



City and County of San Francisco
SHELTER MONITORING COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

January 20, 2021/ 10:00 AM
WebEx / San Francisco, CA 94102

Present:

Committee Member Traci Watson
Committee Member Brian Edwards
Committee Member Lisa Rachowicz
Committee Member Tomiko Eya

Absent:

Chair Jonathan Adler
Vice Chair Diana Almanza
Committee Member Gabriela Avalos
Committee Member Nastassia Serina

PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE TAKEN FOR EACH AGENDA ITEM AS INDICATED.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS

2 min

Meeting began at 10:07 AM. There was no quorum.

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Deb Borne, M.D. (DPH)

The Committee heard from Dr. Borne. The department is asking for an extension of the sunset date by at least one year, and that members' terms be legislatively extended. There can be no site visits by non-employees at present. Despite the vaccine, because its effectiveness is not yet fully understood, we may see the 6-ft spacing remain in place, as is done to mitigate the spread of other infectious diseases, e.g., TB. Getting new Committee Members could be a challenge. We may need to get creative to ensure participation. The CCC guides access to shelters. Most admissions come from hospital discharges. We are talking to other cities to stay up to date on best practices. SF has done better (at 39 cases per 100,000) than similar cities. We cannot have pop-up shelters, because without a current count we do not know how many unhoused people there are. We will begin offering reports/data on shelter health in subsequent meetings. A lot of eyes are on health and safety in the shelters; we think that in cooperation with the CBOs we are doing a good job of meeting the Standards of Care requirements.

I. MINUTES

DISCUSSION/ACTION

A. OCTOBER 2019 MINUTES

Staff *5 min*

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes. It was noted that the Policy subcommittee remains shorthanded. Absent a quorum, action was tabled approval of the December 2020 Minutes.

Member comment: Member Edwards asked if HSH anticipated producing monthly reports with nightly occupancy data. HSH will look into doing this starting next meeting, though they noted that they are using a new database. Member Watson wondering if there is a record of recent complaints. Staff reports only very few. The phone line has been inactive; however, it is ready to be turned back on.

Public comment: No public comment.

II. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Policy Subcommittee Chair Avalos

10 min

Member Gabriela Avalos being absent, discussion was tabled.

Staff comment: The subcommittee will need at least one more member so that it can begin working on recommendations that were previously discussed and for legislation to take effect when the pandemic no longer prevents inspections by Members.

Public Comment: No public comment.

III. NEW BUSINESS/REPORTS

DISCUSSION

A. SHELTER STATUS REPORTS

Lisa Rachowicz, HSH

10 min

HSH reports that CBOs that manage the shelters have complaints procedures with escalation to the Covid Command Center (CCC). CCC had internal complaint process, but as of 1/11/21 adult congregate has moved back to a system where there are HSH program managers assigned to each shelter. Guests can bypass site and go right to HSH or call 311. They can also go directly to the BOS. Guests are given info on intake and it should be posted. HSH discussed current capacity vs occupancy. Family shelter info will be provided, as well. Bayview shelter is opening 1/25/21 for 116 adults, managed by HSH. They are focusing on an outreach zone around the site in the Bayview neighborhood, and will later expand to encompass the whole of District 10.

Public comment: Ben Baczkowski wondered about referrals into congregate shelters. HSH reported referrals for adult congregate only through CCC.

Member comment: Member Edwards expressed a desire to discuss future possibilities for referral by the community and asked how long it would be before access by others would be allowed, if placements are time limited, and if mitigation protocols have been updated. Bayview will get priority, but others will eventually be offered space there. Placements are not time limited at present. There was a recent update to the mitigation guidelines. Member Eya asked for a breakdown of which sites would be overseen by which team. Most are under the CCC at present.

B. SHELTER MONITORING COMMITTEE REESTABLISHMENT

DPH 10 min

DPH/WPIC wants to assure committee members they believe in the mission of the SMC and fully supports its continuation. DPH is working with the Board of Supervisors, seeking to extend the SMC in its current scope at least through 12/31/2021, as well as to obviate the need for members whose terms expired during the lockdown to reapply. During 2021 we will work with SMC members (and the Policy subcommittee) to collect input and request legislation to get changes that need to happen in and beyond 2021. This approach will allow us to build the membership back up. We should have more details, including an estimated effective date, soon. The thought is that we should get operations going again. Once safe movement and interactions are authorized, we can go back to something more like the approach we used prior to the pandemic. Applications need to be submitted soon because the process is time consuming. Once we have a quorum, we will be able to request any augmentations the members believe are needed for 2022 and beyond

Member comment: Member Edwards pointed out that the Committee has been without a quorum for some time and expressed a hope that new members could be considered and approved soon.

There was no Public Comment

C. Flyers

Draft flyers were reviewed and simplified in accord with suggestions from Members.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

DISCUSSION

3 min

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Public Comment: Angie David is currently deployed but is looking forward to participating more fully in shelter monitoring once she is released from her special assignment.

ADJOURNMENT

This item requires a motion, a second, and to be carried.

Proposed Action: Approve adjournment

M/S/C: Edwards/Tomiko/Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 11:36 AM

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