



COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE

Highlights

June 4, 2026

Slides Link: [HERE](#)

ATTENDANCE

Members: Tamala Takahashi (Chair); Clint Weirick (Vice Chair); Merl Abel; Jamie Achterberg; Keri Lynn Baert; Jeremy Bubnick; Elizabeth Calciano; Ruben Chavez; Pedro Chavez; Renee Contreras-DeLoach; Heather Criss; Ashlee DePhillippo; Heba El-Guindy; Christine Ferrara; Peggy Flynn; Felicia Galindo; Greg Gomez; Jessyka Heredia; Tracy Jensen; Rachel Kertz; Danielle LeBlang; Marilyn Librers; Latika Malkani; Faye Maloney; Carla Mason; Jenny McAdams; Annie McCary; Peggy McQuaid; Carla Mead; Liz Morris; Lisa Murphy; Sonya Patterson; Michael Ponce; Brendan Pringle; Kashef Qaadri; Molly Rattigan; Mario Saucedo; Karina Schnaider; Michele Shoresman; Holly Tillman; Valerie Vandever; Amy Woolridge; Stephen Zollman

Cal Cities Partners: Alicia Berhow; Casey Elliott

Staff: Caroline Grinder, Legislative Advocate
Serena Scott, Legislative Affairs Analyst

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Takahashi and Vice Chair Weirick welcomed the committee members and provided opening remarks, including general housekeeping information.

II. **Public Comment**

Chair Takahashi opened the meeting for public comment. There was no public comment.

III. **General Briefing** (*Handout*)

Cal Cities staff informed the committee that they had received the general briefing document via email prior to the meeting. The general briefing document provides a high-level overview of the [latest legislative and budgetary matters affecting cities](#).

IV. **988 California and Mobile Crisis Response Presentation**

Chair Takahashi introduced guest speaker Narges Dillon, 988 California President, and Executive Director of Crisis Support Services of Alameda County, who provided an overview of 988 and specifically how 988 is operating in California.

Dillion explained that 988 is the new number for the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, where free support services are available 24/7 for anyone experiencing mental health-related distress. If a 988 operator determines you need in-person support, they can dispatch a mobile crisis team directly to your location.

Dillon also briefed the committee on opportunities for cities to support the work of 988, including:

- 911 diversion of behavioral health calls to 988;
- Mobile crisis collaboration, including dispatch;
- Public awareness campaigns; and
- Workforce training.

Narges Dillon can be contacted at ndillon@crisissupport.org.

Chair Takahashi then introduced guest speaker Jacob Rosan, the managing mental health clinician from the City of Eureka. Rosan had a robust conversation with the committee about the Crisis Alternative Response of Eureka (CARE) program, a citywide program providing mobile crisis response.

CARE provides prevention-based engagement to support individuals before they enter a full crisis necessitating emergency services. CARE also provides high-frequency utilizer support, working to identify individuals who have required numerous calls for service and coordinate system-wide interventions to reduce their emergency contacts and promote long-term well-being. Benefits of mobile crisis teams for cities include reduced strain on law enforcement, liability protection, improved emergency system functioning, and higher-quality crisis response.

Jacob Rosan can be contacted at jrosen@eurekaca.gov.

Cal Cities staff explained to the committee that these presentations were very timely because the Governor's May budget revision [proposed eliminating](#) the statewide Medi-Cal mobile crisis benefit, which funds mobile crisis teams across the state. Cal Cities and a larger [coalition submitted a letter to](#) Assembly and Senate budget committee leadership urging the Legislature to continue funding the Medi-Cal Mobile Crisis benefit.

V. SUN Bucks - California Summer Food Program for Children

Vice Chair Weirick then introduced guest speaker Shanshan Chen and Steven Ellenberger from the California Department of Social Services SUN Bucks Division, who shared information with the committee about the SUN Bucks program. SUN Bucks is a state government food program that gives families \$120 per eligible child to buy groceries during the summer months when school is out.

Summer months are an especially vulnerable time for childhood food insecurity as schools are closed, and kids can't access the meals they provide. Children will be automatically enrolled in the program if they receive benefits under other welfare assistance programs or are identified by their school as a foster, homeless, migrant, or runaway child. If not eligible to be automatically enrolled, families must apply. To apply, families must submit a school meal application or Universal Benefits Application (UBA) to the child's school. Once approved, they will be sent a SUN Bucks card that can be used to purchase various food, beverages, and snacks.

During the presentation, committee members raised questions about incorporating the SUN Bucks application into the school enrollment process and asked whether it could serve as the procedure for schools. Following the committee

meeting, SUN Bucks staff shared with Cal Cities that they took the question back to their partners at the Department of Education, and the answer is: many schools have already implemented this, but it varies from site to site. They have communicated this to schools and appreciate the feedback.

If you are interested in receiving SUN Bucks communications, send a request to: SUNBucks@dss.ca.gov.

Presentation slides from the guest speakers are available [here](#).

VI. Cal Cities' Women's Caucus Update: Child Care Network

Chelsea Byers, Council Member from the City of West Hollywood and a member of the Cal Cities Women's Caucus, gave a brief update on the caucus's efforts to provide educational opportunities on childcare access and affordability, including its work to promote a Local Leaders Network for Child Care. If you are interested in joining the network, please fill out [this form](#).

VII. Budget and Legislative Update

Cal Cities staff gave a legislative and budget update – the bills and budget items discussed can be found [in the linked slide deck](#).

VIII. Adjourn

Prior to adjourning, committee members were invited to provide feedback on how this year's committee meetings went. If you would like to provide additional feedback, please feel free to reach out directly to Cal Cities staff at cgrinder@calcities.org.

Next Virtual Meeting: Staff will notify committee members by **August 7** if the policy committee meets in September. If you have any questions, please contact [Meg Desmond](#), Cal Cities Program Manager, Legislative Administration.

Email Templates for Thanking Members that voted for Cal Cities Sponsored Bill AB 1708 (Solache)

Per the committee members' request, below is information on how to follow up with lawmakers on AB 1708 votes. Please reach out to Cal Cities staff if you have any questions about either of these emails.

➤ *AB 1708 (Solache) Thank you email to Assembly members who voted yes template*

To: Matt.Haney@asm.ca.gov; Joe.Patterson@asm.ca.gov;
Anamarie.AvilaFarias@asm.ca.gov; Jessica.Caloza@asm.ca.gov;
Robert.Garcia@asm.ca.gov; Ash.Kalra@asm.ca.gov; Alex.Lee@asm.ca.gov;
Sharon.QuirkSilva@asm.ca.gov; Tri.Ta@asm.ca.gov; David.Tangipa@asm.ca.gov;
Lori.Wilson@asm.ca.gov; Blanca.Rubio@asm.ca.gov; Lisa.Calderon@asm.ca.gov;
Patrick.Ahrens@asm.ca.gov; Leticia.Castillo@asm.ca.gov

CC: cityletters@calcities.org

Subject: AB 1708 (Solache) – thank you!

Content:

Dear Members of the California Assembly Human Services and Housing Committee,

I am reaching out to express my appreciation for your support of Cal Cities-sponsored bill AB 1708 (Solache), which passed out of both committees in April. AB 1708 sought to increase access to state homelessness funding for cities with populations under 300,000.

Cities with populations under 300,000 currently lack direct access to state homelessness funding, even as they invest significant general fund resources to prevent and reduce homelessness in their communities.

[Add information about how this funding would help your city]

Providing all cities with a clear pathway to access state homelessness funding would strengthen regional collaboration and accountability and ensure that state resources are deployed where they can most effectively serve unhoused Californians.

While AB 1708 unfortunately is not moving forward this year, we look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to move this concept forward in the future.

Thank you again for your support of AB 1708 (Solache).

Best Regards,

➤ AB 1708 (Solache) Email Template to the Appropriations Committee (where the bill was held)

To: Buffy.Wicks@asm.ca.gov; josh.hoover@asm.ca.gov; joaquin.arambula@asm.ca.gov; Lashae.sharpcollins@asm.ca.gov; gail.pellerin@asm.ca.gov; blanca.pacheco@asm.ca.gov; maggy.krell@asm.ca.gov; mark.gonzalez@asm.ca.gov; mike.fong@asm.ca.gov; diane.dixon@asm.ca.gov

CC: cityletters@calcities.org Jay.Dickenson@asm.ca.gov

Subject: AB 1708 (Solache)

Content:

Dear Members of the California Assembly Appropriations Committee,

I am reaching out to express my disappointment that League of California Cities sponsored bill AB 1708 (Solache), which was held on suspense in your committee in May.

AB 1708 sought to increase access to state homelessness funding for cities with populations under 300,000. Cities with populations under 300,000 currently lack direct access to state homelessness funding, even as they invest significant general fund resources to prevent and reduce homelessness in their communities.

[Add information about how this funding would have helped your city]

Providing all cities with a clear pathway to access state homelessness funding would strengthen regional collaboration and accountability and ensure that state resources are deployed where they can most effectively serve unhoused Californians.

While we are disappointed that this measure is not moving forward this year, we look forward to working with you and your staff to address fiscal concerns and advance this concept in the future.

Best Regards,