



COH Policy Committee

April 23rd from 1:00-2:00pm

Meeting Recording:

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/e1653c34-4eca-42bc-b6c8-1f643737d417>

Policy Committee Members: Jo Bruno, Lynn Peralta, Lindy Lavender, Margaret Schiltz, Deanne Pearn, Doug Leich, Lavonna Martin, Erica McWhorter, Cassie Hourlland

Present Attendees: Jo Bruno, Lynn Peralta, Lindy Lavender, Margaret Schiltz, Deanne Pearn, Erica McWhorter, Cassie Hourlland

MINUTES

1. Welcome

A. Cassie welcomed all policy committee members.

2. Identify Chair

A. Cassie informed the group that Doug was not able to attend today but he did volunteer via email to be the Policy Committee Chair. The committee chair will help to facilitate the meetings and create agendas.

B. The group decided to appoint Doug as the Committee Chair.

3. Discuss Measure X

A. Lindy provided an overview of Measure X. The initiative started in 2018 with a committee organized by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to put together a needs assessment that would inform a potential sales tax measure. The measure was put on the ballot in November and passed. There is a 17-member board that is the Measure X Committee with ten alternate members, including Lindy. The committee is tasked with doing a needs assessment and makes recommendations on how the funds should be spent, with the final decision being made by the Board of Supervisors. The meetings are on Wednesdays from 5:00-6:30pm.

B. Deanne provided additional context, explaining a lack of conversation about housing and homelessness in the follow up conversations around Measure X. There are a lot of people interested in using the money to support fire and the hospitals.

C. Policy committee members discussed Measure X to identify if there were recommendations on how to spend the ongoing funding and the one-time funding available that could be brought to the COH for consideration. A summary of the discussion is as follows:

- i. Members discussed the idea of receiving guidance on the carve outs for the funding and expressed interest in advocating for funding to go to housing and homeless services since it was an initial driver for the funding. There was group interest to propose a percentage of the funds for housing and homeless services or provide a concrete funding request using data to show the need.
- ii. Members discussed the connection between housing and addressing homelessness to other services such as mental health, fire, safety, etc. Addressing housing and seeing it as a public health issue will relieve other county services.
- iii. Members discussed developing recommendations for the Measure X committee around process of gathering information to inform how the funding will be spent.
- iv. Members discussed the needs of the homeless service system recognizing that there is a need to identify funding that will help build capacity for the CoC to help get more people permanently housed.
- v. Members discussed what the ask for the one-time funding and the ongoing funding might be stating the importance to spend the funding efficiently and in a way that will be effective. There was mention of importance to build housing capacity in the homeless system of care, connect the funding to other systems such as mental health and invest in youth and young adults. Ideas for the funding are included below.
 1. One-Time funding- more investments for housing for young adults/runaway homeless youth, intersection of mental health, additional housing subsidy, seed housing capacity (purchase, acquisition, land trust, PSH for youth), housing for people who don't fit into existing programs or are difficult to house.
 2. H3 shared that PSH would be an idea place to money towards right now if there would be an opportunity. There is a need to provide the ongoing services and supports that go with sustaining a PSH program in order to build projects. H3 also mentioned some ongoing funding streams that go through other County agencies such as DCD that may be coming to support building out programs. There is a need to sustain programs and get providers onboard to run the programs. When building out programs there is a need to make sure the right people are at the table to help plan projects.
 3. There was a request to make sure the conversation is brought back to the root of the issue which lies with the consumers. The

community voice should be built into a letter or recommendations that are lifted.

4. The group closed deciding they want to lean towards a recommendation that would suggest ongoing funding to address housing and homelessness. The funding could go towards building capacity for the system of care, but that would not be sufficient. The recommendation should be clear and include the right partners, time and resources to make sure projects are built out and sustained.

D. Jo volunteered to track policy items for the group. Deanne will connect Jo with the documents that the REPs use, and Lindy will send Jo items as well.

4. Next Steps

- A. The group decided to report out at the COH meeting in May to make Councilmembers aware of the discussion on Measure X and to share the thoughts on where the suggestions for recommendations for the Measure X Committee.
- B. Lindy will look to see if there is a process for identifying how the one-time funding will be spent.

5. Identify Next Meeting Date

- A. Cassie will send a doodle poll to members to schedule the COH Policy meeting for May and June.