

Draft Minutes January 7, 2019

Ralph Payton: Good morning everybody and happy New Year. Welcome to our Monday, January, 2019 meeting of the LHCBC. Thank you all for making it here today. So first thing on the agenda is to review the minutes from the December's meeting so we'll take a few minutes for that.

Motion on the Minutes

Sophia Isom: Second.

James Loyce: Second.

All in favor?

Unanimous approval from the Board

Ralph Payton: Excellent. December minutes have been approved. All right. The next item on the agenda is a celebration. I'd like to invite representatives from the Mission Neighborhood Resource Center Episcopal Community Services and the Interfaith Council. I want to read, this is a certificate of honor acknowledging the work that you have done from Mayor Breed.

I am pleased to recognize and honor this instrumental work in helping to launch the city's first navigation center in mission, your tireless efforts to advocate for civil rights, individuals struggling with homelessness, and housing affordability is truly commendable. By providing residents at the Navigation Center with the safe space, essential resources, and housing opportunities, you have helped nearly 1,500 people to leave the streets of San Francisco. I want to thank you all for the amazing work that you've done and again, this is a national model that you guys have established moving forward.

Emily Cohen: Hi everyone. Good morning. On behalf of the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the team that really launched the first navigation center in San Francisco. You started a movement to low threshold shelter. We've all been learning together throughout this process and we've stumbled and we've picked ourselves up and we've achieved beautiful things in partnership with our clients, in partnership with folks living on the street and I mean, just want to extend my deep appreciation. We continue to learn together and work together to make positive impacts in partnership with the people that we serve. So thank you all very, very much, and congratulations.

Ralph Payton: Again, I want to thank these three organizations for the amazing work they're doing and continue to do and really look forward to more incredible work in the future. Thank you, guys. .

Hugo Ramirez with the Mayor's Office of Housing and Community Development. I'll be presenting on MOHCD's strategic planning process and most importantly the community engagement process, the timeline of strategic planning process and an invitation to the local homeless coordinating board to co-host with the mayor's office of housing community development of focus group on February the 20th

There's six strategic plans that we're really doing this community engagement process for. Many local governments - and San Francisco is no exception - really tend to need access community to input and we are recognizing that, we've really done our best to collaborate with the department of planning as well as

the office of economic and workforce development to really take advantage of these engagement opportunities with different stakeholders to respect our stakeholder's time and to bring together to the maximum extent possible all of that reached input that service providers, other community-based organizations and San Francisco providers provide as input to these plans.

So I'll start with the MOHCD primary plan, which is called the Consolidated Plan. The MOHCD plan identifies affordable housing and community development needs. It serves as a road map, in terms of our funding priorities moving forward. Similarly, the MOHCD HIV housing plan focuses on housing-related programs for people living with HIV. And MOHCD analysis of impediments to fair housing choice looks at fair housing issues and how that could be addressed.

And that strategy will provide a comprehensive analysis in tools for city and other decision makers as well as our community-based organizations, in order to make strategic decisions to stabilize our vulnerable communities as San Francisco undergoes dramatic changes. And also the planning departments housing affordability strategy, which provides a framework to the alleyway how out housing policies and clients work together to address housing affordability for a diverse population.

And finally the office of economic and workforce developments - workforce strategy framework - identifies workforce development needs and priorities and informs the workforce local and regional plan.

So this process really represents the breath in-depth of engagement with as many San Francisco stakeholders as possible to gather a really invaluable input and, as you'll see, feedback as we develop these impeccable strategies. And specifically around the area of affordable housing and other community development aids, this engagement is really focused on low-income and vulnerable populations and, as you can imagine, individuals and families experiencing homelessness, those who had experienced homelessness, those who are at risk of experiencing homelessness I think have a perhaps the most invaluable perspective to offer.

The stakeholder input will inform the development of these impactful strategies through policy and the allocation of resources. The methods include focus groups, which is really what today's invitation is about. Key informant interviews as those on the board and, frankly, those in the audience really are subject matter experts for many of the issues that these plans will speak to. And so we just recently kicked off this community engagement process, and hope to schedule some time to sit down with you and other subject matter experts to provide, again, this input and feedback on these issues. The integration of recently established strategic finance. All city departments, all community-based organizations have strategic plans that a lot of time and effort and art has gone into.

Community forms. You know that a lot of our stakeholders kind of prefer that kind of town hall kind of forum. And finally, online and paper surveys. I really encourage you and members of the public to stay engaged at our website. Questions, again, we're building in a feedback loop where it's not only, kind of, listening this input, but also providing you an opportunity to respond to these impactful strategies, making sure that we heard our key stakeholders correctly.

So having an opportunity to reform those strategies and also refine them if we didn't quite get them right. And again, the website is available at MOHCD website.

Alright. Here's a timeline. As you can see, we just kicked off the community engagement process which is mostly in green. In fact, just last week, Friday, we convened a key eviction prevention and tentative powerment stakeholders so ten advocates, ten organizers, ten attorneys, housing counselors in this focus group. 17 questions. I provided it to Charles so that you could, before you commit to anything, you could see exactly what the questions are and as you can see they're pretty broad but meaningful questions and there's even an opportunity to offer additional questions or additional input that wasn't covered. And frankly, if this is co-hosted by the local homeless coordinating board, we would certainly welcome any additional ideas you would have because we're really asking you to convene your stakeholders to ensure that that perspective is reflected in our planning processes, which again, have policy implications and have resource allocation at locations.

Similarly, your stakeholders, for example, community-based organizations are welcome also. It's kind of a train to trainer opportunity where you participate in this focus group. You understand what it entails, and we would invite, for example, a CPO that serves the transitional age youth to maybe convene a focus group. So we get that perspective. I included in slides upcoming community forums. We have on the 16th and the Excelsior at Balboa High School a community forum on the 22nd at the Kelly Forum Community. And on the 31st at the Fillmore Heritage Center. Again, more information is on that website.

Ralph Payton: I agree with you, this is a very important process. When was the last time MOHCD went through a strategic planning process?

Hugo Ramirez: Well, it was five years ago. The consolidated plan is a HUD prescribed plan. We're all very familiar with them in this room. But we at San Francisco really take that opportunity to really include all of our investments, all of our strategies, all of our priorities, and frankly similar to HSH, the federal investment in our strategies really represents a but a smaller percentage that are locally funded investments.

Similarly, the analysis of impediments has that same kind of time frame, and you may have read that this current federal administration is really rolling back a lot of the work that the previous administration had carried out as it relates to fair housing, and desegregation, and those really important issues. So it's still called an AI for us, but we have adopted the more progressive and efficiency kind of a more all-encompassing framework. So to answer your question Ralph, those are five-year plans. And in fact, I remember I was new to the city about five years ago, I was at a local homeless coordinating board meeting, and I remember we are carrying out a more robust process now where we are inviting stakeholders.

Sophia Isom: I noticed RDA is listed here, is that the consultant firm that's involved with this process?

Hugo Ramirez: I provided the board with kind of a facilitation guide for this focus group. It was developed in consultation with RDA, which is a consultancy or consultant firm. We had hired RDA to provide us with some kind of contextual data and help us develop that community engagement strategy, but that's what was very much and always is.

Public comment

Vote on whether to co-host the MOHCD strategic framework focus group

All in favor?

Unanimous-Aye

Any oppose?

Emily Cohen: Just one second. Good morning board members. Good morning everyone. As Ralph mentioned, Jeff is unable to be here today so I will be giving the presentation on his behalf and hopefully able to answer your questions, and what I can't answer I will bring back to the department. So I have our standard data package for your review this morning starting with our total exits from homelessness. This is fiscal year to date and as you can see here, we have exited 826 people from homelessness and this is 33.6% of our annual goal to date. That's through our variety of housing and problem-solving strategies.

<http://hsh.sfgov.org/lhcb/>

Ralph Payton: Are we about halfway through the fiscal year or?

Emily Cohen: We are 42% of the way through the fiscal year. And remember this data is through November. So slightly off in terms of our standard reporting schedule.

Ralph Payton: And that 42% is through November?

Brenda Jewett: Okay. so a couple of my questions-- one of them is about the emergency shelters. I was walking around this morning yesterday - it was so inclement - and I saw all the guys I usually see, but they were shuttered up in storefronts. How are you communicating that information to these guys and women and families, and what's the transportation option?

Emily Cohen: So the majority of the outreach, when we do expand shelter, is word of mouth from the homeless outreach team and the drop-in centers. So we get an alert out via email to the managers of our shelters, drop-in centers, resource centers, access points, and of course, the homeless outreach team so that everyone is on high alert to let the clients know that we will have expanded shelter opportunities available. We do have limited shelter transportation that's provided from MSC South. So at that drop-in center, I think they primarily go out to Providence, but we can make-- and the HOT team can also provide transportation. So if someone is outside, the HOT team who is referring them into shelter, they are able to provide transport.

Brenda Jewett: A follow-up to that. And I keep seeing that Providence has sort of uncomfortable occupancy rate. And I've been here a couple years and I just wonder, how is that being addressed?

Emily Cohen: Providence does have a lower occupancy rate than some of the other shelters. I think this is in part due to location. They have a very late check-in time because the church has an alternative use during the day. So this is part of the work that we're doing around outreach and transportation certainly as well as working to bring on an additional shelter that can be more 24-hour because we know that that will be more attractive to folks.

Brenda Jewett: And that's in the pipeline?

Emily Cohen: That is something that we have been working on and continue to work on, yeah.

Ralph Payton: So that was a question that I was going to bring up as well. So you're talking about another emergency shelter for families, correct?

Emily Cohen: It would be a replacement shelter.

Ralph Payton: So a replacement for First Friendship. That's what we're talking about.

Emily Cohen: Well, we were talking about Providence, the adult shelter.

Ralph Payton: But also First Friendship? Is that in the midst as well?

Megan Owens: I'm the Coordinated Entry Manager at HSH. I am not our real estate team or our shelter team lead, but I think I can offer some insight here. HSH has solicited using a request for information process for more sites that we can use for both navigation centers and shelters. What this solicitation is intended to do is to identify sites generally that can be used as navigation centers and to replace both Providence shelter locations.

So Providence has very gracefully operated two shelters at locations that are churches, full-time operating churches. Neither of those locations are ideal because of the alternative uses during the day. One of those shelters is for families. It is at 501 Steiner Street, and it is called First Friendship. One of those shelters, I believe, is at 2403 McKinnon, what I mean is the Providence shelter in the Bayview. Both of those sites need to be replaced. It's confusing for some folks who are involved in local advocacy because some groups are very educated, excuse me, about adults. Some folks are very activated about families. We need help on both.

If board members, members of the community, or members of your networks have good ideas for sites anywhere in the city, please encourage the site owner or some other party that could help with site control to respond to our RFI. We need sites in both areas.

Del Seymour: Is HSH aggressively pursuing opportunities out of the avenues as well as district 6 and district 8.

Megan Owens: Yes. The city is interested insights that could be serving as navigation centers, drop-in centers, or shelters throughout the city. We also know that we need to replace our family shelter currently in the western addition in our sheltered from both families and adults while the Providence Shelter mostly serves adults every night, they also serve families and they serve at least one family per week. It's not just a random policy. There are definitely families that are staying at Providence Shelter at Bayview, and we need to replace both of those sites. Providence is very intensively asked for community support on this and I hope folks will respond to this call.

Del Seymour: So question, what's the timeline for closing Providence or First Friendship?

Megan Owens: I'm definitely not the best person to answer that. The executive director of Providence has at various times requested the city's support in helping the current parishes keep up longer than they would like to. I think it's generally true that these parishes are eager for us to replace these shelter sites.

Ralph Payton: So our hope though is to identify another site and get it up and running before we actually close Providence?

Megan Owens: Oh, yes. Yes. Again, if you have a good idea, you don't need to have the site control fully negotiated. If you have a good idea, please reach out to the city.

Del Seymour: But you may never see the deal with Presidio Trust.

Megan Owens: No. The Presidio Trust has done a lot of great work preserving the units for veterans that are currently out there. I'm not sure that they've done a comprehensive review of their sites and thought about how they could welcome people experiencing homelessness. And my instinct is they probably haven't. If there are leaders on this board or others that could help Presidio Trust think not just about how to accommodate 100 vets, but how they could otherwise contribute to ending homelessness, we could definitely use that leadership.

Kelley Cutler: I'm wondering with the family shelter that opened up at the school, how that's going and maybe down the line some point of doing more of those.

Emily Cohen: It's been a slow start of one of us to Horace Mann the school's been tremendous to work with to Wall Street Community Services is the provider there. I don't know if anyone from Dolores is here. But it is started with a very small group of families. We will be doing an evaluation to determine the effectiveness and the need for it and we could probably do a more formal update on it next month or the month after. It's still very new and getting--

Ralph Payton: So that would be fantastic though. That even being very new, obviously, we're not looking at outcomes of. But we're wondering how it's running operation wise. So we're wondering what's going on with rapid rehousing, is it a funding issue that's causing a limited number of available slots? Is it, obviously we live in a very difficult housing environment. Is it a non-profit that's not doing their best to make sure these funds are utilized properly?

Megan Owens: Our team has the great joy of referring to Rapid Re-Housing. So we've been very intensely engaging with the family Rapid Re-Housing providers, which is the group that is currently well funded and have been funded over several years. That group is currently not accepting referrals for every slot that they have funded, due to some of their various administrative challenges. In our office has done an excellent job of providing technical assistance to local family providers. And I would recommend the local forum to invite him to a meeting this spring to give an update on this work. Also, as you all know, there are state funds for Rapid Re-Housing for homeless families, which are sometimes referred to as HSP. Those slots do not appear in the HOME-STAT report because they are administered by the Human Services Agency. Although I'm delighted to announce that just last week the Human Services Agency agreed to start sharing data with us about those Rapid Re-Housing slots. It's been sort of a growing pain that some homeless families are visible to our system and some homeless families are not.

Additionally, HSH has sometimes referred to our Scattered-Site Supportive Housing Program as if it were Rapid Re-Housing. So board members will remember that with your support, this city applied for one hundred slots of Scattered-Site Supportive Housing in partnership with the San Francisco Housing Authority last year, and those slots were awarded.

We're thrilled that HUD did not terminate those slots due to some of the recent troubles that our Housing Authority. So those dollars still exist in both the Federal and San Francisco Housing Authority budget. However, the San Francisco Housing Authority has not yet released those dollars. And so no one is

behind placing homeless adults in those one hundred slots. We're still waiting on the Housing Authority to release those slots in order to make referrals. And then third, HSH is looking now to extend our very small pilot for Rapid Re-Housing parentals over 25. Our pilot provider is both community services and I think this spring Alan Gutierrez will be able to make an announcement about that extension.

Ralph Payton: So, yes Charles, if we can do a reach out and have one of them present to us that would be fantastic. So stuck on in that nice little explanation, I heard administrative challenges are preventing families from accessing Rapid Re-Housing monies, even though there are available funds.

Megan Owens: That is true. The best person to answer questions about where we are in resolutions is Alan,

Del Seymour: But is there one particular team that's working with housing from your department that's working with the Housing Authority?

Megan Owens: Oh, I have a variety of leaders of HSH that are committed to getting those Housing Authority resources out the door. They can call any one of us. We're ready. Our colleague Hugo Ramirez and other leaders and Emily and HSH are very actively engaged with the Housing Authority.

They are the largest funder of affordable housing in our community and the second largest funder of affordable housing exclusively for people experiencing homelessness. We are all here to help them and get these dollars out the door and you did it with the mayor's office, also.

Del Seymour: Are they sitting at the table, also?

Megan Owens: Yes. The mayor's office has indeed. a variety of groups to help with various housing authority operations including: slow placements, inter-permanent supportive housing, non-profit leaders in this room, and another closely related non-profit will also receive grants from the continuum of care have been great partners in helping identify what's going on at the housing authority, and helping us move it faster. This work is very much ongoing.

Andrea Evans: I know that the work is ongoing but do you have a sense of the time line?

Megan Owens: I don't personally. It's quite likely that others in our department have more insight. The release of those one hundred vouchers is not one of the things that I'm knowledgeable of?

Andrea Evans: I did actually have another question for Emily about outreach from the HOT Team. The various categories that you've listed here: pre-outreach comes and get, and then there's successful outreach engagements and linkages with services as two separate categories. Can you just remind me what the distinction is?

Emily Cohen: So an outreach attempt is when a homeless outreach worker goes up and attempts to engage somebody living on the street in a discussion about services and assistance, and so that would be considered an outreach attempt. A successful outreach engagement would be that conversation happening. So the person saying, "Yes, I'm interested in engaging in this discussion. Let's talk about what resources are available", however that conversation might look. And that might take time to do, but that one would be considered a successful outreach engagement. A referral is a referral. So many people receive more than one referral, or we figure somewhere for food as well as somewhere for shelter, some are for health

care, something like that. And then the linkages are when we can confirm that the person followed up on, or we took them to the place we were referring them to. So it's sort of the category from a conversation attempt to getting them a warm handoff to the next service provider.

Kelley Cutler: Another clarification question around the intakes of the intake at the Navigation Center. And so I seem to recall a couple months ago there were some questions raised around the seven-day stay, and whether or not that was actually something that was going to be formally adopted, or if it was a temporary thing and then we're going to move away from it? It's come up the last couple months, the seven-day stay, so I'm wondering if we can just say a little bit more about that?

Emily Cohen: So the seven-day stays are emergency beds. So these are a handful of beds, I believe there are ten in the navigation center system, where police or other emergency personnel can bring people in to access a bed. You know, somebody's having a challenge on the street, and it's not something that warrants us to a hospital visit, but the police feel real urgency to get them off the street. Police, and other emergency personnel, have access to these time-limited beds as an immediate first step to getting somebody inside. These folks can be transitioned to other beds. Their engagement, but this is a tool for emergency personnel to be able to respond to crises on the street.

Kelley Cutler: I have the seven-day one on my list as well. Cause I'm also hearing when I'm going out on emel reach of other locations where they're having the seven-day bed as well. So I'd like to know just kind of the breakdown of what navigation centers actually have seven-day beds, but also where the capacity of-- have they been filling those beds?

Emily Cohen: I will have to bring that to you. It's not that I have off the top of my head unless Scott is, or Lisa are in the room, no, so that's data we can get for you.

Emily Cohen. Another thing with the cold weather notification, yeah, you should get that and I don't know why, because a lot of the services providers and advocate can get that out even further and to reach out all the different networks so it would be really helpful.

Kelley Cutler: When the Bryant navigation center opening? Do we know?

Megan Owens: Bryant Street navigation centers is now open, congratulations to ECS and partners.

Del Seymour: So I've got one quick question, there's several non-profits that actually do outreach and these outreach workers are just as qualified or even more so than our local police department, department of works. Will we ever get to a date where these very qualified outreach workers who have been doing it for years will be able to be allowed to use some of the standby beds also because they're out there but they don't have the tools they need to completely do the job.

Megan Owens: We've heard from leadership of one outreach provider taking it to the streets that they were either taking it into the one system, we are now ready to welcome any and all street outreach providers who would like to use the one system into the one system.

With one system access, that would be sort of the first step. Street outreach providers, including Hot and now Taking it to the Streets will be able to see whether or not folks have priority status and whether or not folks have a pending resolution. If folks are priority status and/or if they have a pending resolution,

like Homeward Bound is about to take them or going to welcome them home. We do have navigation center but it's for those folks that's not the majority of people. But that is the right place to start. We do need to know who's street outreach, right, workers are serving and whether or not those folks are already known to our system. If they're not already known to our system, street outreach providers, whether or not they want to join the government database system, should make sure that all of the adults they are serving are getting over to our adult access points and that all of the families they're serving are getting over to our family access point or if they're codeploying with the family mobile team.

Kelley Cutler: When with HSOC and with the data, I have a lot of concerns particularly, it seems to be when it's raining and cold that they increase sweeps where they're going through and taking people's tents, blankets, survival gear, and even with giving out, which I thought they were swapping with the 647E illegal lodging which is a misdemeanor we really haven't heard anything for a while.

Kelley Cutler: And we were also supposed to be getting a tour there, there was supposed to be a lot--And we had a big robust discussion here and Jennifer Friedenbach from the Polish on Homelessness presented, and actually the report has come back from UC Berkeley on a lot of the things, and it just seems like the discussion dialog stopped and but there's a lot that really needs to be discussed.

Del Seymour: That's a big power view with us on this board. They may think we forgot but we haven't.

Charles Minor: So I would definitely reach out to them again. I had them tentatively slated for appearing before you in the next two months but we hadn't actually confirmed anything. If we can get a tour before them. I'll put that in the request when I send it to the, they'll have something that you specifically were asking for.

Mary Kate Bacalao: Co-chair of the Homeless Emergency Service Providers Association, HESPA. I'm here with co-chair Malia Chavez, as well. I wanted to surface with the board's review and consideration of the letters we recently submitted to HSH and DPH surfacing various issues related to repairment, contracting, and coordinated entry. I wanted to briefly summarize those issues today during public comment and then get the board's comment.

The first issue regards the state of corporations and the comped and timely procurement of those corporations. That is not always happening at the level of individual departments and so we have requested written updates.

We are waiting on a formal response on that request but it remains very important that appropriations made for the most vulnerable San Franciscans are procured in a timely manner so that services can become available as soon as possible.

The second issue concerns contracting trends and impact. Contracts must be approved in order to be invoiced and persistent delays with contract approval, as well as invoicing delays that compound the problem, mean that nonprofit providers for essential services are not being reimbursed for months.

It's a city-wide issue, it's not limited to HSH and DPH but these are the issues on the contracts most impacting the most vulnerable San Franciscans. And we've requested that both departments advocate city-wide as well as look internally to adopt certain policies: contract advance policies, line of credit policies, so that public dollars aren't spent paying fees on lines of credit, for example.

The final issue I wanted to address is Family Coordinated Entry. HESPA has made several recommendations to HSH regarding clear and written policies governing eligibility so that families know what to expect when they're accessing services at access points, the availability of services to women at any time in their pregnancy under Family Coordinated Entry. And, finally, the urgency of the family shelter replacements, which was touched on earlier.

Ralph Payton: Thank you so much. So you actually brought up a couple of things that I was hoping to address in an exigent item. I would love for HESPA to do a presentation around these recurring, contracting issues. And maybe if you can identify representatives of nonprofits that are having issues that are willing to speak in front of the board regarding these issues, that would be fantastic.

I would love for us to talk to somebody at HSH and DPH around procurement and contracting. So, again, if somebody here to answer-- the issues that you brought up are serious issues. Well-funded nonprofits can sort of survive those reimbursement gaps but if you're a little tighter that looks like a service reduction and you're right, it does impact the constituents and the populations that we serve. So a little dry but a very important issue and I would love to hear more about that. So, Charles, if we could get somebody in the next couple of months that would be fantastic.

Malia Chavez, also co-chair, HESPA: I wanted to address the count letter that we submitted. Really to urge the department to remedy what we consider an undercounting of families that has historically been the case during these appointed time annual counts. It is hard families hide. They have very good reason to not want to sort of be out and exposed, not only based on the elements but oftentimes there were children being taken by CPS or some sort of alarms being raised. So we have three recommendations, or actually, four recommendations included in the letter which were to include the children that have already been identified through the San Francisco Unified School District as being homeless.

I think that's an easy coordination, we have an information-sharing agreement with the district. I'm sure there's some way to identify students if they show up that day at school, working with the social workers, something along those lines.

Families that are living in SROs, again. I understand all of that and, at the same time, we use these numbers all year long to determine how much funding gets allocated to our local need. And so I think it completes those issues, it doesn't really give them each their valid weight, and so trying to be able to at least identify that information as part of our annual count will have a more accurate sort of accounting of what we need.

There's also including total number of unsheltered families in the ONE System. We have this amazing new system that is supposed to be data rich and providing us with empowerment around using that data. It would be really great to figure out a way to use some of that information through this process.

And then the last one is around, possibly, engaging with sites that families traditionally access, food pantries or family resource centers, places that already have those relationships with families experiencing homelessness. And if I could just take one moment to address the other issue that was raised earlier?

Around the procurement as well as the impact in getting housing for families. So I can only speak for HPP, but one of our challenges has been also-- if contracts aren't issued and we aren't guaranteed funding for that next year, we can't actually hire the staff that we need in order to continue to doing the ongoing

case management as well as the housing search. And the housing piece is a huge piece that is very challenging in San Francisco. If we were to include additional resources for something like PATH where we already have a relationship with the hotel and we can just add extra rooms, we can place people overnight. But when we're trying to secure a lease, it's a much more challenging process. So those are very directly related and it's not even just about the reimbursement.

Del Seymour: But sometimes, at the end of the day, it is about the reimbursement because, man, I mean, there's several ways to manage our homeless situation better. That's one way that we can-- that's doable. It's real doable to have timely reimbursements, and just like Ralph said, it's okay for sometimes for the bigger folks, but the folks that don't have the resources, you can't go out and get a line of credit, go get a bank loan, and you-- The city is forcing people to do all kind of things just to keep the lights on, and that shouldn't be. I mean, that's self-destructive. And if we can work on that aspect of it, I think we will solve a lot of our other problems.

Malia Chavez: We have ability and the money.

Del Seymour: Most cities in the United States would love to have the money that we have, man, and it's crazy. And as far as this point in time, I would like to see - and I'm not addressing you, of course - I would like to see us use-- we spend all of this money on data management. And why can't we use that to supplement the actual count? Because we are just playing a guessing game on that night out there, "Oh, you've got two. Oh, maybe three." This is 2019. I mean, that's something that you would have thought would have been 100 years ago.

Ralph Payton: What are we going to do about that? We've had this conversation, I'm not sure if it was last LHCB or the one before that San Francisco has to have its own PIT count, separate from the HUD-mandated PIT count and obviously, logistically that'd be a nightmare, but somehow coordinating these two so we can have a more enriched, robust, accurate number, I think-- not I think, it would be beneficial to us all. So the question is, what's the next step for this? Do we need to sit down with Homebase and-- is it Homebase? Yeah. Well, whoever's in charge of our PIT count. We need to either schedule, I don't know, another focus group? Do we want to form another subcommittee around this? But something needs to be done. We have the time frame here to do it?

Brenda Jewett: Oh, I was just going to ask you, are you anticipating that we could do it in front of this PIT count?

Ralph Payton: Well, we have the one from last year, so then our next PIT count is 2020, correct?

Emily Cohen: No, our next PIT count is in three weeks. Two weeks? And the methodology is locked on that PIT count and procedures are already underway to administer that methodology. But then we do have two years in terms of planning. I know we're eager, if I may respond.

We are eager to better use one system, once that data system is fully operational. We're still in the process of integrating all the existing data systems. So we do look to that as a future opportunity to improve the qualitative data that is collected in the PIT count to really learn more about people experiencing homelessness. And so that is something that we're thinking a lot about. We're just not there yet with the quality of the data, and the amount of data integrated into one system today.

Ralph Payton: So we have about two years. So we need to figure out the timeline for engaging the community, get community feedback around this process, getting questions in place, a revision time period around that, so we can actually have this ready to go for our 2021 PIT count. So. So, I don't know. Next steps? So should we think about forming a group around the PIT count? And again, we have some time to talk this through. So that's something that--I don't know. Let's take this up in our next meeting or two, and see if we can firm up a timeline of how we want to address this.

James Loyce: In regard to the contacts in DPH, and whom are you speaking to around contracts and certification of those contracts? How are we to know that? Do we have any information?

Malia Chavez: So we addressed the letter to the current director, to Greg. But then we ended up having a response from ____? And Martha's actually is in communication now with him around specifically, the family mental health dollars that were supposed to be issued. And I think the next step is that the DPH was going to reach out to each SA and HSH to try to figure out if there is a suggested best use for the resources that the two departments would agree on, in addition to DPH. Or if there is some possibility of even asking for the mayor for some of the new windfall money to be used as well, to sort of fully realize the initial proposal, which was for all five of the providers, the family service providers, to be able to provide mental health services.

Ralph Payton: So we're looking at two in issues than just general contracting and procurement issues, and then specifically for mental health for families.

Malia Chavez: Yeah, that's the only one we've had a response about, and so that's the only one that I can speak to. But otherwise HESPA has not received a response beyond that. Charles has the letter and I know Mary-Kate sent it out last week, I believe, to make sure all of you had an individual copy, but I'm happy to send that back out so that you have it specifically. And I can also provide you with the contact information from the people who've been in touch with him.

Martha Ryan: executive director of the Homeless Prenatal Program. I'm here again-- colleagues of mine have been here also-- to ask you to address the situation of pregnant moms. Not being single pregnant mothers, who are not in their third trimester, who are not seen as high risk-- any homeless pregnant mom, I think, is high risk-- are not eligible for services through the Family Coordinated Entry System. So I think that we all know that the best time to get services to have non-stressful situations is early on during the pregnancy. This is not right. These babies are born into poverty. The least we can do is to start working with them earlier on, and this is something we can do now. So if you could all help us. I know you're behind us. I know you understand the need, but homeless pregnant mothers need the services, that they're not eligible for, now. They're not allowed into the services.

Brenda Jewett: Martha, why are they not allowed in? What's the policy--Who made the policy and why? And who's enforcing the policy? And Megan, will you help me?

Megan Owens: Yeah. Thank you, Martha, for your ongoing advocacy on this. The current policy on pregnant women-- or pregnant people-- Please forgive my evolving language, we're all on a language evolution. The policy was inherited by the Human Services Agency with the most recent revision coming from Homeless Prenatal. This is currently being revisited and we were pleased that Ellen Hammerle of Catholic Charities let us know she's leading a city-wide group and staff your group is also part of that. My

colleague, Elizabeth Medina, and Leslie Bilbro, are going to join that group. It's just-- each supports reforming this policy to be more inclusive of people, who do not have children in their custody, who are currently pregnant, and we're looking forward to having an announcement.

Martha Ryan: Thank you, Megan. I have about thirty seconds left. I don't want to repeat myself, but I also want to thank you for bringing up the replacement of the Family Shelter. That is long overdue and it's also not fair. And also they're really unclear policies around eligibility of services for families that don't fall into the unsheltered category.

Final public comment for this issue.

Kathy Treggiari: Thank you for the recognition on behalf of staff. We're also managing Waterfront and Bryant and what I here to say is that I deeply feel this is looking at the lessons learned and successes from the Navigation Center with existing single adult shelters. ECS manages 334 beds at Next Door and 200 beds at Sanctuary. And we see that the Navigation Centers great things happen; city workers come, benefits workers come. Our folks at our Navigation Centers don't have to go over to Mission street, and we're beginning to see a little of that in the shelter.

Folks are treated like adults at the Navigation Centers; there's no curfew, there's in and out, there's safe environment, there's flexible bed transfers, it's low threshold, it's low barrier, there are minimal rules. And there's actual wonderful amenities that we do not have in shelter such as laundry detergent, dog food, taxi vouchers for appointments across town and it's a smaller environment.

And you take a building of 334 people versus 75 to 100 beds and what you have is smaller environment, is calmer clients, is happier environment, it's a sense of community and staff that feel safe and feel like they have the ability to make the contribution to their work. What I'm here to ask is that we encourage continue to encourage, that we look at the Navigation Center's successes and lessons learned and begin to apply some of that to the existing single adult shelter system with the infusion of new-city money and the city's commitment to increase shelter beds. Now is the prime time to focus some of our attention on the single adult shelter, existing shelters that can provide a warm welcoming, low threshold environment as our Navigation Centers can because we are in need of the same benefits, amenities, program supplies, and direct care staffing that are at Navigation Centers.

A encourage that the city to do an analysis of the existing shelters, especially the large shelters and look at things that could be done to make it a more welcoming, warm, safer environment. And that include capital improvements. What can we do to enhance safety and a sense of well-being? What do we do for our seniors and our mobility-impaired folks, and our fragile, fragile sick people that are in a large floor shelter along with everyone else? What can we do for that? Maybe some capital improvements. What can we do to create less rules, more bed flexibility, easier access for the larger shelters in the existing system? An analysis of how many shelter operation staff does it truly take, does it truly take to maintain a safe and harmonious environment. One service coordinator to 50 clients is not the staff impact at the Navigation Centers. What does it take for facilities staff?

How much facility staff do we need to keep a large environment clean, and safe, and welcoming, and germ-free for all the people that we serve? One facility staff for 67 clients is not the staff impact with the Navigation Centers. And does our existing single adult shelters need the Navigation Center amenities that

I mentioned such as the very basics of laundry detergent for our clients, dog food for our clients and as many blankets and sheets as so what I stand here and humbly ask is that as we move to open smaller, safe centers that I totally applaud-- they work. Interfaith works so much easier. Sanctuaries. So much easier. Managers. A better environment. I urge the Board and the City to analyze the needs of the existing shelters, especially the large shelters, and commit to an infusion of what's needed.

Ralph Payton: So Kathy, thank you for that. This is not a new request. I know when Navigation Centers first came out, that was the hope; that they would be sort of pilot studies for what for works we can do to strengthen the services in the bigger shelters. I may need to pull you back up for this. So I know rules are something that the shelters get to establish on their own. So you have some flexibility with that.

Kathy Treggiari: When you come to the rules, we have approximately 35 or maybe up to 37 shelters. Now some of that's envisioned next door. 118 men on one floor. You need rules. Why? 30, 35 inches apart. So you need it more than you would in a smaller shelter. And yet my recommendation, my request, would be an analysis to look at. How can we do capital improvements so we don't need so many rules, that we may not need so many rules, that we can begin to treat adults as adults, as I would want to be treated in a larger environment. It's an intriguing conundrum that I know we can solve. And we can solve it now because there's money in the city.

Ralph Payton: Are there any conversations with HSH around this starting?

Kathy Treggiari: I think I would say, with the safe center, the providers, definitely, this is dear to my heart. And again, I've got one foot at the Navigation Centers and a major piece of my heart is also at the regular shelters. So I think there's beginning discussions. I think more need to happen in depth. But again, I think an analysis needs to be done. We just need the will power to do it.

Del Seymour: You know I spent-- in my homeless years, I probably spent in every shelter that the city had, even some that they no longer have, like Mission Rock which is a terrible place. But I see where your heart is and I love the heart being there. The Navigation Centers are Boutique as we can get and provide all the services that we should provide people. But I'm terrified of losing capacity. Right now, we have an emergency. I was in the Tenderloin all this weekend and man, man, this was not a good weather weekend for our folks outside. And you know I travel. I go back to Chicago, Boston, Baltimore. I did all that this year. I do it every year. And I see the capacity shelters. Yeah, they're not boutique. Yeah, they don't have all the taxi vouchers and all of that. But they get people off of that street. How do you do both? Because I know that if we go for pushing for a boutique in our Next Door shelters and all, we're going to lose capacity. We go for capital improvements; we're going to lose square footage. And I'm just afraid we're going to lose people.

Kathy Treggiari: So I actually would say that I think there's a way that we wouldn't lose beds. And I know that's a large interest and a large conversation. We at Next Door actually had recommended to the city just to get mobility-impaired folks and our seniors down on the first floor without losing beds. And how do we do that? And what I want to maintain, maybe ignorantly, but I don't think so I think it's, how do we not lose not even one bed-- make it where it's just of feeling more safe, maybe it's more walls maybe it's more operations staff? I'm not suggesting case management. But I think looking at some of that and saying, we can do this. And I think, I believe, minimal capital improvements and minimal increase in staff.

Kelley Cutler: I'm thrilled that you're bringing this up - and where we're going back to thinking with the saw process, where we were working on the shelter access work. And, so these discussions were coming up back then. When was it, 2012 or something? And that was a huge part of the discussion, where are these rules that were put in the shelters by the city that, you know? And really was going to be, the plan was to have that to be that next step because the saw process was a great process. That was bringing everyone together and hashing that. And it was actually consensus-based processing, it is possible.

But I would love to see where we all come together again to really - because we all know that we need to look at the shelters and not necessarily boutique, that's kind of the, you know, out there. But to have a real discussion of the stuff that we know is going on and folks that are currently living in shelters, and working at shelters, and everyone coming together to hash through some of these things that aren't as complex as, you know.

Yeah, now. I would really love - especially from what we've learned since, with the navigation centers that this is a really good time to go start that process again, to come together, and because, you know, we've learned quite a bit, and so.

Del Seymour: I think we need to say the word boutique in a wrong way and want to clear that up. I've got to clear that up here. I mean just a shelter, the work kind of shelter. I mean if I have to be homeless that would be the place. Now that's boutique. I mean it is as comfortable and loving as any small hotel. It really is, they have more amenities there than a hotel. I just want to see someday we can blend those two elements together. Put capacity and that comfort together, and it can be done. I mean people build buildings all over the city every day, all day long, and it's just a matter our contracting departments, who are putting these low bids out so it's almost impossible to give all those services with the amount of money that you're allowed.

Ralph Payton: That's it. And so I wonder in the contract the renegotiating phase, I don't know often it is for ECS for the shelters if. First, though a study, agreed? Would be necessary to know exactly what you need to build into the new contract moving forward. So, you know, it begs for another worker.

+So the next item on our agenda is board member announcements and scheduling items identified I think we've done a lot of that with I think, Emily, will this be your last meeting with us?

Emily Cohen Ok, yes, I will be leaving my position at HSH at the end of the week. I didn't anticipate making an announcement about this but, I will be leaving my position at HSH at the end of the week and will be joining the mayor's office.

Ralph Payton: Everybody has two minutes; again this is on any topic, not necessarily agenda items. And I'll invite the first person up. And on that note, I want to again thank everybody for coming here today, thank you, everybody, for participating. Happy New Year, happy 2019.