

NOPNA Homelessness Meeting 11.17.22

- Location: City Real Estate
- NOPNA: Shakirah (moderating), Martin, Ryan, Tim, Meg, Leela, Jeff, Jason
- 25-ish, mostly in person; unknown also on zoom
- Emily Cohen Department of Homelessness services
- Robin Candler - street services DPH, SF crisis response team
- Emily
 - Communications and legislative affairs
 - "7,700 people homeless on any given night; 4,000 unsheltered"
 - Sheltering and housing 15k people every night but not meeting entire need
 - Health and housing deeply connected - solution is bringing together
 - Racial dynamics of homelessness: disproportionately PoC; specifically indigenous and black people
 - Census every other year
 - 15% reduction in unsheltered homelessness in 2022 vs 2019
 - 3.5% decrease in overall homelessness
 - Seems tied to increased city spending
 - D5 seeing an increase - 363 to 697 overall
 - 183 to 344 unsheltered
 - Creating a citywide plan right now
 - Town hall in a couple of weeks - Dec 5 via zoom
 - Employing formerly homeless to engage current homeless
 - What it would take to achieve dramatic reductions in homelessness
 - Not just focused on their department - engaging with the other relevant departments
 - Timeline: ~Feb 2023
 - 6 pillars
 - How to help/respond
 - Whole slide on who to call
 - SFHOT - for people in need to call themselves
 - Get involved as active community members
- Robin
 - Street crisis response team
 - Behavioral health team response to people in crisis vs police
 - Only 6% of people SCRT encounters need a 5150
 - Reach via 911
- Questions
 - Lack of bathrooms; options?
 - 33 bathrooms citywide
 - Let public works know, along with these teams
 - Divisadero specific concern
 - When/where can people camp and when does encampment get removed?

- Court rulings and long standing laws restricting anti-camping laws when there is nowhere else to go
- Focus is on large encampments; 6+
- As shelter available, can offer, then can sweep
- Struggle is preventing re-encampment
- HSOC - specific approach via Shakirah
- Not everyone wants shelter
- A lot of people have homes/rooms but spend time on streets for various reasons
- What is the change in funding and effect?
 - Significant increase 2019 to 2022
 - Our City Our Home kicked in; effectively doubled, not all even being used yet
 - A lot of funds related to COVID
- D5 split among multiple SCRT zones
 - Covered by dispatch, won't get lost between cracks
 - Again: accessed via 911 for people in need (not things)
 - Heavily tied to people actually calling; city tracks
- If not enough shelters how is someone moved? How is it determined which encampment/homeless people are offered shelter?
 - Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) is out during the day, knows how many beds they can offer; other teams have allocation of beds as well
 - Healthy Street Outreach Center (HSOC) plans ahead for encampment resolution, coordinates how many beds needed
 - Focus is 6 or more tents; special attention goes to encampments that are considered dangerous (eg open flame) and/or have kids in them
- Plans for a new shelter in D5?
 - Looking at acquiring Oasis hotel which is currently functioning as a shelter
 - If there are sites reach out to Emily
 - One area of unspent funds: safe parking program (more Sunset)
- Connection between affordable housing and homelessness
 - Lack of affordable housing is the primary cause of homelessness
 - Vast majority of people with substance use issues or behavioral health challenges are housed; these things aren't what's causing homelessness
 - Supportive housing is affordable + social services
 - Just more affordable housing would help
 - Deeply affordable; 30% AMI
- Who to call if someone overdose?
 - People need to want to do something; they aren't going to force them
 - If someone is sleeping off drugs, chat with them or leave them be
 - If you're worried call 911
 - There are enough substance use treatment beds; it's not as simple as that
- What about "mentally unstable"?
 - The gray area between someone that will say they're ready for help
 - The threshold for involuntary services is very high; they do assessments for this all day long

- Someone not acting like everyone else in an area doesn't mean they're not taking care of themselves with food, clothing, etc
- What about trash/sidewalks?
 - Report to 311 - call or app
 - The data is used for city resources
 - The teams do daily outreach
- Efforts to restrict camping to certain areas?
 - Safe parking (for campers / homeless in cars) is a huge need
 - Debate up and down the west coast
 - Camping is already technically illegal, enforcement limited without shelter
 - Safe camp sites during COVID
 - Still determining how effective
 - Neighbors upset with both remaining sites
- What is being done regionally?
 - There is a multi jurisdictional homelessness program
 - Work with neighboring areas for state and federal funding
 - Eg, We know SF won't be successful if Oakland isn't
 - Trying to keep people in the housing they're in
- Last points
 - Appreciation for people being involved
 - "When in doubt: call 911"
 - Get involved with organizations
- Will share slides via email
- Let NOPNA know anything else