



MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

December 16, 2020/ 10:00 AM
City Hall, Room 408 / San Francisco, CA 94102

Present:

Chair Jonathan Adler
Committee Member Brian Edwards
Committee Member Gabriela Avalos

Excused:

Vice Chair Diana Almanza
Committee Member Joseph Kenan
Committee Member Nastassia Serina
Committee Member Scott Walton
Committee Member Traci Watson

Absent:

Committee Member Vixen Yvonne

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

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS *2 min*

Meeting began at 10:05 AM. There was no quorum.

I. MINUTES *DISCUSSION/ACTION*
A. OCTOBER 2019 MINUTES **Chair Adler** *5 min*

The Committee tabled action on the Draft October 2019 Minutes, absent a quorum.

B. INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF PERSON **DPH** *10 min*

Tomiko Eya (DPA) has been nominated to the SMC to replace Craig Murdock, whose term is up. She introduced Robert Hill, Policy Analyst, to replace Howard Chen. Additionally, Health Worker Angie David was hired in April, although she has and continues to be deployed. The SMC staff has been moved within DPH from Behavioral Health to Whole Person Integrated Care (WPIC) and will report to Jeff Simbe.

Member comment: Member Edwards commented that Angie David is an excellent choice for the team insofar as he knows she has a great deal of experience working with those experiencing homelessness.

II. COVID-19 COMMAND CENTER MEDICAL UPDATE **DEB BORNE, M.D.**

DISCUSSION *15 min*

Deb Borne, M.D. oversees homeless health policy in San Francisco and is Deputy of Operations for the CCC. She believes wholeheartedly in the mission of the SMC. Because of the surge and the goal of keeping shelters safe, volunteers cannot enter shelters. This will be looked at again in the Spring after vaccines are available. Meanwhile, assessments by HSH and DPH are very rigorous and working well.

Member comment: Member Edwards asked about a spike in positive tests.

Dr. Borne stated that mitigation protocols are working: increased ventilation (air filtration) capabilities, enforcement of mask usage, increased testing, and appropriate referrals to Isolation & Quarantine. The CBOs and City staff are doing an outstanding job. She has the authority and willingness to intervene on behalf of clients. Staff is addressing problems proactively, but we can always approach her if necessary.

III. POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE

Policy Subcommittee Chair Avalos *10 min*

Member Gabriela Avalos briefly spoke about changes in procedures, updates to recruitment and informational flyers, translation services signage, the plan to begin monitoring the Navigation Centers, and a protocol for responding to grievances (including under COVID). The Policy Subcommittee needs to be reconvened.

Member comment: Member Edwards suggested that the Committee seek authority to monitor SIP hotels, which are subject to the same problems as congregate shelters.

Member comment: Chair Adler asked if there would be time to introduce changes, given that legislation is needed very soon, in light of the 12/31/2020 sunset.

Staff suggested that the subcommittee meet as soon as practical to make sure the SMC's views are expressed and can be taken into account in updated legislation.

Subcommittee Chair Avalos invited anyone interested to join the subcommittee. New members are needed. It has been hard to achieve a quorum.

Member comment: Chair Adler made a motion to amend the agenda to appoint members to the Policy subcommittee; Avalos seconded, and this was approved. Member Edwards volunteered.

There was no Public Comment

IV. NEW BUSINESS/REPORTS

DISCUSSION

A. SHELTER STATUS REPORTS

HSH *10 min*

Lisa Rachowicz has been nominated to take Scott Walton's place. The Committee reviewed a Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) capacity report. The exact number of vacancies was not available. A high percentage of beds are

being used. Beds are for the most part only left unfilled if a COVID-19 risk is identified. The bulk of available placements go to hospital and I&Q discharges.

B. SHELTER MONITORING COMMITTEE REESTABLISHMENT

DPH 10 min

The Committee received an update from Jeff Simbe on behalf of the Department of Public Health. The legislation authorizing the SMC has a sunset clause for 12/31/2020. Staff and WPIC management are working to address this. This is a top priority. The BOS will no doubt need time to approve legislation. It is important for the Policy Subcommittee to have this on their agenda. It may be best to avoid introducing changes on such short notice. We would not want to hold things up. Fortunately, everyone seems to agree that the SMC is still needed.

Member comment: Member Edwards asked whether he could approach a supervisor himself without violation of the law or the bylaws.

Member comment: Chair Adler advised that as long as one were to make it clear they are not acting as a Committee member, but as a private citizen, such an approach would be allowable.

Jeff Simbe continued his remarks. Recruitment is another high priority. He asked everyone to consider anyone they know who might be willing and capable. Meanwhile, the Policy subcommittee needs to discuss how inspections and other work (mainly grievances) could be reinitiated even while the pandemic remains an impediment to normal operations. Phone and email should be workable. Perhaps the Committee could assist in some way, since they will not be doing inspections for the time being.

Member comment: Chair Adler wondered whether there are complaints being made.

Member comment: Member Edwards reports that he is aware of a few. Most are expressing concern about improper COVID compliance. There are some denials of service, as well. He suggests we provide contact information to the Shelter Client Advocates on our phone message.

Member comment: Members Edwards and Adler suggested wider dissemination of the announcements for future meetings, e.g., via social media, as well as investigating possibilities for people who do not have laptops or smartphones.

There was no Public Comment

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

DISCUSSION 3 min

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ADJOURNMENT

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

Proposed Action: Approve adjournment

M/S/C: Adler/Edwards/Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM

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