



**COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS
Thursday, February 10, 2022**

ATTENDANCE

Members: Wanda Williams (Chair); Adele Andrade Stadler; Debbie Baker; Daniel Bobadilla; Kimberly Calvin; Ruben Chavez; Sara Cowell; Marta Cruz; Minnie Diallo; Christine Engel; Lucy Garcia; Peter Garcia; Debra Garnes; Stephanie Hellman; Martin Herrera; Jay Ingram; Dan Kalmick; Alison Kerr; Eric Knight; James Kyriaco; Christina Lee; Rich Lozano; Gloria Ma'ae; Mike McCliman; Peggy McQuaid; Bridgette Moore; Liz Morris; Mark Nagales; Maria Nunez; Jason Nutt; Ariel Pe; Michael Ponce; Nat Rojanasathira; David Ruderman; Amanda Saltray; Jesse Sandoval; David Shapiro; Michael Smith; Holly Tillman; Bill Uphoff; Kimberly Warmesley; Wanda Williams; Curtis Yakimow; Frank Yokoyama; Brianne Zorn

League Partners: Adam Lindgren; Kevin McKusker

Staff: Caroline Cirrincione, Legislative Affairs, Lobbyist

I. Welcome and Introductions

President Cindy Silva, Mayor Pro Tem, Walnut Creek, welcomed everyone to the first 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.

President Silva explained that while policy discussions can be lively and members may not always agree, Cal Cities derives its strength as a member-driven organization from this deliberative debate and recommendation process.

President Silva then introduced Carolyn Coleman, Cal Cities Executive Director, and CEO. Ms. Coleman welcomed committee members and thanked them for their service to their cities and Cal Cities. She explained that the policy committee process is central to Cal Cities advocacy, ensuring it is member-driven and represents the interests of cities across California.

Ms. Coleman thanked committee members again for serving on the committees and wished them a great meeting.

Chair Williams 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. **Existing Policy and Guiding Principles**

Cal Cities staff explained the importance of the guiding principles. This document contains Cal Cities policies that reflect positions taken by the policy committee and the Cal Cities Board of Directors and is used as a reference tool for Cal Cities staff when reviewing legislation. Members were directed to their agenda packet to review proposed changes to the document.

Cal Cities staff explained two changes related to the childcare and children section of the document. The proposed changes included:

- Cal Cities supports funding and resources to address the affordability and availability of early learning and care options.
- Cal Cities supports increasing opportunities for California's youth to participate in civic engagement activities.

Ultimately, a motion was made to approve the changes to the Existing Policy and Guiding Principles document, which passed unanimously.

V. **Cal Cities 2022 Action Agenda**

The committee was updated on the Cal Cities 2022 Action Agenda. Cal Cities staff discussed the virtual League Leaders workshop and explained the process by which these priorities are established. The Cal Cities 2022 Action Agenda is as follows:

1. **Secure funding to increase the supply and affordability of housing and reform state housing laws to retain local authority.** Secure adequate and sustainable funding for cities to increase construction of housing at all income levels, particularly affordable housing and workforce housing. Reform state housing laws to ensure cities retain local decision-making to meet the needs of their communities.
2. **Attain investments to strengthen and sustain critical infrastructure.** Advocate for policies that strengthen the conditions of local streets, highways, bridges, public transit, and broadband to improve workforce and economic development. Secure support for the modernization and expansion of the statewide water grid, including infrastructure, storage, and conveyance. Work with stakeholders to provide cities with access to the tools needed to ensure projects are delivered efficiently and cost-effectively to meet current and future needs.
3. **Secure increased funding and resources to prevent homelessness and assist individuals experiencing homelessness.** Secure additional ongoing, flexible resources to provide navigation assistance, emergency shelters,

and permanent supportive housing. Enhance city and county coordination and strengthen partnerships with stakeholders to ensure adequate wraparound services are available for adults and youth at risk of, or already experiencing, homelessness in our communities, and effectively address mental health and substance use disorders.

4. **Strengthen disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery from climate change impacts through improved collaboration and resources.** Secure additional resources and support to mitigate the effects of climate change, including catastrophic wildfires, drought, and sea level rise. Promote collaboration with other city, state, and federal governments, to strengthen disaster preparedness, resiliency, and recovery.

VI. Adoption of 2022 Work Program

To create 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 in the coming year.

Cal Cities staff provided an overview of the survey responses, proposed work program, and allowed for discussion. The committee agreed the work program was broad and encompassed a wide swath of potential issues. Committee members spoke in support of the work program and provided additional suggestions that included disaster preparedness and literacy.

Ultimately, the committee unanimously adopted the following items as their work program:

- Homelessness and wraparound services
- Parks and access to open space
- Children, childcare, youth programs, and literacy
- Seniors and Aging Issues
- Disaster preparedness

VII. National League of Cities Early Childhood Success Team Presentation

Dr. Tonja Rucker and Jammie Albert from the National League of Cities Early Childhood Success Team presented on how cities and states are reimagining an equitable system beginning with infants and toddlers. They explained how all facets of local government impact early childhood development and highlighted opportunities and actions cities could take to support early childhood success.

Conversations ensued regarding programs and services that can be provided through leveraging all available funding sources for early childhood development. Committee members also took the opportunity to share what their cities have been doing to ensure early childhood success in their communities.

VIII. Early Childhood Success Discussion

Chair Williams allowed for committee members to share what actions their city has taken to support early childhood success and what is needed to continue to

support this work. Committee members highlighted zoning, and general plan amendments, as ways to find opportunities to add early learning opportunities where residents live and work. Others emphasized how community spaces need to prioritize early childhood success, incentives for existing at-home daycares, free transportation options for school-age children, and how to support older at-risk youth.

IX. Budget Update/Legislative Wrap-up and Outlook

Cal Cities staff began with a budget update, which provided an overview of the Governor's proposed \$286 billion 2022-23 Budget. The budget includes significant investments related to community services, including \$8 billion for homelessness, \$5.8 billion for childcare programs, and \$756.9 million for parks and open spaces.

Before looking to the year ahead, Cal Cities staff reviewed the outcomes of bills the committee took action on last year. Of the four bills the committee took action on last year, only [AB 46](#) (L. Rivas, 2021) was signed by the Governor.

Lastly, Cal Cities staff provided a legislative outlook, including an overview of potential community services related issues and bills of interest. Cal Cities staff explained that it is early in the legislative session and that hundreds of new bills would be introduced before the February 18 bill introduction deadline. In the meantime, a list of the Cal Cities community service interest bills can be found [here](#).

X. 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, April 28, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.