

Measure H Citizens' Oversight Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 26, 2017

ATTENDEES

Advisory Board: Mercedes Marquez, Renata Simril, Christine Margiotta, Andrew Kerr, Bishop John Mark Richardson

County CEO: Phil Ansell, Samangi Mudalige, Tene Tate-Dickson, Max Stevens

I. Welcome and Introductions

Phil Ansell, Director of the Homeless Initiative, called the first meeting of the Measure H Citizens' Oversight Advisory Board (COAB) to order at 3:00p.m. on September 26, 2017, in Room 739 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration.

Quorum was met as all Advisory Board members were in attendance.

II. Advisory Board Functions

Ansell provided an overview of COAB's three functions as listed under Section 4.73.060, Item C, of the associated Board ordinance from December 6, 2016.

a. Semi-Annual Review of all expenditures from Measure H

"Semi-annual review of all expenditures from the retail transactions and use tax."

The COAB's first review period of Measure H expenditures is for July to December 2017. The review will take place in February/March 2018.

b. Annual Accounting of Allocations

"Publish a complete accounting of all allocations each year, posting the information on the County's publicly accessible Internet Web site; in a downloadable spreadsheet format, including information about the location and footprint of each funded project, its objectives, status, and outcomes, any matching funds used, and the applicable program from the expenditure plan schedule."

The annual report will be due after June 2018.

c. Periodic Evaluations of Expenditures

"Submit periodic evaluations to the County of the retail transactions and use tax expenditures, which may at the Board of Supervisors' direction be undertaken by independent researchers, identifying any changes needed to meet the objectives of the Homeless Initiative."

The Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office (CEO) procured outside evaluators for its own evaluation process and can see COAB playing a significant role in developing a base for the evaluation framework.

Mr. Ansell stated that COAB may incorporate functions into their scope of work beyond the three specified in the December 6, 2016 Board motion, and are welcome to raise the additional items in their discussions.

Renata Simril expressed that she's mindful that they are an Oversight Advisory Board and want to get a better understanding of what the Homeless Initiative (HI) is already evaluating. Mr. Ansell shared that the Quarterly Report to the Board provides good information and background on what's currently being evaluated; the November 2017 report will be shared as soon as it's available so that COAB may provide feedback on what to include in the next Quarterly Report. Mr. Ansell also shared that a Measure H dashboard was being worked on.

Andrew Kerr expressed interest in hearing from the service provider community and the importance of their voices as those directly working with the homeless.

Christine Margiotta requested that they have an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the dashboards before they're finalized. Mr. Ansell agreed that COAB would be able to weigh-in on the design.

III. Overview of Annual Scheduled Homeless Initiative Evaluation

Max Stevens from CEO Research and Evaluation Services Unit provided the following information:

- Unintended consequence of Measure H is that departments/agencies will have to strengthen the way they collect data regarding homeless issues.
- CEO contracted with Public Sector Analytics for the development of the evaluation in three categories: 1) Strategies; 2) Programmatic; and 3) Systemic implications.
- The first evaluation is coming out in January 2018 and is built into the contract, along with a series of presentations on the findings.
- Second procurement to take place for the evaluation of five critical strategies (strategies to be discussed at the Homeless Deputies meeting).

There is a concern that what's happening on the ground could get lost in the data and numbers.

Mr. Ansell discussed the development of Measure H dashboards, currently being worked on by United Way, the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, and CEO. Mr. Ansell assured the COAB that their input on dashboard design will be included into the dashboard development timeline.

Ms. Margiotta asked where the data for this resides and if we systematically have the capacity to show that we're removing more individuals off the streets than before, including how many and where. She stated that the Homeless Count shows an imbalance and that the COAB wants to understand how and where dollars are being invested in order to make it clear how to develop solutions to address homelessness in all areas of the County. Mr. Ansell shared that the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) will help provide data that will assist in addressing the issues described above. Mr. Stevens stated that geo-coding homeless information is important and is looking to make it a part of the evaluation.

Public comment:

A member of the public stated that there was a request for proposals but the CEO hired a former County employee to do the evaluation. He asked if this was a conflict of interest?

Mr. Stevens responded that the people who reviewed the proposals did not know the individual prior to the selection.

IV. Homeless Initiative Updates

Mr. Ansell provided the information:

a. Measure H Implementation

- The Measure H sales tax will begin to be collected on Sunday, October 1, 2017. This enables HI to move forward with a tremendous amount of collaboration between several entities.
- It is advantageous that HI is not starting from scratch but expanding and enhancing existing services.
- There is a need to increase capacity of current providers and new providers.
- From a programmatic standpoint, the biggest challenge is the severe shortage of affordable housing.

b. Collaboration with Cities

- The 2nd Cities' Summit will be held in Carson on September 27, 2017. There will be 59 cities represented and several providers and County departments for them to interact and engage with.
- City Planning grants will be allocated in amounts ranging between \$30,000 and \$70,000, depending on each city's Homeless Count numbers. A total of 45 applications were submitted for 47 cities. United Way's Home for Good Funders Collaborative managed the review and evaluation process, with decisions to be provided by the end of October 2017. HI may need to go back to the Board and ask for additional funds to support all qualifying proposals as the total of applications submitted is over the allocated total of \$1.5 million. The deadline for the plans is March 31 - June 30, 2018.

- There is also \$500,000 allocated for Councils of Governments for regional coordination grants.
- The County is committed to providing quality on-going supportive services to individuals and families who are housed in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units that are constructed in cities. The County will work with cities to memorialize this agreement by executing Memoranda of Understanding.

Mercedes Marquez expressed that typically projects approved at the State level lack the capacity at the local level to accomplish. She hopes that the grants are making it easy for the cities to hire experts to assist in the plan, and that the County will help ensure those dollars are focused on the needs of the market in a practical way – very targeted capacity funding may lead to much more robust plans.

V. Commission Items

a. Brown Act

As this is the first COAB meeting, Norayr Zurabyan of County Counsel provided an overview of what is required by the Ralph M. Brown Act, California's public meeting law.

b. Meeting Frequency

There was agreement that the next two meetings should take place more frequently, then possibly quarterly. The next meeting is to be scheduled in the first half of December 2017, and the following meeting during the second half of February 2018.

c. Chairperson Selection

Ms. Margiotta was nominated by Ms. Simril. Bishop John Mark Richardson seconded the nomination. The Advisory Board unanimously selected Ms. Margiotta as their Chair.

VI. Public Comment

A member of the public asked how the meeting information is being disseminated and if there is a mailing list.

The Homeless Initiative will seek ways to place a way to sign-up for an associated mailing list on the website. In the meantime, the meeting agendas will be posted to the HI website and publicly per the Brown Act. Ms. Simril encouraged attendees to disseminate the information to others.

The same member of the public asked if the COAB plan to attend other homeless related community or policy meetings.

The COAB stated that they are not against doing so.

VII. Adjournment

Ms. Marquez would like to see the status of State funding for housing on the next meeting agenda.

Mr. Ansell shared news of the passing of Assembly Bill 210, which passed the Assembly and the Senate without a single “no” vote. It will be effective January 1, 2018, and will enable multidisciplinary outreach teams to share otherwise confidential information amongst different teams.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

Minutes submitted by: Samangi Mudalige

Minutes approved by: Phil Ansell