

Our Children, Our Families Council
Summary of the Local Homeless Coordinating Board
(Last updated 6/29/15)

Goals of the Effort

The Local Homeless Coordinating Board (LHCB) works to ensure that San Francisco pursues a unified homeless strategy that is supported by the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, City departments, nonprofit agencies, people who are homeless or formerly homeless and the community at large. All efforts are aimed at finding permanent solutions, and the range of services is designed to meet the unique and complex needs of individuals who are threatened with or currently experiencing homelessness. Since 2005, the mission of LHCP has been to use a "Housing First" model to develop a continuum of services whose ultimate goal is to prevent and eradicate homelessness in the City and County of San Francisco.

The functions of the LHCP include overseeing San Francisco's implementation of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care process, reviewing and commenting on local homeless legislation, and gathering community input on homelessness. In addition to its ongoing responsibilities, the LHCP is charged with developing, monitoring, and updating San Francisco's five year Continuum of Care Plan by bringing the varying perspectives of the City, community agencies, and residents together to guide the development and implementation of the continuum of services for homeless people.

Focal Population of the Effort

The LHCB is focused on homeless and at-risk households in San Francisco, which consists of mostly adults over age 25 though also a significant number of youth under 18. According to the most recent estimates, San Francisco has approximately 7,000 homeless individuals on a given night, 124 of whom are unaccompanied minors. Moreover, there are roughly 130 homeless families, including approximately 225 children, experiencing homelessness, which the LHCB defines as living in a temporary shelter, in a vehicle, in a park, or in transitional housing.

Impact

The LHCB works to align local homeless policies with federal funding opportunities, such that the federal funding San Francisco receives to help prevent homelessness has increased from \$19 million to \$27 million over the past three years. The LHCB has helped expand the city's Continuum of Care plan to include 67 projects and has worked to ensure that the City's plan for homelessness addresses the federal government's five key metrics for receiving funding: 1) increasing the income of participants enrolled in any continuum of care program; 2) increasing the rate of placement from homelessness to permanent housing; 3) increasing retention and residential stability in permanent housing programs; 4) improving data collection on homelessness; 5) focusing on modern and innovative methodologies which ensure all funds are spent as planned.

Challenges

The LHCB identifies two factors which make homelessness a particularly difficult problem to solve in San Francisco. The first is the high number of high need homeless individuals, and the second is the high rents which make it difficult for low income families to find sustainable housing options.

Origins of the Effort

The LHCB was formed in 1996 to oversee the integrated health, housing, employment, and social service system described in the 1996-2001 Continuum of Care plan, which was drafted by the Homeless Budget Advisory Task Force. The LHCB has been meeting monthly since it was formed, coordinating the City's homeless policy and Continuum of Care implementation. On January 10, 2005 the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution to reconfigure the composition of the LHCB.

Leading the Effort

The nine LHCB members vote to appoint two co-chairs from within their group, and co-chairs serve for a one-year term. Co-chair responsibilities include facilitating monthly meetings and taking responsibility for meeting deadlines. The LHCB is also supported by a full-time staff member, Megan Owens Faught, who works for the Human Services Agency. Megan conducts research and is the primary author of annual reports produced by the LHCB. She has served as the supporting staff member for the LHCB for the past 3 years, and before that, she sat on the LHCB as a community stakeholder for 7 years.

Members of the Effort

As dictated in the 2005 resolution, the LHCB is now made up of nine members plus one full-time supporting staff member. Four of the members are appointed by the Mayor, four by the Board of Supervisors, and the ninth member is appointed by the Controller. The LHCB also receives support from an outside consulting group, HomeBase, which helps align the city's Continuum of Care plan to the federal government's requirements. Roughly \$110,000 is set aside annually from the Human Services Agency's budget to finance this consulting support. The following is a list of members as of June 2015:

Name:	Appointed by:
Laura Guzman (Co-Chair)	Board of Supervisors
Kevin Sharps (Co-Chair)	Mayor
Kim Armbruster	Board of Supervisors
Erick Brown	Board of Supervisors
Del Seymour	Board of Supervisors
Christine Ma	Controller – Controller's Office
Richard Springwater	Mayor
Joanne Peters	Mayor
Yoshiko Kennedy	Mayor
Megan Owen Faught (Staff Support)	Human Services Agency

Structure of the Effort

The LHCB convenes for monthly meetings, which are open to the public. Meetings include time for updates from Bevan Dufty of the Mayor's Office on the city's progress on initiatives related to homelessness. There is also an opportunity for public comment. Roughly forty community members attend each meeting, in addition to 7 or 8 of the LHCB members – always enough for a quorum. One member of the LHCB always takes minutes, which are available on the LHCB's website. In addition to the monthly meetings, the nine LHCB members also subdivide themselves into five standing committees: funding; strategic planning; policy; HEARTH implementation (federal homelessness legislation from 2009); and Coordinated Entry. These standing committees meet separately as needed to address relevant topics.

The Role of Data

Data is central to the work of the LHCB, especially since federal funding is contingent on data from Continuum of Care projects the previous year. The most important data for the LHCB is therefore the annual performance reports of each of the 67 homelessness-related projects currently operational in San Francisco. The LHCB analyzes this data to evaluate the efficacy of each program, which it then notes in the subsequent annual Continuum of Care plan. The LHCB also

conducts a point-in-time homeless count once every two years, in which roughly 500 volunteers canvass the entire city to gather a detailed account of every homeless individual in San Francisco. The LHCB is in the process of moving away from this bi-annual point-in-time survey and instead implementing a more reliable, real-time homeless management information system.

Related Documents

- Local Homeless Coordinating Board web page within the sf.gov website: < <http://sfgov.org/lhcb/>>
- 2013 San Francisco Homeless Point-In-Time Count & Survey Report:
<http://sfgov.org/lhcb/sites/sfgov.org.lhcb/files/migrated/FileCenter/Documents/LHCB/San_Francisco_PIT_Homeless_Count_2013_Final_February_13_2014.pdf>
- The Roadmap: A Five-Year Plan to End the Crisis of Family Homelessness in San Francisco