Homelessness Oversight Commission

Presentation to Local Homelessness Coordinating Board
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Presented by: Courtney McDonald
Legislative Aide to Matt Haney
Why are we here?

1. We’re in a crisis
2. We need to serve more people, more quickly
3. We need more accountability
Why are we here?

4. We need to work together

5. Government's duty is to serve the public, reaching its decisions in full view of the public.
Drafted in partnership with:

HESPA
Our City, Our Home Coalition
LHCB Members
Supervisors Ronen, Walton, Peskin
How the system works now
How it should be
Objectives

1. Streamlined and coordinated support for those currently or formerly experiencing homelessness
2. Accountable and informed decision-making, including public input and policy setting
3. Transparent budgeting and spending—a problem identified by the Mayor, advocates, and homeless individuals

“The City needs to audit the $300+ million we are already spending on homelessness. San Franciscans deserve accountability for the money they are already paying.” -Mayor London Breed
How do we accomplish that?
Our Proposal: Oversight Commission

Currently ~25 Commissions for nearly every City Department

- Human Rights Commission
- Fire Commission
- Fire Commission
- Health Commission
- Human Services Commission
- Public Utilities Commission
- Recreation and Park Commission
- Port Commission
- Airport Commission
- Entertainment Commission
- Commission on the Environment
- Commission on the Status of Women
- Planning Commission
- Building Inspection Commission
- Youth Commission
- Small Business Commission
- Historic Preservation Commission
- Arts Commission
- Children and Families First Commission
- Elections Commission
- Ethics Commission
- Juvenile Probation Commission
- Library Commission
- Aging and Adult Services Commission
What is a commission?

Commissions have the chartered, formal authority to:

1. Formulate, evaluate and **approve** policies, goals, objectives, plans and programs

2. **Approve** applicable departmental budgets or any budget modifications or fund transfers requiring the approval of the Board of Supervisors (subject to the Mayor's final authority)

3. Hold public meetings and hearings, and take testimony

4. Make recommendations to the Mayor or the Board of Supervisors.

5. Conduct investigations into governmental operations

6. Develop and keep current an Annual Statement of Purpose outlining its areas of jurisdiction, authorities, purpose and goals
What does that mean in practice?

1. Streamline and coordinate existing HSH advisory structure

2. Fill gaps in current advisory structure: create a clear public venue for members of the public, people experiencing homelessness, experts, and advocates to comment on proposed policy and budgetary changes for HSH

3. Create a clear process for approval of policies

4. Create stronger policies without delay: independent experts can set timelines, goals, and investigate delays
What does that mean in practice?

5. Independent experts will **review and approve HSH budget**, providing additional accountability

6. Provide formal feedback and input to the HSH Director

7. Create **more buy-in** by bringing together diverse stakeholders, supporting implementation of new policy directives
LHCB’s Role

LHCB will continue to play a critical role as the governing entity of SF’s Continuum of Care

1. Sharpening role to re-focus on fulfilling federal mandate:
   • Oversee HUD’s McKinney process
     • Approving project review process, reviewing and approving applications and CoC ranked funding list
   • Develop, monitor and update the 5-year CoC Plan
   • Develop, monitor and update HMIS (ONE System)
   • Provide Training and Technical Assistance to recipient programs
LHCB’s Role

2. LHCB members will continue to decide committee structure

3. Relationship with Commission
   • maintains final authority
   • hold final authority over McKinney process
   • provide guidance and education on the CoC Plan and scoring criteria
   • make recommendations
   • shifted appointment authority
Examples of other commissions

The Commission on the Environment sets policy for the Department of the Environment and advises the mayor and Board of Supervisors on environmental issues. The seven member commission develops environmental policies and programs.

The San Francisco Elections Commission oversees all public elections in San Francisco. It sets general policies for the Department of Elections and is responsible for the proper administration of its general practices. These duties include but are not limited to approving written plans prior to each election, submitted by the Director of Elections, detailing the policies, procedures, and personnel that will be used to conduct the election, as well as an assessment of how well the plan succeeded in carrying out a free, fair and functional election.

As the governing and policy-making body of the Department of Public Health, the San Francisco Health Commission is mandated by City & County Charter to manage and control the City and County hospitals, to monitor and regulate emergency medical services, and all matters pertaining to the preservation, promotion and protection of the lives, health and mental health of San Francisco residents.
Case Study: Public Utilities Commission

**Role:** to provide operational oversight in areas such as rates and charges for services, approval of contracts, and organizational policy

**Advised By:**
1. Citizens' Advisory Committee + its subcommittees
2. Rate Fairness Board
3. Revenue Bond Oversight Committee
Case Study: Police Commission

In partnership with SFPD and stakeholders, the Commission:

• improved the Police Department’s response to violence against women and children
• expanded the use technology to solve crime
• reformed the City’s use of force policy
• instituted body-worn cameras to increase transparency
• improved police-community relations
Appointments

Shared governance:

3 seats appointed by the Mayor
3 seats appointed by the BOS
1 seat appointed by the Controller
FAQ

Feedback that’s been incorporated:
Consistency with Shelter Crisis Ordinance
Committee reporting structure
Appointment structure

Potential Changes at request of the Mayor’s Office:
Remove ability to approve opening of shelters/ Navigation Centers
Remove ability to define eligibility criteria
Next Steps

Board of Supervisors Rules Committee
Full Board of Supervisors vote
November ballot
New Homelessness Oversight Commission!
Questions and feedback?