. Thank you.

Jeff Kositsky: There's an email on our website. There's a contact page. Anybody who's got any questions or concerns should initially direct those to that site. We'll make sure it gets to the right person. In the meantime give me your contact info and I'll pass it on to the right staff person.

Del Seymour: I want this woman to be informed about things like this. I don't want her just to come here and bounce around the walls and be forgotten. I want at least some further action. This is the only place we got right now with this level of homelessness going on. I appreciate that when you bring it up. Thank you, ma'am. Sorry..

Martha Ryan: I'm Martha Ryan Homeless Prenatal Program. I find it really important for me to raise the point of pregnant moms that are homeless. We all know that early onset of prenatal care is a predictor on whether a child will graduate from high school. We have to invest more in families with children, young children and pregnant mothers.

Children are born into poverty without any opportunities for exits. They're very few. We know where they going to live. We know where they are going to go to school.

We need to invest more to two generational investments in the mother and the father and the child, the unborn child. I want you to pay attention please and address the issues of homeless pregnant women. We see over 535 women a year not all of them are homeless but they are all at risk of homelessness. We have to do a better job. Thank you.

Jeff Kositsky: I wanted to restate what I said earlier which is, we are opening up a program specifically for that population.

We acknowledge that the problem exists. We actually had a working group which I believe a number of non-profits and folks from DPH participated in and continue look for better ways to serve this population and to agree with everything Martha Ryan said and have reacted.

Del Seymour: There's so many of this population out there. At six o'clock this morning I was on outreach with BART police. We ran across a 94-year-old woman sleeping outside at the Union City BART station. I guess you have to look for over 90's folks shelter. Is that correct?

Jeff Kositsky: Yes and I would just say that if that situation comes up you can and should contact me directly. If you are unable to stay and wait till we can get somebody out there and also to call 311. I can't tell you the number of times citizens have come across situations like that and have reached out to us or contacted me. Due to the connection that the citizens develop with that person, we can help leverage that to the right level of assistance. Please bring those things forward when you see them and we will respond immediately.

Christopher: My name is Christopher. I have been around a long time here I was wrongly accused yesterday. I heard about the meeting this morning and I want to talk to the shelter committee about this. This lady needs to be fired. This place really needs to be shut down. Last night when the rest of my family went in, they were harassed all night long. Flashlights in their face at least three or four times an hour and we don't need that. I was wrongly accused. They said it was on tape, they would not review the tape. I had to call the cops. I had to wait for the cops two hours to come and they talked to the lady. They would not let the cops review the tape. They have video, they would not let them review it. I have the case number in my pocket. I have the officer that took the report.

I need to talk to somebody after this maybe because that was very uncalled for.

Jeff Kositsky: Yes. Just two comments. One is that we are going to be closing that facility down actually and opening up a new-- better facility that's long been a problem and we are currently searching for a new site, but, sir, I also would like to talk to you. If you need to leave early just please come and let me know. Because I would like to hear about your experience, and then--

Ralph Payton: That wouldn't that be fantastic then. I attended the YPAC meeting. It was truly an enlightening experience. Number one, there was over 50 homeless or formerly homeless youth that attended the meeting, and they attend regularly. There's clearly a voice of homeless youth in the city and they express a whole range of concerns, but one concern that really has still stayed with me is a friendlier interaction with law enforcement.

A lot of the youth there shared extraordinarily negative experiences with the law enforcement either in the Haight or on some of our parts, especially Golden Gate park. Interactions with the police officers, interaction even with park rangers that have been extraordinarily negative. I would like if the board is open to this, if we put in an agenda item and have some of those youth share some of their experiences with law enforcers so we can get a broader picture of how our agencies are interacting with our homeless youth in the community and to see if there's just some way that we can help law enforcement and our homeless youth come to a better relationship.

Del Seymour: We need to know who we are, what we can do, what we can't do, our duties, our responsibilities. You get there by word of mouth or whatever I think is right. I don't know. I don't necessarily interpret the rules the way someone else does.

Can we schedule an orientation for some of our newer members? Even myself, I've been here a long time and I'm still not sure where I'm at.

point mobile outreach teams to directly engage families and keep them connected to our services.

Alan Guittirez: We have really heard the feedback about this processes potentially being cumbersome and in January, we already had a successful partnership with staff at the Bayview access point and the San Francisco Homeless Outreach Team in successfully outreaching to a family that was living on the street and being able to go out, engage them, locate them and ensure that they're connected to services.

Moving in to the family shelter section, in order to ensure low-threshold access for high-needs families, the city must allow providers to engage in a trusting relationship with families. For example, to verify street homelessness, a process for self-disclosure on-site at access points similar to homeless verification status must suffice. HSH agrees that access to emergency shelters should be fair and no barrier.

Our verified unsheltered process enables San Francisco Homeless Outreach or Bayview access point mobile outreach teams to directly engage families and thus keeping our families connected to services as they're navigating their homelessness crisis. This verification is not a factor and accessing a supportive housing such as unfunded sites. The next point is, early pregnancy is a critical time for fetus development.

All homeless pregnant women should be considered a priority. DSHS's public position as stated at the 1217 LHC B is that early pregnant women should access single adult shelter system and only be eligible at high-risk for their term. We believe that pregnant homeless women are all high risk and that women will not be given appropriate care in the short pregnancy time when needed under this option.

Given the average weight for stable family shelter is 111 days and the greatest risk of preterm stress related to delivery, we are adamant that a better solution be devised to provide immediate stability and care to homeless pregnant women and we're taking this feedback very seriously. HSH is looking at developing additional resources to assist pregnant women. Jeff mentioned we are moving for plans to launch Jelani House as well as having private women's dorm within the centers that we're opening be very soon.

Additionally, we are trying to convene a working group to further assess service needs for women in early pregnancy. We appreciate this feedback. I think some of the initial thinking behind the prioritization of their trimester or high-risk pregnancy is that we're trying to grapple with our limited inventory and the myriad acuties that are facing- families experiencing homelessness.

How we place people in that limited inventory is incredibly challenging and contentious and we don't want subpopulations of families experiencing homelessness to be left out and we do feel that it's critical to form this group and gather feedback so that the decisions that we're making moving forward our participatory. We look forward to that and we'll provide information to the LHCD board around when those efforts will begin.

The next point is our position is there should be no residency requirements for shelter as shelter is defined in an all human right. The current requirement as defined makes it difficult for families to establish properly and leaves out families to whose children are not in childcare

but who receive San Francisco benefits, who work in San Francisco, received a San Francisco fundage short-term subsidy and have exited the program or otherwise long-term San Francisco residence.

Just to add a little bit of clarification here, we have one of our coordinated entry for adults and families. Meeting is tomorrow, our community meetings, where we'll be discussing our family shelter replacement policy. We invite all members of the court to join us, members and the audience. We do have a draft policy that we are planning to present, to share out and what we're trying to also just navigate is balancing fairness and equity in this and our family coordinated entry system.

We've received a lot of feedback around long-term shelter stayers and people who are- families experiencing homelessness with high acuity needs. For placing families into individual rooms, our recommended policy is that we will place families by their length of time homeless on the street and in congregate shelter so that we don't have issues that we've seen in the past where there are families staying at First Friendship for extensive periods of times, sometimes as long as a year and ensuring that there's flow into our individual rooms.

We also have heard loud and clear that we need to ensure that families with really high acuity needs are being placed into a housing and shelter first. Our housing prioritization assessment for family coordinated entry ensures that families with the highest acuity are not receiving housing or being referred into housing opportunities first. That is our current strategy for trying to hold that tension between being fair and equitable. I'm really eager to hear any questions or feedback that you all have for me now.

Participant: We launched functionality in our ONE system to track attendance at Hamilton Family emergency center and First Friendship so that we are accurately tracking data at those emergency shelters. That data has previously been tracked in spreadsheets that were sent to us and we would have to manually aggregate data. Because we're obviously deeply committed to serving families experiencing homelessness, we found that it was critical launching our coordinated data entry efforts for families that we begin to track this data, so that we can further this effort.

Ralph Payton: I'm super happy to hear that. I know that families we're a little scared leaving First Friendship that they thought it would disrupt that time. I'm happy to hear that. Do we have any other question?

Del Seymour: In this scenario, will be no more penalties for being a part or not being a part of any step in his ladder for homeless as it has been in the past.

That you won't be penalized for being in one shelter while you wait for the whole process. This is what Brad was talking about. That's all been eliminated?

Alan: Related to this last point, our current shelter replacement policy is that we will refer folks into individual rooms based on your accumulative length of homelessness at First friendship and the Hamilton Family Emergency Center and verified sheltered time on the street. Our ONE system functionality, we already have a functioning dashboard that would track that length of time for folks so that there's no possibility for air. That will have all that data in the ONE system.

Del Seymour: You could have uninterrupted time on the streets in the middle of this and still be eligible and not lose your place, is that right?

Alan: San Francisco HOT team and the Bayview Access Point mobile outreach team are going to be working together to respond to families that are experiencing homelessness who are self-reporting that they're on the street. Those teams will go out, engage families, ensure that

they're staying connected to the access points for families and are accessing all the services related through coordinated entry.

We have heard a lot of feedback about this process and we do hear that and I think just to add a bit more context because families experiencing homelessness are incredibly resourceful.

Del Seymour: I've seen it work. We've had people come in and speak before that were homeless with their babies and within the last four months and two of them are housed now in conventional housing. It does work. The people do follow what the department asks them to do, there's an end to the rainbow, it ends.

I didn't believe it at first but once I follow those people, it does work. You are getting people off the streets. I'm definitely not stereotyping but people, including myself, when I was out there, people that get themselves into all the situation homeless usually have some situation or some barriers that is causing them there and the same barriers are still there on the streets trying to get back off the streets, following orders, behaving properly. In any words, I've seen it happen thanks for what you're doing.

Alan: Yes, one of the other -- Thank you for pointing that out. Due to the differences in the amenities and level of support that are available at First Friendship and Hamilton Family Emergency Center, the way that we are counting time at Hamilton and First Friendship varies.

We're counting that the kind of homelessness

The reason why we are counting that has to do with the amenities that are on site and available. Families at First Friendship are staying, sleeping on mats on the floor and families at Hamilton are sleeping on beds. Additionally, we will be referring verified unsheltered families into Hamilton first if there is space. If there is no space available, they will be referred to First Friendship.

Kelley Cutler: I just have one. This is off topic, although, actually related to the topic. Are there any other instances where you'll have the stays weighted differently?

Alan Guittierez: We haven't made any decisions like that for coordinated entry yet. We will continue to keep you posted if we begin to consider those, but right now those are not being considered.

Participant: You mentioned Jelani House and a separate facility?

Do you mean to say that those two new places will be able to accommodate the demand for pregnant and the homeless and not, are we still in this puzzle of trying to make sure that women in first term and second term are being given adequate access to the care and services?

Alan Guittierez: We are going to continue to need to be paying very close attention to this issue. We do not want to see any women experiencing homelessness giving birth on the street and we need to ensure that we're engaged in a really thoughtful process with community stakeholders around early term care. It's hard for me to make a call about if this new capacity will meet the need, but I think it also connects to the broader system conversation that we were just having around family coordinated entry.

There are efforts in working a partnership with Eric in the central city access point and our great coordinated entry team at HSH, we've been working to stand up a family coordinated entry. I do anticipate continuing to see more families exiting homelessness and ending our homelessness crisis. I am optimistic that due to that increase in flow of folks that there will be more space for women in early term pregnancy to access our system for families.

Del Seymour: I have a question. Ms. Ryan brought up a very hurtful point about more needs to be done. Is there any thought of what specific resources or services would look like to help enhance the needs for pregnant homeless clients as well as families?

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Alan Guittirez: That's something that we didn't discuss in this committee. Having additional support for early term pregnancy, having the right support services on site in our congregate shelters is something that we need to be discussing internally to ensure that women in early term pregnancy are getting the right support that they need to navigate medical systems prior to giving birth. We're definitely thinking about services that are needed for women who are pregnant as well as all families experiencing homelessness who are accessing our homelessness response system. I'm definitely taking feedback in.

Participant: When we say early term, we're talking first trimester. We're not looking at having any requirements around how long they've been pregnant.

Alan Guittirez: I think there's this really a serious concern came from our previous policy decision to be only -- Our policy issue related to third trimester and high-risk pregnancy and that not being a sufficient approach to serve women who are pregnant. We're looking at early terms so that really just means all pregnant women.

Participant: I have a question about the Jelani House. How many beds will there be to accommodate at risk or pregnant women?

Jeff: There are 17 beds or there are 17 rooms that could serve up to 25 folks. As far as the percentages, I don't have that data off the top of my head.

Malea Chavez: Sorry, I'm Malea Chavez. I'm the Deputy Director from Homeless Prenatal Program. I will leave the pregnancy question for Martha to hopefully follow up about. I know we lost a lot of that voice when Laura left and I understand that- I really love the composition of the new board, but we'd love to see how that's incorporated. That's for the response A. For letter B, how do the doubled-up families get accessed and how are they tracked if they never actually make it into the one system? That's the question I have. Even if they don't trigger that assessment piece, how are we keeping track of how many people are coming in, identifying, trying to get on the radar? Maybe later we'll have an issue. That would be wonderful.

Then, to the last point for C, how does this equity approach fit into the prioritization for rapid rehousing? I know for our housing plus program, the referral process had been prioritized for unsheltered families. I'm just curious now how this will be affected if we're talking about prioritizing or considering people who have been in the congregate shelter setting versus just unsheltered. Thank you.

Jennifer: Jennifer Friedenbach, Coalition on Homelessness. I just want to go back a little bit. We were recommending that there be streets and congregate shelter days all be equal to address this issue of incentivizing families to stay on the streets in order to get more priority for getting into the stable shelter beds. That was the point. If we're going to let people stay at Hamilton Emergency until the beds- the long-term private beds are available and we're giving them less credit for that, that means they're going to be there for a very long period of time, which is -- I know it's a nicer accommodation, et cetera.

It's basically going to fill up and it's not going to be accessible. Then, we're going back to the other piece. If we're requiring people to be HOT verified that are unsheltered or verified by Bayview Mobile, and that's the only way to get verified and they can't find you and you're constantly moving and you're constantly moving and you're scared of CPS and you're trying to stay away from the police, the sweeps and et cetera, you could be out on the streets for really extensive periods of time.

By the time the HOT team verifies you, none of that time before is going to count.

The other pieces around the residency requirement continues to be an issue. Shelter is a fundamental human right. We really have this problem for folks who are members of displaced communities, for folks who are San Francisco residents that can demonstrate their San Francisco residence, but they have some options out of town. First Friendship is not an ideal situation for our families. We got to be child-centered here.

If it's best for the child or say, for someone else, then let's let them do it and not have them punished for that and fall back and be ineligible for stable shelter because they're not going to be able to stay there in forever. Pregnancy is still not addressed. Let's just address it and include it in the policy. There's not going to be enough space in Jelani. Thank you.

Del Seymour: I agree with some of those things that -- I was already being miserable out on the damn streets and you got to complicate it by trying to wait and being heard by HOT team member. It's easier to talk about that stuff when you sit in these nice air-conditioned rooms downstairs in this building, but that it's not the way. It's out there, man. We're trying to find a HOT team and be in the right place or the wrong place. You're hiding from immigration. You're hiding from CPS. You're hiding from an abusive husband. It doesn't work like that out there. That's why is important to have people in these environments and have experience being under that freeway because you know those things don't work.

Miguel: My name is Miguel Carrera. I work in the Coalition on Homelessness. I'm working with the families. I always asking this question to myself as many times. What is the meaning of coordinated entry? What kind of solution, real solutions, coordinated entry has for all the homeless people in San Francisco, specifically for families which I work?

We have 23,000 homeless children in San Francisco school district. I'm sorry to repeat again and again. I want to bring it again as many times I can when we put in every single one in housing. We can fit 25 buses with all the number of children. We have to invest in homelessness. We have to invest and resolve these issues.

We're talking about from everywhere, from every direction and we're saying we want to resolve homelessness issues. We plan, we create this plan, the 10GF plan and nothing happen. What happens now? What is next? I would like to hear from coordinated entry what is the main goal to ending the homelessness? What is the main goal to place and clear housing for all homeless families and all homeless people in San Francisco? Thank you.

Martha: Hello, again. I'm Martha Ryan, Homeless Prenatal Program and I will answer some of the pregnancy questions that have been brought up and thank you for raising them because this is a critical issue here in the city. Rather than having tunnel vision and just working on your issue, partnering with the other needs that families have. They need jobs. They need housing. Yes, of course, they need housing, but they need jobs and we have to partner with people who are going to offer job training and with those people out there that are getting a huge tax break to provide jobs for the families that we're serving.

Childcare. Moms and dads need child care in order to be able to go to work and to pay for their kids. If we want our kids to be born healthy with the same potential as every other kid in the city, we have to be able to let them in and give them that support. Anyway, [laughs] I would say that it's so important that in these congregate settings that they not wait to 28 weeks, because I guarantee you that is too late. That we really have to pay attention to the needs of these women and their unborn children. They are our future.

Ralph Payton: Thank you, Martha. There's so much of what you said that I agree with. Del and I have been talking about living wage employment and the importance of living wage employment for our families in order to get out of the cycle of poverty

Devra Edelman: Good afternoon. Devra Edelman, Director of Programs for Hamilton Families. First of all, I want to state that we've been working pretty closely with HSH to look at this new policy to place families in congregate that is at Hamilton. I want to thank those at HSH with whom we've been working with in really looking at this with us. I also want to state that in order to ensure that this roll out is done in a thorough and thoughtful way we need to take our time.

We're changing a system where families call in on a day-to-day basis to a system where they will be assigned to beds through the Coordinated Entry system.

A large piece, also, is really looking at exits. I fully support getting rid of the length of stay in congregate beds. Right now we're seeing families stay for 60 days and then we tell them they need to exit for seven days and then come back. They're going right back to the beginning. It's not working. We do need to end that length of stay. We also along with that need to look at additional case management and mental health services in that setting to support families with exiting to housing. We need to look at the Rapid Rehousing Assessment and Referral Process, because we're not seeing referrals happen right now. That needs to improve, families need to be referred to Rapid Rehousing and exit from congregate shelter. They need it. Thank you.

Ralph Payton: Thank you, Devra. I think you brought up really great points. Something that we haven't heard today is mental health support. At least we know that funding under federal and the state level has decreased dramatically rather than help for last several years. It's family wellness. Mental health support for our children. Mental health support for our parents. It's essential, again, to getting back on the road to self-sufficiency and being independent both economically and psychologically.

Del Seymour: Just receiving a number of points that have been made. Also, I appreciate the challenge here, because there is significant pressure to show results, and typically when a problem becomes too large, in order to show results the tendency is to try to make the problem seem smaller than it is.

As an African-American male who was formally homeless, slept in the shelter or run the shelter, and now runs an organization that runs a shelter, I can tell you that shelter should be viewed as a fundamental human right. We ought to have as few barriers as possible to get people inside and I would reiterate the recommendation that just equalize everyone who is on the street. Just to restate a number of whatever folks have said about homeless women on the street. If you're homeless and you're pregnant, that's high risk. Period. We don't need to have any discussion beyond that. Thanks.

Lana Molly: Hi. Thank you so much board for listening today. I'm here because Coordinated Entry for families wasn't rolled out that long ago and we're about to experience a huge change in terms of how we place families into shelter. We just wish that the community has solicited for input before this new process was drafted.

We do have some concerns with it and we hope that HSH will put forward a vehicle for inviting the community to speak on that before the policy gets rolled out. It would be a big change for families who are already dealing with the changes the Coordinated Entry has put upon them.

Angela: Hello. My name is Angela. I am a Clinical Case Manager at the Homeless Prenatal Program and I am the Coordinator of the Pregnancy Assistant Temporary and Housing Program called PATH. I have a question about the change in the prioritization policy for individual room shelter. My question is the prioritization policy takes away from the point system that we have now that places families based on vulnerability in different areas, such as children under two or pregnancy or mental health conditions.

If we take that away and limit only the length of time homeless then how are we going to address, as a system, the emergency situation such as a mom who gives birth and is homeless with her baby and other issues that may not be suitable for congregate settings?

A brand-new baby obviously cannot be in and out on the floor or other medical or mental health conditions that do not allow that mom to access congregate shelter.

Then also I wanted to address if a pregnant mom presents at an emergency shelter such as First Friendship or Hamilton, will they be able to access those shelters early term pregnancy or do they need to wait until they're 10 months pregnant to even access those services?

Alan: I first just want to say thank you to everybody who shared concerns. I just want to say I'm very grateful to be in dialog with all of you and I can see that from the Coordinated Entry team that we have been just really invested and trying to have the policy that is I think, again, what I mentioned earlier that is both fair and equitable. We are trying to bulldoze any policies that will cause undue stress on families.

Families that are doubled-up can present at an access point and will experience the same menu of services that are available. To my earlier point, we do refer folks into housing opportunities based on the acuity of their needs. I think that's what our assessment tool is designed to do. It's to refer folks who have the most acuity needs into housing opportunities.

I definitely heard a lot of feedback around how we're counting the time at Hamilton and First Friendship. Part of what we're trying to also address in the way that we're counting the time differently is that we're seeing families getting stuck at First Friendship for extensive periods of times when we're only referring based on the point system. What that has led to is that families who have fewer acuity needs, they're getting stuck at First Friendship with no viable path into a different housing and to either individual room shelter or into a housing opportunity. I think that is also a subset of families experiencing homelessness that we can't forget and that we need to create a strategy to ensure that those families are also being able to be referred to housing opportunities.

There's a lot of feedback around our verified unsheltered process. I think I will take that back to the Coordinated Entry team for further discussion. Like I said earlier we're going to be having our LHCB, our community meeting tomorrow at 09:30 here at City Hall. We could have some discussion there as well. We do not want our San Francisco Homelessness Response System to be inaccessible, and as I mentioned we did have success with the Bayview Access Point and the HOT Team conducting outreach to families. I think whenever we add any new step to how people are engaging our Homelessness Response System, that there's very rightful concern that it's just going to become a barrier. We do not want to create barriers to anybody accessing our San Francisco Homelessness Response System.

There was a question about what kind of solutions does the Coordinated Entry have for families in ending homelessness. Coordinated Entry alone will not end homelessness in San Francisco. What Coordinated Entry is going to do is change the way that we as a city and a department are referring folks into housing based on the acuity of their needs.

There's some really astute comments about how we as a department need to be in conversation so that families and adults who are experiencing homelessness start getting the workforce development and support and childcare support that they need in order to exit homelessness. I completely agree with that.

I also really appreciate Devra's remarks around ensuring that we need to do this in a slow manner so that we're not abruptly changing the way families are being referred into individual room shelter. Obviously, first impact families, and we do not want to cause additional stress and

chaos in families' lives. A key part of this will be to provide messaging and information to families so that they can anticipate the shifts that will occur.

Alan: That is where we were trying to go with this policy. I think, again, it goes back to the point that I was making earlier about how do we need both fair and equitable. I think we've been really trying to grapple with that as a department, because we hear feedback around people who can't move beyond a congregate shelter setting and then we hear a significant amount of feedback around-- I agree that when there is a family that is experiencing an acute medical or behavioral or health crisis, or someone who is about to have a baby, that we need to respond. I think another part of this is we need to discuss what is the mechanism through which that we will ensure that if there's a crisis that's being reported to either one of our access points or to one of the service providers who are here today that we can figure out and troubleshoot how to ensure that folks are being referred. I think we do need to have a conversation again. I think the community tomorrow is the space for us to have that conversation.

Ralph Payton: The San Francisco residence point that Jenny mentioned around children or when a family is staying outside of San Francisco because they have another viable housing option. What we're trying to grapple with the complexities and the challenges related to our housing inventory and I personally do not like how we get stuck in this scarcity place. If we had more exits to offer families I think we would be able to be more flexible. I think if there was more inventory available I think we can be more flexible.

I do not have the answer around how to respond to this issue, because there's already more San Francisco families experiencing homelessness than we have housing for. I fundamentally agree that because of gentrification in the city that there have been families who have been gentrified out of this city and are staying with family members in other counties, because that's the only option that they have. Congregate shelter is not a viable option for them.

These decisions are very challenging to make and we don't want families who are native San Franciscans to be pushed out and forced out. We don't want to see that. Those are the main responses that I have here and I'm happy to provide further responses if anybody who made comments wants additional clarity. I tried to write down everything that was said.

Ralph Payton: I don't think you really appreciate the urgency that Jenny is bringing to this and you're not trying to make any decisions without a thoughtful dialog and process. Our commitment to hearing feedback from the community and providers, I just want to be really clear that that's something that we're deeply invested in as the Coordinated Entry team.

Aln: We're not looking at any policy changes within the next month?

Participant: We have our committee tomorrow that we're hoping to get some important feedback and I like to be optimistic that we can work together, because there's a lot of really incredible thinkers here in this room and I think that we can potentially come up with some solutions right away and it's not intended to be an abrupt shift. We think we want to notify the families as well.

Leslie Bilbo: I'd just like to provide a little more context. Leslie Bilbo. Department of Home Assistance Support Housing Coordinating Program Manager.

That was the initial dialog. I would say a month a month-and-a-half later in October we expanded the conversation. We expanded the conversation to include HBP. We expanded the conversation to include Deborah Collin and we really had a healthy conversation around, "Not only this is what we want to do in terms of shelter placement," but we also had a robust conversation around the issue of pregnancy, the issue of high risk.

Because Coordinated Entry was launching in October, we did put a pin in the conversation around high risk in pregnancy committing to get back to it. What you heard today is we're moving forward with that commitment to get back to the conversation around how we manage the system that is limited on resources that essentially you've heard in this room before, we're essentially pitting families against each other because of how we prioritize them.

We're getting back to that. In addition to that we're continuing the shelter placement policy discussion, which is tomorrow. We did have good feedback, as you've heard Devra say, that it is critical that we inform the community about this process change because it is a huge process change.

We at HSH are trying to balance the fact that we do have a huge policy discussion on the table right now with managing the fact that the longer we wait to implement something, as Jenny said we are affecting families. We have made a huge effort to be transparent around what it is we're doing as we lay not only to Coordinated Entry but the various populations that are impacted by our policy decisions.

We were hoping to have a low risk discussion so that we could put the policy in place around shelter placement, because the longer we wait we do impact families. This time has allowed us to capture families and shelters in such a way that you can count for a length of stay in homelessness. Will we continue the conversation tomorrow? Absolutely. I think we're having this conversation with everyone coming to the table in good faith, really seeking solutions that can we solve these outstanding issues That's where we are on the process. We are hoping to resolve this as quickly as possible.

Mary Rivers: Mary Rivers again. I'm actually bringing a question to the board from Pat Scott who is the Executive Director at Booker T Washington Community Service Center. They are running into issues where there is no city requirement of anything that they have to fulfill in order to stay there. They do not have to meet with the case manager. They do not have to actively seek employment. They do not have to have to actively seek other full housing. Their issue is they're wondering what can they do, because it's not allowing for more to come into the facility, because they can stay there pretty much indefinitely. This is getting to be an issue and they're addressing it with the city, but this is also going to be an issue that you will probably address at some point.

Thank you.

Martha Ryan: Hi, Martha Ryan again from Homeless Prenatal Program. Thank you, Alan, for addressing the questions on two things. One, for the doubled-up and families and those living in SRO's. I will never let go of that one. That one is near and dear to my heart, because I understand and had experienced that kind of homelessness as a child and do think it's impactful. We talk about going upstream, that is, in fact, an opportunity.

Again, we didn't really get an answer to the question. For me, it's more about, "How are we keeping track of all the families that are coming in and even going through the initial problem solving or before getting the assessment." If they're not being recorded, how are we tracking them? To Joe's point earlier it makes the problem look really small even though we know it's really big. I want to keep that out there on the radar.

Number two is, while I really do appreciate, and want to come at this from a very positive approach, I'm looking forward to having a dialog. Hopefully someone from HPP can make it to the meeting tomorrow morning. It has not felt like that. It's the forum for having this kind of back and forth conversation with an opportunity to actually get this kind of feedback. The fact that several people for different providers who attend those meetings regularly hear now

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saying, "Hey, please help us stop this, because it's going in a direction that none of us agree with," should speak volumes to the fact that it hasn't felt like that of a dialog.

Ralph Payton: Great. Excellent. If we don't have any more public comments that adjourns this meeting.