



## COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS January 24, 2025

### ATTENDANCE

Members: James Kyriaco (Chair); Tamala Takahashi (Vice Chair); Tess Albin-Smith; Debbie Baker; James Boito; Sonja Brunner; Jeremy Bubnick; Fernando Cabrera; Megan Campbell; Sara Castro; Shana Charles; Ruben Chavez; Ken Domer; Christine Engel; John Erickson; Eddie Flores; Kelly Fujio; Shelley Hasselbrink; Benjamin Jones; Rachel Kertz; Rachel Lang; Mina Layba; Caity Maple; Jenny McAdams; Anie McCary; Cynthia Moran; Liz Morris; Lisa Murphy; Carmen Nichols; Brad Olson; Michael Ponce; Molly Rattigan; Christina Rudsell; Mario Saucedo; Michelle Shoresman; Holly Tillman; Bill Uphoff; Anthony Valdez; Clint Weirick; Anissa Williams; Stephen Zollman

Staff: Caroline Grinder, Legislative Affairs Lobbyist  
Betsy Montiel, Legislative Affairs Analyst

#### I. Welcome and Introductions

Chair, James Kyriaco and Vice-Chair, Tamala Takahashi, welcomed committee members and introduced themselves and Cal Cities staff.

Cal Cities President Lynne B. Kennedy, Mayor, Rancho Cucamonga and Cal Cities Executive Director and CEO Carolyn Coleman provided opening remarks and welcomed committee members.

#### II. Public Comment

Chair Kyriaco opened the meeting for public comments. There was no public comment.

#### III. General Briefing

In accordance with the customary practice of convening all policy committee members for a general briefing to the start of policy committee meetings, the Cal Cities advocacy team provided a [General Briefing Update Document](#), which includes the latest on legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities.

#### IV. Committee Orientation

Cal Cities staff provided an overview of the committee's schedule and processes. Members were informed of the process for adding items to a policy committee agenda and the different recommendations on bill positions the policy committees could provide to the Cal Cities Board of Directors.

#### V. Cal Cities 2025 Advocacy Priorities

Cal Cities staff provided an overview of [Cal Cities 2025 Advocacy Priorities](#), which include:

1. Protect local revenues and expand economic development tools.
2. Strengthen climate change resiliency and disaster preparedness.
3. Strengthen and modernize critical infrastructure.

4. Secure investments to reduce and prevent homelessness and increase the supply of affordable housing.

The committee received an update from Cal Cities Legislative Affairs Lobbyist, Jolena Voorhis on the status of the fires in the greater Los Angeles area. The committee received emergency response and recovery resources and information about how Cal Cities is working with stakeholders to support cities impacted by the fires.

#### **VI. Adoption of 2025 Work Plan**

To inform the committee's work program, committee members were asked to respond to an online survey selecting their top priorities for the committee to focus on throughout the year.

Staff provided an overview of the survey responses and proposed work program and allowed for discussion. Staff recommended that Behavioral Health Services be combined with Homelessness as a priority. The committee agreed with staff's recommendation. Additionally, the committee was informed that three items on the survey were voted on, equally. There was no further discussion from the committee.

The committee unanimously voted to adopt the following items as their 2025 work program:

- Homelessness and Behavioral Health Services
- Parks, recreation, and access to open space
- Emergency preparedness
- Early learning, childcare, and youth programs

#### **VII. Presentation: Public Libraries as Community Spaces**

Vice Chair Takashi introduced guest speaker Greg Lucas, State Librarian of the [California State Library](#) who presented to the committee on opportunities and resources for local libraries. The committee had a broad discussion on the community benefits that libraries add to children and families and the importance of creating holistic policies that help strengthen the library system. Members discussed ideas around public and private partnerships, as well as creating a nexus between libraries and museums to attract opportunities. The committee chairs and members thanked Greg for the presentation.

#### **VIII. Panel Discussion: Childcare and Family Resources**

Chair Kyriaco introduced the panel of guest speakers, Michelle Lee Graham, Chief Executive Officer and Jacquilyn Banta, Chief Operating Officer of [Children's Resource and Referral of Santa Barbara County](#), and Janine Cooper, Child Care Project Manager with the City of Sacramento who presented on local resources for the expansion of childcare facilities and childcare providers. Members received information on how their local Children's Resource and Referral Program could be accessed to open childcare spaces. The speakers presented on how cities can remove barriers to childcare in their communities and how childcare is a contributor to local economic development.

The speakers also shared best practices for strengthening childcare services in local communities. Members were encouraged to:

- Connect with community champions that will advocate for early childcare education.
- Scale the work that has already been done in this space by tapping into existing resources to invest in efforts related to childcare programs.
- Increase collaboration across communities to establish public-private partnerships with the local business community.

#### **IX. Budget Update and Legislative Outlook**

Cal Cities staff provided a budget and legislative update. The Governor's [2025 budget proposal](#) maintains \$100 million for Encampment Resolution Fund grants and creates a new California Housing and Homelessness Agency. However, the proposal does not include ongoing funding for the Homeless, Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) program. The budget maintains previous funding for full implementation of Universal Transitional Kindergarten and the California State Library Parks and Pass program.

The committee received information related to Cal Cities sponsored bill proposals related to community services, including:

- Legislative proposal to exempt art murals from contractor's license requirements.
- Legislative package to provide cities more tools to strengthen local oversight of alcohol and drug treatment facilities.
- Legislative proposal to address issues related to needle exchange programs.

Cal Cities Legislative Advocate, Ben Triffo provided a statewide overview of the proposed budget, which includes a balanced budget of \$322.3 billion, \$16.9 billion in the state's reserves, and a modest surplus of \$363 million.

#### **X. Adjourn**

Chair Kyriaco, thanked committee members and staff for attending. The meeting was adjourned.

**Next Meeting:** Friday, March 28, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Marriott Burbank Hotel, 2500 N. Hollywood Way, Burbank