

Commission on the Status of Women
September 8, 2021 - Minutes

Martha Kreeger, Excused Absence WORK
Orly Amey P
Linda Tangren
Yasi Safina-Davies
RocQuel Johnson P
Olga Borjon P
Aliza Kazmi P
Meredith Walker P
Marie Gilmore P
Amy Levine P
Courtney Welch - Absent
Ge'Neil Gary, Excused Absence WORK
Erin Scott P
Nina Senn P
SSA Valerie Kane Present
SSA Kim Fogel - absent due to urgent work matter

On Agenda for this Evening: County Healthcare Services "Impacts of Homelessness on Women and Girls in the County" Kerry Abbott

Review of Minutes August 11

Reminder from Chair Orly that we will be discussing in the COSW SubComm on Policy regarding Fetal and Maternal Health Outcomes particularly within the African American Community and next steps, we really want to bring this up in our Policy Meetings this month and revisit actions recommended by the presenters

Motion to Accept August Minutes by Chair Orly, Seconded by Olga Borjon

Retract Motion so that discussion and vote can be held at the same time,
Query: Chair and Comm. Borjon if that is okay? Both agree

Chair Orly reframes the Motion to be "Do we have a motion to accept both the July and August COSW Minutes as shown?"

Review asked, no response, all accept

Motion made by Comm. Borjon, Seconded by Chair to accept the Minutes as presented, Motion Passes w/out Objection

Presentation from Kerry Abbott:

Crisis emergency response
Presentation of slides w/ explanation

Q? What is your Definition of homelessness:

We use the HUD def, which means these are people Living in shelter not meant for human habitation, or fleeing partner violence

Good discussion on partner violence and the year over year numbers on violence against women, (Erin Scott will add to this later, with a discussion of anecdotally having a large number of referrals from camps re: rape)

What would you recommend on this issue from your experience? KA and: I miss a regular team on homelessness, that consistent conversation every week is so powerful

On data issues:

KA: Setting up project roomkey allowed them to get more information, anecdotally they were able to prequalify more than half of their folks, and another separate data poll working to expand medical respite program

Would like to see what a sig number of people who ID as female have requested, shelter without folks who ID as male, who are not allowed in the premises

Not all want this, but there is no shelter that is all female, but there are shelters that are all male, or for just families

And they recently Opened 15 new beds within the unincorporated areas, plus 40 beds at Days hotel with 24 hr nursing care, and addition beds and shelter
Lots of great stuff!

Queries from Nina, Yasi on the definition of the unhoused, what constitutes this population, could there be an undercount?

Our definition does not count couch surfing
Schools provide old fashioned referrals

Where is the funding coming from?

KA: 20 sources

Measure A

Tobacco settlement

HUD

Boomerang

Room Key

CA

Orley asks if we can have that list of funding, KA: yes

Oakland is seeing that most housing authorities have reached the end of the vouchers, they are hoping for more HUD vouchers, there is very little turnover in shelters and housing, so they need these funds

Converted some underutilized HUD programs to emergency family housing, aligning county with Orly: can county take a bigger role in that case work guidance?

KA: It is a need

Roquel: Do you we know how many women have become homeless from job loss?
Or their Ages?

2000 people maybe, who experience job loss, who do not tell us they are fleeing violence with minors, of that maybe 5% have children who remain unhoused
Families with children have a very low percentage of them unhoused

More than half of the folks unhoused are over 50, and probable the same among those identifying as female, they are much less visible, so a probable undercount

LT: Which branch of govt owns this issue? What are the causes?

KA Answer: super clear data that a lack of housing causes homelessness, as rents increase, number of homeless increases also, and structural racism is a contributing factor

Those who have been homeless prior are at higher risk again
Disproportionate numbers of NA, and AA in this group

This is important because we need to identify who is most at risk, where they are, what are the factors that influences the process

Olga q: was this addressed at the local level, county?

KA: 11.9 M from state to the county for noncongregate shelter, all require plans on how to end homelessness though

Commisioner: So they are holding that cash for a long time waiting for some kind of plan?

KA answer: Not at all, our plan is almost done, and she gave more answers

Yasi: Let's go back to causes of lack of housing/less supply?

Ans: big job boom/availability, migration of folks to Alameda Co from SF, house prices went up
Rent went up, supply went down, it is a direct correlation between shelter loss and increase rents

KAbbott, Office of Housing Care and Coordination: our focus is absolutely on ending homelessness at the root, and prevention problem solving, not one time financial solutions, but attacking the different factors that leads to homelessness, who is most vulnerable on losing

housing with these factors, for instance in what neighborhoods should we place access points for those services? How do we hit the structural racism tie in?

Q: Is there a report available?

KA: YES, "centering racial equity in homeless system design" Looks into this, and makes solid recommendations and that is the implementation plan we are working on right now with a five year implementation plan

Erin Scott is involved in the state wide groups on this, and they are adding this extra level to it

KA: Ans: we assist a lot of women and kids with subsidies who we believe they can assist with their market rate amounts within the limited time frame of receiving this subsidy

Roquel asked if we can get zip codes on this information,

KA: said yes to getting zip codes

Chair OA: Can we get the list started on what speakers we want for rest of Q4?

RJ: Can we explore this tie in with the Senior / Elder Commission? Council on Aging maybe?

Chair:

- COSW 10X Goals Focus: Homelessness, Health Care Impacts and Education
- Any other issues in the meantime we want to capture?
- Should we push this to policy and advocacy sub committee?

LT: What about zoning adaptations? What are the factors, how can we do a deeper dive?

What about infrastructure?

Yasi: complaining about HUD def of homelessness, she wants a speaker who has a wider def of homelessness than HUDs definition

LT: Wants to talk about behavior health facilities, what about infrastructure?

County has made some strides on zoning, but there is not enough affordable housing across the country, did we jump from 4000 to 8000 in a year-2 of time

If we are going to make an impact, we need the data, and we should have better numbers, she believes it may be a dramatic undercount

Marie G: this is also an issue of community education, right now there is a bill going through the Legislature to get rid of single family zoning, you can build more housing

Another issue she believes is CEQA, which has valid uses but has been used to create a very expensive mechanism to prevent housing locally, but to put this in perspective it is very hard to build housing with rising costs and to keep up with the need created by the jobs. The county can do things to make it better, but it is beyond them to solve the issue.

One of the reasons we don't have this is NIMBY movements, maybe we need to educate folks on the ownership and who is being harmed by these issues

NS: volunteering on the education piece, a community partner she suggests is the league of women voters

Orly: we def need a deeper dive and data needs

Orly: introduces Comm Borjon's exciting news

Comm Borjon has joined the HRC.

They found a replacement who will be joining the Commission at the Oct. mtg.

Report back from D4

Reparations, racial justice, illegal dumping statewide mtg hosted by the supervisor

We made the case that because they are not paying attention to women as a data point on a deeper dive, that they will pay attention,

NS: why couldn't Miley attend?

He was out of town, but LT said that is not rare to meet with staff

Report back from meeting with Supervisor David Haubert-District 1

Tentative mtg to meet again to get, agreement from our supervisor to help us get data.

We established a monthly mtg.

They put the onus on us to set a mtg with top 3 orgs to help get data, we requested to come out of our silos to communicate with the rest of the districts and throughout our district.

We called out wanting to be in the room when issues come out not after the fact.

We also talked about data needs, to share and make directed policy decisions, and to finance our retreat and strategic facilitation session.

RJ: We may be coming back to meet in person. RJ will be stepping back from the commission, but she is so thankful to have been a part of this women's commission.

MG: Please take care of yourself. We received a note from the gov's office that we can meet remotely through 2022.

Adjournment: 8:33 PM