

**SAN FRANCISCO
LOCAL HOMELESS COORDINATING BOARD**



Del Seymour
Co-Chair

Ralph Payton
Co-Chair

Erick Brown

Brenda Jewett

James Loyce

Sophia Isom

Andrea Evans

Kim-Mai Cutler

Kelley Cutler

Charles Minor, Staff

The Local Homeless Coordinating Boards concern is that the Healthy Streets Operation Center (HSOC), a multi departmental organization consisting of the San Francisco Department of Public Health, the San Francisco Department of Public Works, the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Support Housing, San Francisco 3-1-1, San Francisco Department of Emergency Management, the San Francisco Controller's Office and the Police San Francisco Department and operating under an incident command model is contradicting proven best practices for addressing homeless encampments laid out by the US Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH).

Supported by concerned citizens of San Francisco, a collaborative of homeless service providers, the San Francisco Local Homeless Coordinating Board is calling into question HSOC's strategy concerning the engagement of unsheltered people and those in encampments.

The Local Homeless Coordinating Board is calling upon the member agencies of HSOC to review our concerns and respond by taking constructive steps to align HSOC's operations with the guidelines from the *United States Interagency Council on Homelessness*, to show demonstrable evidence that HSOC's operations meaningfully reduce the criminalization of homelessness, and the end the practice of forced dispersal of homeless encampments when adequate shelter and services are not available.

Questions about service provision under HSOC:

1. What are the outcomes of those exiting the 1-day shelter beds, 7-day mats, and 30-day navigation center beds being offered through HSOC? In particular what portion return to the streets? (Please provide these numbers separate from those clients utilizing "family reunification" or "homeward bound" services)
2. Is there any assessment prior to offer of shelter, to determine if shelter is an appropriate referral i.e. presence of PTSD, inability to live in congregate settings. What is offered to those for whom shelter is not appropriate, how often does this alternative offer of service occur?
3. On what portion of responses to "encampments with people" by HSOC is there a public health or department of homelessness and supportive housing outreach worker present?
4. What is the justification for privileging and fast-tracking those on the streets who are subject to policing into shelter over those who have been waiting?

5. What does existing data indicate (or how might we start collecting such data) that could inform us how to better meet the needs of those currently on the streets within shelters or safe organized spaces? The Local Homeless Coordinating Board would encourage HSOC to develop transparent policies and strategies that focus on connecting people to services and permanent housing solutions. Additionally, to remind San Franciscans that encampments are merely an indication of a critical need to create more effective local systems for responding to unsheltered homelessness.

Sincerely,

The Members of the Local Homeless Coordinating Board

DRAFT