

August LHCB Meeting

Materials: <https://hsh.sfgov.org/committees/lhcb/monthly-meeting-archives/lhcb-monthly-meetings-2020/>

July Minutes approved

Jeff Kositsky: I am open to suggestions about how to hold the meeting. Would be happy to have an update about HSOC post COVID and have Department heads present for quarterly meeting?

Brenda Jewett: I thought the second of the HSOC meetings was better with questions from participants.

Del Seymour: We need to be respectful to time and I want department heads to hear public comment and not to have it towards the end. Time would be better spent having the community involved and asking questions than department presentations. With Jeff in charge he can answer many of the questions that before had to go to individual department heads.

Jeff Kositsky: Think we can have my update and then group presentations by HSOC teams and have them answer questions from the public. I can answer many HSOC questions and forward those I can not that are related to individual departments.

Andrea Evans: Can the meeting include a budget update?

Jeff Kositsky: Yes I can request one from the Budget office but is a hard ask now because since it is budget season.

Andrea Evans: It does not need to be a formal presentation but would like to get a sense of HSOC's funding and budget.

Jeff Kositsky: HSOC presentation groups would be infrastructure, public safety, and social services.

Del Seymour: I support that.

Jeff Kositsky: Confirming that I will provide an update on HSOC, focusing on tent count and work with Bloomberg, a budget presentation and then Q&A with public safety, social services, and infrastructure.

Del Seymour: I understand it is not associated with HSOC but how will the PIT count be affected by COVID?

Abigail Stewart Kahn: Good question, have presented this before the Board before and will have more in the coming months. Will start to partner with HSOC to do a count but is separate from our PIT count.

Del Seymour: Any board questions will be sent to Charles by the 11th. Want to keep most of the meeting for the public and their comments.

Public Comment

Brian: Brian from the Coalition on Homelessness. Would be great for the public to be able to submit questions directly.

August LHCB Meeting

Agenda voted on and unanimously approved.

Abigail Stewart Kahn: HSH has the opportunity to add capacity to our PSH during COVID. The state has released a NOFA that would allow for us to acquire 250 housing units through project Homekey. The project matches our local mandate to assist everybody who's been brought in during this crisis to not re exit to the street. It is a fast turnaround for the application. The funding allows for the immediate addition of capacity during COVID there is \$91 million allocated for the Bay area generally. We are wanting a letter of the support from the Board as it is a competitive competition.

[Letter of Support](#)

Del Seymour: Was happy to hear about the opportunity and the advanced planning coming out of HSH and the Mayor's Office.

Del Seymour: Any questions from the Board?

Letter voted on an approved unanimously.

Aram: Recap about the LHCB retreat and where we left off. Retreat met back in March 4th. There was introductions, when and how we entered the homelessness system, and how people got their position on the Board. Then we really dove into what is the continuum of care. What are the roles and responsibilities of the board in the three documents that govern the board, the interim rule, the SF admin code, and the LHCB bylaws? We spoke about the CoC application and process. Then started to work on board priorities and agenda setting and subcommittees.

There was the desire to create an annual meeting to kick off the year, set an agenda and help to create the monthly agendas. Last suggestion was evaluating how the Board can work and advocate in its advisory capacity.

Del Seymour: I would like to identify our committees and who those people are and begin to rotate those positions.

Andrea Evans: I would like a clear understanding of the homeless agencies that work in the city and interact with HSH. What are the other commissions and governing bodies of those departments and when do they meet? To better know how all these pieces intersect.

Del Seymour: I agree and would like to understand the calendars of when other commissions and boards met. Would be important for us to join in these meetings and to be able to collaborate.

James Loyce: I can be helpful in relationship to the health department, I'm no longer on the health commission, but I still have a relationship with the key executives of the department.

Aram: Have written down what you all have suggested as well as the agenda, assuming that will take 60-90 minutes for the meeting.

Abigail Stewart Kahn: Think the idea that Andrea raised about other commissions is interesting and what the tactical approach to engaging with those committees could be? Since there is HSOC but so

August LHCB Meeting

much more when it comes to doing work with other commissions and bodies. Could be a valuable resource for the community to continue the conversations around homelessness.

Brenda Jewett: Can materials be sent it advance regarding the meetings?

Abigail Stewart Kahn: Think the partnerships with Public Health, MOHCD, and HSA are the core partners. Would be happy to chat with you in advance. The police and even library all assist HSH with its community response to homelessness.

Aram: A proposed agenda for September LHCB retreat would be to have a intro or welcomes, to revisit sub committees and officer terms, set an annual calendar, which includes coordination with these other departments that we will look to prioritize and then refining your advocacy role in the community, followed by public comment.

Del Seymour: One thing that we cannot forget about is the oversight and governance of the LHCB and advocating for it to have a separate mission from HSH.

David Elliott: Wanted to confirm that the retreat will be publicly noticed and available to the public?

Charles Minor: That's correct.

Henry: Is there still support from Supervisor Haney concerning the Commission for HSH?

Del Seymour: Wanted to clarify that a retreat is a term for a planning meeting and not and actual retreat. Can we take a vote on the agenda?

Board unanimously approves.

Abigail Stewart Kahn:

Mayor released her budget last Friday. And wanted to offer some thoughts from HSH. We stand with the Mayor and prioritizing equity, health and safety. The mayor's budget acknowledges that housing is a core component of healthcare and the mayor's homelessness recovery plan, which we received tremendous input from this group on.

The City plan is to make 6,000 placements available over the next two years. Additionally adding 1,500 PSH units through varies projects and partnerships with philanthropy. COVID response and recovery investments and expansion of behavioral health is critical to HSH's work and Mayor's budget notes.

The budget reflects HSH's mission to make homelessness rare, brief, and one time through our homelessness response system.

Want to thank the Data and Performance Team for their hard work on the Dash Boards. Looking at Problem Solving. I want to repeat that Homeward Bound is not closed. HSH has created safe protocols for people to return home to their families and reunite with family and friends.

August LHCB Meeting

Housing placements. There have been up and downs in placements based on when buildings open. Want to see trends of positive growth, plateaus, and then more growth. Have new buildings coming online and want to obtain more to expand over the next two years. Before the expansion HSH needs to increase placements and have more meaningful conversations with providers to improve our processes. HSH is very willing to talk about the pieces of the work that are our responsibility. And we encourage and are really grateful to our partners who are looking at the pieces of their work.

We need to get into the method of speed. This will only be achieved through our willingness to talk and engage with our partners. What we want to see is improvement and that will take all of us. What we have now is a baseline to move forward from.

Housing Ladder has been working in partnership with Tipping Point and The Housing Authority. Housing ladder placements have fewer social services attached than PSH units. Important since Housing Ladder placements free up units of PSH. Flow in this program is critical and complications with the Housing Authority have great effects and appears that flow is improving. HSH continues to work on the housing ladder model and hoping to use scattered sites and flex pool to expand.

Working and collaboration with The Housing Authority is another agency to build on Andrea's earlier comments.

Shelter: Number dramatically decreased in March and starting to see a slight increase. Talking with provider partners, HSH understands it is a great community concern. We are all working with guidance from the department of public health.

Navigation Centers. I understand that shelter is not under the governance of this committee but the data is providing a sense of the entire homeless response system. Some are closed because of size and reopening would have too high of a staffing ratio and not efficient. Mitigation and prevention strategies are being put in place for open shelters.

Emergency Outreach. I want to thank those again who are engaged in emergency outreach. Includes organizations like Hot Team, Heluna Health, and The Salvation Army. They work with people on the streets. They are about the important basics of outreach, water, face masks, referrals to medical care and sanitizer. In the beginning, we had really difficult access to these as scarce supplies but have improved on our systems of delivery.

The one thing I will notice thus far in the homeless population, generally we are at, or below the COVID positive rate of the rest of the San Francisco population. And very careful before we say we've done it; we have done nothing. That is what it is today. It could change tomorrow and it could change rapidly as a surge comes. Need to continue practices that change behavior like wearing masks and tactics we know bring down the curve.

Coordinated Entry is the pathway to both equity and our expansion of housing. April through June's trends are positive. Coordinated entry providers never close their doors and have pivoted because of COVID and can do all of it by phone as well as in person. Currently doing a massive launch to get everyone in the SIP hotels and other aspects of our system of care through problem solving and our coordinated entry assessment

August LHCB Meeting

Dedria Black: Starting with the previously mentioned Mayor's Housing Recovery Plan. Plan is 6,000 placements over the next two years. And include 4500 for PSH and to purchase and lease and additional 1500 units for prevention, problem solving and Rapid Rehousing.

We have been working with Laura Marshall at the Controller's Office to assist in targeting these goals. For example looking at everyone matched pre-COVID and getting them placed immediately, looking at a by-name list of the SIP hotels to see who's already engaged with problem-solving, who's positive referrals status and getting those individuals placed. Looking to have 100% assessment at SIP hotels.

We have been working with all families, TAY, and Prevention. Working and collecting data. TAY NAV Center is to be completed in the Fall of 3030 and house 75 TAY aged youth. There is also the SAFE Navigation Center slated for January 2021 in the Bayview.

SF Hot Team has been phenomenal. Continuing to have conversations, doing wellness checks, and distributing hygiene supplies. Partnerships with HSOC partner agencies have led to opportunities for greater food security, direct access to SIP hotels, and congregate shelter. Finally the extension of the Mayor's moratorium on evictions.

Abigail Stewart Kahn:

Wanted to highlight the new website, management of the Strategy and External Affairs Team is now with Dylan Schneider. Thankful for those who have been working on improving the website and social media. HSH is working on doing a better job of connecting with the community, our providers, and telling our stories. HSH is grateful for the Mayor and her support of HSH is bringing the department key positions in hiring. HSH wants to prioritize individuals with all forms of diversity particularly lived experience of homelessness as we hire and promote within our department.

Ralph Payton: Can you tell us about the search for a new Director?

Abigail Stewart Kahn: As the acting interim Director am honored to have been selected by Mayor Breed. Original plan was to start a national search right away but is paused due to COVID. I am happy to inquire with the Mayor about where that search is.

Ralph Payton: I am not trying to push you away. We value you and appreciate you but wanted to know where you stood in the search.

Del Seymour: Wanted to give a summary of the Advanced Planning Group. One is that we're in a situation now where we can purchase real estate. We are advocating to have experts in real estate to be involved with these processes. Let the experts be experts. We think we can get it done a lot quicker and take advantage of all the prices right now to buy real estate with people who are experts in commercial real estate. Can put a major dent in homeless population. Also discussed private and public partnerships and how to continue the positive relationships with the Benioff Foundation and Tipping Point. Also wanting to acquire more units in our scattered site portfolio and take advantage of the high vacancy rate that the city is beginning to experience.

Del Seymour: There is a campaign called House Blacks. We are making a stand to house black people. Why aren't we housing our blacks is the question?

August LHCB Meeting

I went down to our safe sleeping sites the other day to see what was going on. I had been against them when they were opening. I want to say that I was very impressed. I was impressed by the order and cleanliness.

Erik Brown: This is a large undertaking for this permanent supportive housing expansion. All the housing we're going to add. Does your department have the infrastructure? Know that HSH has the knowledge but is there the capacity and infrastructure with the expansion?

Abigail Stewart Kahn: Want to take a moment to thank our non-profit providers who continue to take on more and more responsibility and duties and add to our overall capacity. There have been bright new initiatives like a homeless response system workforce initiative to assist in the nonprofit hiring process. We need to do more of that. HSH needs to improve the vacancies within the department. We are doing better at hiring people and working with human resources and Mayor's Budget office to move the department forward.

Erik Brown: Thank you, for pointing to the providers and the work that we can do on the frontlines and as part of the expansion.

Del Seymour: When it comes to those HR barriers would you bring that to this Board? We would like to be supportive and advocates to support. I want to thank Abigail for communicating and being aware about what is happening on the streets.

Abigail Stewart Kahn: Thank you for that. I will be happy to share the challenges that HSH faces.

Public Comment

Ben: I am a shelter client advocate. I would like to comment on the due process rights for people at the SIP hotels and the thinning of the congregate shelters. People in SIP hotels do not have the same due process rights as in normal shelters. Do not have the access to process, the ability to appeal when they are evicted or denied service from shelter. Advocates have noticed many residents being evicted without notice. Because people do not have access to phones or emails then there are issues of unequal access.

Elgin Rose: I work for Code Tenderloin and want to repeat what Del said. We are working on a mural to House Black to target and house Black people. It is important for people to support because so many people they need to be housed.

Carolyn Thomas. These meetings are critical to understand what is happening in the city regarding homelessness. Thank you to Abigail and her team regarding the dashboards. I might suggest that you add the projections on the slides. For instance, if we have a projection of 6,000 placements in the next two years, 1500 units, and in over 2020 and 2021 would be nice to be able to see where we're going and how well we're doing it, especially as we come out of COVID and open up some of the, the shelter spaces.

August LHCB Meeting

Please include Charles's information on the website. Have a question about Coordinated Entry. If I were to encounter a homeless person is there another way to have them assessed rather than to send them to a physical Coordinated Entry location?

Public Comment:

This is concerning the congregate shelters that have been pinned down and closed in March because of COVID and being cautious, the result is that people are forced back onto the streets in neighborhoods like mine in the tenderloin. Those people who are forced back to the streets are at an even unhealthier and greater risk.

Roy Tidwell: I am calling to make a comment and respond to Dedria's presentation. I work with Care Ambassadors and have been at the 180 Jones sleeping site. Have collaborated with the HOT Team. We have been inviting residence to lunch to support them and empower them in keeping their space clean and safe. We are a model because we hire people from our community.

Martha B: I am concerned about the document from the department of public health dated May 30th and whether it is being followed or not. It calls for many precautions around congregate shelters and for immediate testing of new clients. There are many advocates who share my concerns and want to bring it to your attention.

General Public Comment:

Martha B: I would encourage the Board to explore its scope and authority. What extent does the Board have power over policy both in CoC and Coordinated Entry? Would be interesting if Homebase could assist directly and provide technical assistance concerning the matter.

Not quite sure I understand the scope of the authority there, but very possibly home-based does. And it'd be great to know that.

Latoya: People that are in the sip hotels, are they going to now be prioritized for permanent housing?

Abigail Stewart Kahn: That is a great question and important to clarify. I will start and then Dedria can fill in. Coordinated Entry is the pathway to assessment and sets the housing referral process and problem-solving status. People in SIP hotels must start there and have conversations about diversion. Overall our Homeless response system needs 10 to 20% of folks diverted in San Francisco to bend the curve on homelessness. Being in a SIP hotel is not an absolute path to PSH. Only through Coordinated Entry can people be assessed for housing.

Dedria Black: Believe it is important that the community understands our first goal is to divert people from the homeless response system and not to bring them into it. Prevention is the first line of defense through Homeward bound, Problem Solving, and exits from Rapid Rehousing. HSH is committed to not to exit those who are in our SIPS to the streets. Need to go about it strategically since there is not enough PSH. Coordinated Entry is our equity system.

August LHCB Meeting

Through these projects HSH is committed for everyone to have a problem-solving conversation and diverted to the appropriate level of care. We need to seek out other options for people. So again being in a SIP does not guarantee PSH but does guarantee problem solving services.

David. E: I am proposing a new role for the Local Homeless Coordinating Board and to get involved in all responses to Homelessness. Especially dealing with the police funding, social work, and mental health issues. Looking at the model in Eugene Oregon would be something to have the Board further the discussion on removing the Police from homeless outreach. How important it would be to have professional social workers and clinicians to engage in outreach instead of police. I would love to see a group like the Care Ambassadors be involved and not officers. It is a discussion that this group could lead.

Meeting Adjourned

DRAFT