



# Joint Office of Homeless Services

Community Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2025

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

[draft]

Attendance:

Committee Members: Nicki Dardinger, Cameron Foster, Christine Hermann, Daniel DeMelo

Pending members: Amanda Garren, Lisa Drennan, Wendy Lear

Absent: Nathan Williams, Darius Yaw, Anisa Ali

JOHS & County Staff: Bill Boyd, Antoinette Payne, Lori Kelly

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	
Welcome	Brief welcomes	
Approve 2/24/2025 meeting minutes	Tabled until a future meeting	
Discussion and Q&A on budget and CBAC process	<p>Members encouraged to continue submitting questions via the survey link sent via email by Nicki</p> <p>Q: clarification on the 'mapping' of the program offers from FY25 and FY26? A: working on redoing the crosswalk now</p> <p>Comment: crosswalk difficulties often happen across all county departments</p> <p>Q: what is crosswalking? A: connecting previous year's budget figures to current year budget figures. Not an 'apples to apples' comparison (ex: 1 time only expenses don't move forward OR reorganizing programs can move them). Helps ensure an accurate comparison to previous year</p>	

	<p>Q: is crosswalk done manually? A: yes, but lots of formulas in spreadsheet that get out of whack Q: what is process for budget to be reviewed/corrected? Why were errors not found? A: issue only with FY25 budget. Departments upload budget into system (Questica) and often don't know how it will look once uploaded/processed. Tight timeline for corrections Q: document released is not reviewed prior to release? A: it is but b/c of timeline may need ongoing review/updates after release Q: does JOHS create program offers? A: yes but uploaded into Questica and formatted into system Q: was incorrect FY25 data uploaded into the system? A: no one is saying that wrong info was uploaded</p> <p>Q: only a small number of HSD staff positions eliminated, but likely many provider staff may lose jobs? How many positions may be impacted by reductions? A: response by HSD executive team. Response pending Q: eliminating entire contracts, or percentage reductions? Looking at outcomes or type of work? A: response by HSD executive team. Response pending. That said it is early in the process to project how reductions will actually look</p> <p>Q: program offer performance measures on equity/BIPOC participation groups... out of 28 performance measures, increase in 4 and decrease in 12. What are results of equity investments? Are equity outcomes declining in FY26 budget? What practices put in place to cause that decline and what changes will allow a reverse of that decline? A: not an overall decline in equity outcomes but doing better in some areas vs other areas. Will f/u with more data. Some new orgs may be working with difficult to reach populations and could be hard to evaluate what's going on at this point. Hope to share where we are in aggregate, how each programs equity outcomes put in place, and how they fit into overall puzzle. Equity data weighted in what program were put forward into the budget; can</p>	
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share more based on committee member sharing the program offers they looked at

Q: in transmittal letter, sharing info about 221 PSH units as well as 401 units (200 + 201 units). The programs that have been committed through NOFA... are those the ones moving forward

A: out of 400, pausing on 200 that will carry into FY26. the others will be moving forward from the NOFA process

Q: what does HSD staff hope CBAC focus on and include in recommendations letter:

A: following HRAP/LIP, staying true to mission/equity goals and uplift reductions you wish you want to see continued. May be the case the program offers are not the best source for equity measures or program outcomes, so HSD should provide alternative sources of info

Q: what are the top 5 priority groups?

A: need to confirm. But based on which groups are over-represented in homeless population (Black/African American, Indigenous/Native American, Pacific Islander, Latinx, LGBTQIA2S+ and over 55

Q: no carryover from FY25 into FY26?

A: carrying over \$45M SHS carryover?

Q: is this an underspend?

A: wouldn't characterize it as an underspend. Have a \$57M gap/reduction in FY25 so using carryover to help mitigate the gap, reducing carryover

Q: looking at dashboard, It shows majority of programs underspending?

A: need to review what you're looking at. Dashboard shows what has been submitted via reimbursement billing, so doesn't really reflect actual to-date spending (lag a month... and bigger lag if in further behind). Also, program can ramp up during the FY and show program spending slow in beginning

Q: Central CBAC has been meeting? Are other CBACs commenting on compressed timeline?

	<p>A: no detailed response</p> <p>Comment: with updates to budget documents and lack of additional evidence to show equity and performance outcomes, not enough time to make recommendations. Consider offering a letter requesting more time?</p> <p>Comment: must consider concerns being presented but need to use power of committee to make recommendations... maybe offer revised recommendations later? A letter asking for more time is like not submitting a letter at all</p> <p>Comment: need to share what we can and share concerns... and use other public comment opportunities and CBAC presentation to County Board (in May) to make additional recommendations</p> <p>Q: do CBAC recommendations make a difference?  A: example: HSD CBAC still exists! Change in process intends to get CBAC recommendations before Chair makes her proposed budget and could have impact. Keep pushing for opportunities to make changes</p> <p>Comments related to sticking with the CBAC process and how to make the recommendations on the larger issues such as reductions and proportionate cuts within HSD</p> <p>Q: are there decisions HSD hopes the Chair considers in her budget decisions that the CBAC can advocate for  A: can ask HSD exec team, get a response</p>	
<p>Drafting of HSD CBAC Recommendations letter</p>	<p>Asking general ideas/input for drafting recommendations letter. Some committee members state they need more time to digest all the information.. Hard to make recommendations when initial information is wrong.</p> <p>Need to disclose conflict of interest; several committee members work for HSD funded orgs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Providers do bring important perspective to the work</li> </ul> <p>Suggested things to highlight:</p>	

- Highlight underfunded services for BIPOC services
- Services for women and single father households
- Hear from HSD leadership on their priorities for restorations
- Want explanation for disproportionate cuts within HSD
- Hear from service providers on what is being cut
- How cuts will impact everything else
- Impact of cuts to supportive services to retention outcomes
- What are proposed reductions to Investments to outreach and inreach services
- Justifications for cuts to shelters, outreach, PSH? Limited analysis
- Accountability of program outcome inaccuracies and their impact on decision making
- Can HSD commit to 1 fewer death on the street "what we approved last year killed 400 people" can approve any budget doesn't reduce deaths
- Acuity is up... and still cuts to PSH, FUSE, peer health navigators
  - OHP/Medicaid benefit not set up well as a service (brief discussion on medicaid waiver to cover housing)

Comment: is there anything that the committee feels makes sense to cut?

- Conversation really about prioritization on where to avoid cuts
- Need to advocate for additional funding
- Ensure flow through shelter into housing
- Concern with cuts to employment services. What are the other resources for employment? (brief discussion)
  - Tie to HRAP... employment is a priority to this plan

Q: is employment program cut due to less video lottery \$\$

A: video lottery is part of general fund; not separate

- Can ask Chair not to reduce general funds to HSD

Q: new state funded housing (Governor plan) and how will our community ensure enough supportive services for those housing?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Promote more in-state construction</li> <li>- Transitional Housing as a resource? How important is it? Is TH categorized as shelter? No... but move away from TH since it is not considered permanent</li> </ul> <p>Q: how will folks get into new shelters? A: extension of how we get folks into shelter now. Recent presentation on shelter placement... most shelters are open referrals. Shelter availability tool to show availability of beds</p> <p>Q: what is the role of technology in making efficiencies? (brief discussion about technology... use of tech to identify homeless through mobile phones?)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Review current proposal by Commissioner Singleton to pull \$22M of SHS resources being sent to other County departments</li> </ul>	
<p>Next Steps</p>	<p>Complete Survey by Friday</p> <p>Committee chair to gather and assemble questions and give to HSD staff</p> <p>Prioritize questions that are not specific to program offers.. Then prioritize program offer questions based on total expenses of program offer</p> <p>Will put out another Office Hours opportunity, but please ask HSD staff if you know want this benefit</p>	
<p>Future Meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Currently, one more meeting before recommendations letter due date</li> <li>● Committee will continue to meet through June</li> </ul>	

**Next Meeting:** March 10, 2025 5pm - 7pm. In-person with virtual attendance option on Zoom. In person location TBA