



**COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS
Thursday, April 28, 2022**

ATTENDANCE

Members: Wanda Williams (Chair); Jaques Casillas (Vice Chair); Adele Andrade Stadler; Debbie Baker; Daniel Bobadilla; Kimberly Calvin; Ruben Chavez; Sara Cowell; Minnie Diallo; Christine Engel; Brad Farmer; Lucy Garcia; Peter Garcia; Debra Garnes; Stephanie Hellman; Jay Ingram; Dan Kalmick; Alison Kerr; Eric Knight; Lydia Kou; James Kyriaco; Christina Lee; Rich Lozano; Gloria Ma'ae; Peggy McQuaid; Bridgette Moore; Liz Morris; Mark Nagales; Kim Nguyen; Maria Nunez; Ariel Pe; Michael Ponce; Todd Rigby; Nat Rojanasathira; David Ruderman; Amanda Saltray; Jesse Sandoval; David Shapiro; Debby Stegura; Elizabeth Talbot; Denise Thomas; Holly Tillman; Bill Uphoff; Wanda Williams; Curtis Yakimow; Frank Yokoyama; Brianne Zorn

League Partners: Kevin McKusker

Staff: Caroline Cirrincione, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

I. Welcome and Introductions

Melanie Perron, Deputy Executive Director, Advocacy and Public Affairs, League of California Cities, welcomed everyone to the second policy committee meeting of the year and thanked members for their service to all California cities. She explained that policy committees are vitally important and directly connected to Cal Cities' core mission of advocating for the common interests of cities.

Ms. Perron also covered Cal Cities 2022 budget asks, which call on lawmakers to allocate \$1.6 billion for programs that achieve shared city and state goals and reimburse cities for state unfunded mandates.

Chair Williams, and Vice Chair Casillas, welcomed committee members and provided an introduction.

II. Public Comment

Chair Williams asked if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

III. General Briefing

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

IV. U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness Presentation

Helene Schneider, Regional Coordinator for the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), presented the work USICH is doing to ensure a coordinated federal response to homelessness. Ms. Schneider provided an overview of homelessness in the United States and funding and resources available to local governments that can be leveraged to address this crisis. Additionally, she previewed the new federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, which should be released in the summer of 2022. Ms. Schneider explained that this plan will create a roadmap for federal, state, and local action.

Following her presentation, committee members asked a series of questions about the work USICH is doing and were given the opportunity to share how their communities are tackling homelessness.

V. California Interagency Council on Homelessness Presentation

Courtney Tacker, Director of Local Initiatives for the California Interagency Council on Homelessness (Cal ICH), presented how California's state agencies work together to address homelessness. This included an overview of Cal ICH's [action plan](#) for preventing and ending homelessness and state resources available to local governments, including funding.

Following the meeting, Ms. Tacker shared a series of resources, which were covered in her presentation. These included:

- [California Blueprint - Homelessness Stakeholder Webinar – YouTube](#)
- [Putting the Funding Pieces Together: Guide to Strategic Uses of New and Recent State and Federal Funds to Prevent and End homelessness \(ca.gov\)](#)
- [Letter from Executive Officer to Council Members \(ca.gov\)](#)
- [CoC Points of Contact \(ca.gov\)](#)

VI. Legislative Agenda

To provide context to the proposed policy statement for consideration, Cal Cities staff began with an overview of the pending behavioral health legislative package and the Community Assistance, Recovery, and Empowerment (CARE) Court proposal. These proposals are a top priority of the Legislature this year and are related to Cal Cities [2022 action agenda](#), which seeks to secure increased funding and resources to prevent homelessness and assist individuals experiencing homelessness.

Cal Cities staff explained that historically, Cal Cities has not engaged on issues related to behavioral health because of the role counties play in providing these services. In light of this, Cal Cities lacks existing policy that directs staff's engagement on these issues. Cal Cities staff then provided an overview of the proposed behavioral health policy statement and opened the floor to discussion and questions.

Committee members raised concerns about the housing requirements included in the CARE Court proposal and the role of cities in providing those housing options. Members also emphasized how tackling homelessness and behavioral health issues can vary between larger cities and smaller cities. Ultimately, a committee member suggested changing the proposed policy statement to include "infrastructure" highlighting the lack of housing and available treatment facilities currently online. With that addition, the proposed statement reads:

Behavioral Health:

Cal Cities supports additional funding and resources to expand access to behavioral health services, including efforts to assist California's homeless population, especially those individuals experiencing mental health and substance use disorders. This includes, but is not limited to, supporting counties in expanding community-based care settings to provide for prevention, intervention, treatment, infrastructure, and recovery systems.

A motion was made to approve the proposed policy, which passed 30-2.

VII. Legislative Update

Cal Cities staff provided an update on the bills with positions in the community services portfolio. These measures included issues related to children's camps, early learning, literacy, seniors and aging, homelessness, outdoor access, and more. Staff explained that if the Cal Cities Board of Directors approves the proposed policy statement, there would be a host of new bill positions on issues related to behavioral health discussed at the next meeting. In the meantime, a list of the Cal Cities community service position bills can be found [here](#).

VIII. Adjourn

Chair Williams thanked the committee for their hard work and said some closing remarks. Chair Williams then adjourned the meeting.

Next Virtual Meeting: Thursday, June 9, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.