

Community Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes March 10, 2025 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM [draft]

Attendance:

<u>Committee Members</u>: Nicki Dardinger, Daniel DeMelo, Anisa Ali, Darius Yaw, Cameron Foster

Pending members: Lisa Drennan

Absent: Christine Hermann, Nathan Williams

JOHS & County Staff: Bill Boyd, Malka Geffen, Dan Field, Emily Nelson, Antoinette Payne,

Lori Kelly

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	
Welcome	Brief welcomes	
Q&A with HSD executive leadership	Emily Nelson, HSD Equity Manager, and Dan Field, Department Director spoke about prioritizations in a constrained budget and appreciation for committee members. Comment: Feels like the budget decision is already made, but I need to stay engaged and speak out and hold the department and county accountable. Would like to hear more about Housing First and what can be done now. What steps is JOHS taking to include voices of people with lived experience? Response: JOHS submitted a draft budget and have prioritized the most vulnerable. This is the time, as it moves into the political arena, to be heard. Q: Are there contingency plans in place around a potential loss of federal funding? A: Yes - there is a County-wide work group tracking the dynamic federal funding environment and building contingency plans. Loss of Medicaid funds in particular would be devastating. Q: Headlines re: additional dollars to fill gaps (i.e., buying back programs)?	Add to list of Qs: Have JOHS/HSD practices/polici es changed at all in response to the Students for Fair Admissions decision that changed the "compelling governmental interest" and "narrowly tailored" standards by which government

· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	 A: We highlighted the budget gap going into next FY of \$104M; buyback is what we can add back to the budget, which includes reserves, if we identify additional funds from the County Chair, the Governor, and Metro. Q: What's the strategy for buyback prioritization? A: Elected officials have different opinions: more shelter, eviction prevention, etc. Our goal is to deliver a balanced budget that supports a holistic system focused on keeping people housed and sheltered. Q: Would it make sense for CBAC to make recommendations re: buybacks? A: Yes, suggest focusing on high-profile messages; we've prioritized PSH, employment programs, day services. Q: How has HSD considered last year's CBAC recommendations? A: Community Sheltering Strategy, investing in flowthrough from shelter to housing. For those unsheltered, looking at how to move people forward and not warehousing them. Q: Is there a timeline for getting someone off the street and into housing? A: There are a lot of timelines because people connect to services in many different ways, and the timeline depends on their circumstance. We meet people where they are, so there's no standard timeline. Q: Is there data to show cult spec programming is working? Has it led to a decrease in disparities in accessing services or the overall homeless population? A: Answered in written response. Myth busting: culturally specific services are provided by and for a community, and they're employing best practices for working with that community that are not found elsewhere in the system. We try to lean away from studying things other groups have done such as changes resulting from use of culturally specific providers. Goal is to create a diversity of pathways forward 	can racially discriminate? HSD staff will provide examples and links to studies.
	to lean away from studying things other groups have done	provide examples and
l		

Approve 2/24/2025 & 3/3/2025 meeting minutes	tabled	
Finalize Draft of JOHS CBAC Recommendations letter	 Chair said cmte members received document earlier today with feedback from the survey. Suggested focusing on programmatic recommendations, including if additional resources are attained. Identify 3 or 4 priority recommendations. Themes of feedback include shelter, eviction prevention, PSH, retentions (like employment services), culturally specific/appropriate services Include eviction prevention in letter Is it reducing the rate of homelessness? Motion to include the sentence: The CBAC would like to spend the next several weeks continuing to review the JOHS budget proposal, ask questions, and submit a second letter following the release of the Chair's budget. Include priorities: more access to shelters and shelter beds, rent assistance, eviction prevention and wrap around service for families and singles. Include frustrations with mistakes in the draft budget and lack of responses to questions and time. Another highlight - preserving services, ensuring efficiency in administration Include accountability Committee members are making recommendations on budget priorities and not contracts, so not a conflict of interest Second letter to include details about recommendations on the following list. "Overall, should more funding be made available for JOHS, these are the kinds of programs we would like to see prioritized: Permanent Supportive Housing Access to Shelter 	

- Eviction Prevention	
 Culturally Specific & Responsive Services, 	
- Rent Assistance	
- Wrap-Around Services to Families and Singles	
- Accountability, Transparency	
 Unclear what "access to shelter" means; hard to 	
prioritize, so remove	
 Could we swap "access to shelter" with "safety 	
on the streets programming"?	
 Not necessarily; will revisit later 	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
 Edit initial statement to emphasize the process is 	
unethical and insulting:	
"We did not have sufficient time to review the JOHS	
budget to provide more extensive review. This process	
was disappointing. To have so little time to review an	
accurate budget dishonors the memories of the	
hundreds of people dying on our streets each year and	
the hundreds more we expect will perish this year."	
Nicki Dardinger, Daniel DeMelo, Anisa Ali, Darius Yaw, and	
Cameron Foster voted to approve the content of draft letter;	
to be seen prior to being sent to the County Chair; with the	
plan to send a second more thorough letter in coming weeks.	
pianto sena a secona more moreagimente inteorning weeks.	

Next Meeting: HSD staff and Chair will discuss scheduling of next meeting