



MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

*August 18, 2021 | 10:00 AM
Via WebEx*

Present:

*Committee Member Tomiko Eya
Committee Member Lisa Rachowicz
Committee Member Brian Edwards
Committee Member Traci Watson
Committee Member Gabriela Avalos
Committee Member Bryce Dennis*

Committee Member David Harris

Absent:

*Chair Jonathan Adler
Vice Chair Diana Almanza
Committee Member Steven Clark*

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/AGENDA ADJUSTMENTS *5 min*
Meeting began at 10:08 AM. There was a quorum.

I. MINUTES AND MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS	DISCUSSION/ACTION	
FEBRUARY 2021 MINUTES	STAFF	<i>5 min</i>
<i>The Committee approved the Draft February 2021 Minutes.</i>		

Brian Edwards (**Seat 10**) Coalition on Homelessness and similar work for 9 yrs. Has experienced being unhoused. Homelessness can be remedied. He is thankful to be in San Francisco, where things are better than elsewhere. He was first appointed Feb 2020.

Cris Plunkett. Homeless since youth in SF. Has worked on youth homeless issues. Is passionate and interested in being part of the solution. Awaiting Board of Supervisor approval for **Seat 2**.

David Harris (**Seat 13**) has been working as a clinical social worker for 20 years. Has researched homelessness globally. Appointed by Mayor Breed to **Seat 13**. Is part of the Homeless Health initiative. Was homeless himself in his late teens and has never forgotten what it was like. Hopes he can make positive change in the city.

Gabriela Avalos (**Seat 3**) chair of the policy committee. Awaiting reappointment from the Board of Supervisors. As a native, she has seen a lot of change over the years. Currently a program manager with Lutheran Social Services, which performs an array of social services. Her focus is the placement of people in homes; was initially attracted to the SMC to get an understanding of people’ experience before they get to that stage. She hopes we can make incremental changes.

Lisa Rachowicz (**Seat 11**) manages temporary shelter services at **HSH**. Has about 20 years working with people experiencing homelessness. Has always wanted to work on this issue and is happy to be part of the committee.

Tomiko Eya (**Seat 12**) is with **DPH**. Involved for two years. Hired both SMC staffers. Pleased she was able to get things started after the previous staffer, Howard, was promoted.

Traci Watson (Seat 6) works for HSH, but is not an appointee, i.e., she is a volunteer member. Has experience working in shelters. One of her main interests is ensuring that shelter staff are well trained and behave with respect towards the guests. There are times when they fall short.

Angie David, DPH Staffer effective 7/1/21. 15 years working with homeless. Colorful background herself. Passionate about working with the city's vulnerable population.

II. **POLICY SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE** *Discussion /Action*
Policy Subcommittee Chair Avalos 10 min

Brian Edwards, Lisa Rachowicz, Cris Plunkett (membership pending), Traci Watson, and David Harris are interested. The Committee did not have a chance to accomplish much before COVID suspended operations. They only made quorum a couple times in six attempts. They did improve SMC signage and notices. will set a meeting to review and update outstanding proposals.

Public comment: No public comment.

Member Comment: Lisa Rachowicz volunteered to participate on the Policy subcommittee.

III. **NEW BUSINESS/REPORTS** *DISCUSSION*
A. **DEPT OF HOMELESSNESS AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING** **HSH** 15 min

The Committee received an update from the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. Documents showing capacity and vacancies at congregate and family shelters were reviewed. (Daily updates are posted at <https://sf.gov/data/homeless-shelter-system-recovery-and-expansion> .) Capacity has increased at some sites, per DPH spacing guidelines. Intakes are paused whenever there is a recent confirmed case of COVID until DPH confirms there are two weeks with no new cases. This can lower occupancy. The Central Waterfront Nav center is opening, with a COVID capacity of 44 guests. Intakes begin Monday, 8/23/21. The non-profit Providence Foundation will operate the site. The Providence Family Service Center is expanding from 25 private rooms to 47. Some will be available for emergency placements.

Member Comment: Member Eya asked (1) about COVID pauses of intakes at family shelters. It depends on the site. If there is shared space, like a kitchen, the pause is needed. Member Rachowicz will distinguish and provide information to the group. (2) Relative to testing, what is the frequency? The recommendation is twice a week for congregate shelters. Lisa will get back to the Committee as to the broader testing regimen.

Public comment: Selena, program director at Compass Family Shelter, mentioned that she did not see data for Claire House. Re rapid testing, they do daily screenings. They have community areas, so cautionary measures are important, but it is tough to hold guests accountable. Families are not getting tested and sometimes don't honor mask requirements. They have reached out to HSH, but it is a concern. Lisa reports that guests are not required to be tested or vaccinated.

Rather, tests are offered and encouraged. In congregate shelters, HSH unequivocally requires masking. Talk to her staff (Leshina and Elizabet). Violations can lead to warnings and even DOS.

Public Comment: Lessy Benedith with St. Vincent de Paul. Wants to welcome new members and thanks everyone for their service, especially Lisa for presentation of data. MSC-South's COVID capacity is now 168, not 111. This includes a recent addition of over 50 beds. Lisa will correct the list.

B. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Discussion

DPH 10 min

The Committee had seven members. Four have been reapproved. The LHCB reappointed Seats 7 and 10 and approved Seats 8 and 9. The mayors officially approved Seats 11, 12 and 13 on 8/17/21. BSO is on summer recess, but Seats 3, 4, and 6 will be looked at by the Rules Committee on 9/13/21 for reappointment. We have a potential candidate for Seat 1. Cris Plunkett is applying for Seat 2 and is on schedule for 9/13/21. Complaint hotline (415) 255-3642 has not been receiving many calls lately. Sunshine and Grievance Training are required for new SMC Members. Details will be provided to them.

Public Comment: Elisha Coleman, program manager for a closed shelter wondered if bi-weekly testing is available to people in SIP sites. Lisa reports HSH is mainly focused on congregate sites, but the program managers of the SIP hotels know of many resources. Angie reports that SIP sites are doing testing twice per week.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

DISCUSSION

3 min

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Member Comment: Member Brian Edwards very pleased we have quorum. He would like to request a Committee retreat.

Public comment: Ben from Shelter Client Advocates is glad that they will be able to start directing people to the SMC contact points.

ADJOURNMENT

Proposed Action: Approve adjournment

M/S/C: Edwards/Avalos/Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM

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Administrator
Sunshine Ordinance Task Force
City Hall, Room 244
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Phone 415.554.7724
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