Homeless Services Department

Homeless Services Department
Community Budget Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
December 15, 2025
5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
[These minutes are subject to adjustment and approval by the CBAC]

Attendance:

Committee Members: Nicki Dardinger, Wendy Lear, Elizabeth Gilling, Lisa Drennan, Anisa Ali, Amanda Garren, Katrina Malachowski

HSD & County Staff: Bill Boyd, Malka Geffen, Antoinette Payne, Emily Nelson

Agenda Item	Discussion Points	
Welcome	Brief welcomes and introductions	
Approve the 12/1/2025 CBAC Meeting Minutes	Committee approved the 12/1/25 meeting minutes using Fist to 5 consensus decision making tool • Nicki Dardinger – 5, Elizabeth Gilling – 5, Wendy Lear – 5, Anisa Ali – 5, Lisa Drennan – 5	

Provider Budget Engagement Plan	HSD Equity Manager shared about the engagement happening with contracted providers about the FY2027 Budget
	• Held budget priorities session at October Provider Conference
	• Sent survey to providers in November to highlight budget priorities
	• Chair's office interested in provider feedback because of increased budget cuts; will hold own session
	• HSD holding one virtual session tomorrow; one in-person on Friday
	   ○ Will share themes and priorities from feedback already provided and will ask for what's missing
	   ○ Ask what balance needs to be made, where should cuts happen, etc.
	• Have standing meetings with providers where they can provide feedback as well	

	● Sharing this with CBAC now because we'll come back and ask about who else we should be engaging Q&A ● Concerns about the number of people that can attend the sessions; why is it limited? A: The number of seats is more than the number of providers, so we ask no more than one representative from each provider attend. Homeless Response System will also be facilitating. ● Can CBAC members attend the sessions? A: All members of our Advisory bodies are invited. Will check with HRS about slots to come and observe.	
FY2027 HSD Budget – Recommendations Opportunity: reductions	Senior Finance Manager walked the CBAC through the five divisions of HSD and revised FY2026 budget, including state rebalance (see presentation slides). Q&A ● What does safety on and off the streets encompass? A: All types of shelters, day centers, outreach & engagement ● Is emergency shelter the pop up disaster resource centers or are they longer term? A: They are not the severe weather shelters; the "emergency" nature of them is the emergency of unsheltered homelessness ● Is Rapid Response covered in this? A: No, the City funds that. ● Support with income acquisition – does that include job training programs? A: We do some employment programs, benefits acquisition programs (SSI); other services do that in our community as well. ● Does rent assistance include rent assistance for eviction prevention? A: It's short term rent assistance in rapid rehousing programs; the bulk of prevention works happens in DCHS. HSD staff led discussion to seek recommendations from CBAC members on likely budget reductions: 1. Based on previous CBAC recommendations, where should the HSD Department focus reductions?	

- Shelter beds
- Day programs - not ending homelessness
- Fund priorities, and then see what's left over
2. Beyond type of program, what kind of considerations should HSD use in making reductions?
- What the City is paying for
- Which shelters have good outcomes with housing guests; which have reports of treating people well
- Look at populations
3. How should Equity considerations influence HSD's decision making for reductions?
- Evaluation of which shelters or types that are most utilized or most humane
- Needs people have in different geographical areas (not just downtown)
4. Besides the CBAC, who should be making recommendations on prioritizing reductions? Are there specific stakeholders that need to be engaged by the Chair's office after the HSD budget is publicly posted, but before the Chair's proposed budget is released?
- Unhoused expertise in recent reports that say they need rent assistance
- Culturally specific shelters
- Providers, especially those that are loud and enthusiastic about their programs
- Organizations not funded by the County would have input about needs and impacts that will be felt by certain cuts
- Community members who rely on shelter systems, as a critical and intentional resource rather than a temporary step toward permanent housing. Losing access to shelter beds can significantly harm these communities by removing a safe, predictable place to rest, store belongings, and access support services. This loss can increase exposure to violence, worsen physical and mental health outcomes, and disrupt employment, cultural connections, or safety plans—particularly for DV survivors, BIPOC, and LGBTQI+ individuals who may face

	additional barriers or risks in permanent housing options. Preserving shelter access respects autonomy and recognizes that safety, stability, and housing needs look different for each person. Q: Does the County take city budgets into consideration? A: Yes, we're in partnership with the City within the HRS. Q: Is RRH getting people into actual apartments? A: RRH is into "permanent housing" with up to 2 years of rent support and case management to find stability. Tiny homes or SROs are often considered transitional housing. Q: What % of shelter funding is going to overnight congregate vs alternative? A: The County does not fund overnight shelters; only 24/7 shelters. The County pays for some of the TASS sites, but the City manages them. Q: How can we see what the City funds? A: Go to Portland Solutions and check out the City's Unified Housing Plan; we can look at how to present the distinctions between County and City funded programs. Q: Which providers we fund get robust funding elsewhere? A: We contract with providers for specific services; if we cut funding to them, while the organizations may not go under, we'd lose those services and outcomes.	

CBAC Administrative tasks	CBAC Chair and Central CBAC Representative Selection
	  ● CCBAC nomination - Lisa Drennan; I bring curiosity, attention to detail, and strive to support our community to the best of my ability
	    ○ All CBAC members support Lisa Drennan being the representative to the Central CBAC
	  ● Katrina Malachowski is interested in being a co-chair of the CBAC and bring passion, engagement, team spirit, and understanding of houseless community
	    ○ HSD staff will work hard to support Katrina as a solo chair
	    ○ Could develop rotating agenda building and meeting facilitation among all members	

	■ Temperature check re: participating in this: Wendy can help with advance notice; Amanda yes, Lisa yes, Nicki is happy to help with facilitation and letter writing; Elizabeth is still very in the learning stage ● Can revisit co-chair opportunity beginning next month ● All CBAC members support Katrina Malachowski for chair role	
Next Steps	January meeting will be on Monday, January 26 ● Can be hybrid ● Will send out info about in-person location	