



**COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE  
HIGHLIGHTS  
January 18, 2024**

**ATTENDANCE**

Members: Holly Tillman (Chair); Debbie Baker; James Boito; Frank Carson; Kelly Chastain; Ruben Chavez; Sara Cowell; Ken Domer; Christine Engel; John Erickson; Jennifer Fisk-Becker; Eddie Flores; Kelly Fujio; Jose Garcia; Debra Garnes; Robyn Grant; Tiffany Grimsley; Bryon Horn; Jay Ingram; Benjamin Jones; Larry Koman; James Kyriaco; Lynette Lee Eng; Malcolm Lillenthal; Jessica Lobedan; Bridgette Moore; Liz Morris; Natalie Moser; Lisa Murphy; Sharona Nazarian; Maria Nunez; Ida Obeso-Martinez; Lori Ogorchock; Pa'tanisha Pierson; Todd Rigby; Terry Sayre; Michelle Shoresman; Erica Stewart; Tamala Takahashi; Bill Uphoff; Clint Weirick; Anissa Williams; Curtis Yakimow; Stephen Zollman

Cal Cities Partners: Jennifer Bullard; Jordan Chriss

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

**I. Welcome and Introductions**

Chair Holly Tillman and Cal Cities staff Caroline Grinder welcomed committee members and introduced themselves.

Chair Tillman introduced Cal Cities Executive Director Carolyn Coleman, who welcomed everyone and underscored the invaluable work of the policy committees. Ms. Coleman emphasized that the policy committee discussions are central to thoughtful consensus around Cal Cities member-driven priorities and thanked the committee for their good work.

Chair Tillman also introduced Cal Cities President Daniel Parra, who welcomed everyone to the first policy committee meeting of the year and thanked members for their services to all California cities. Mr. Parra explained that policy committees are vitally important and directly connected to Cal Cities' core mission of advocating for the common interests of cities. Chair Tillman thanked Ms. Coleman and Mr. Parra for addressing the committee.

**II. Public Comment**

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

**III. General Briefing**

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

#### **IV. Cal Cities 2024 Advocacy Priorities**

Cal Cities staff provided an overview of [Cal Cities 2024 Advocacy Priorities](#), which include:

1. Safeguard local revenues and bolster economic development.
2. Strengthen climate change resiliency and disaster preparedness.
3. Improve public safety in California communities.
4. Expand investments to prevent and reduce homelessness and increase the supply of affordable housing.

#### **V. Existing Policies and Guiding Principles**

The Cal Cities Summary of Existing Policy and Guiding Principles are updated every two years to reflect the committee's work. This information is used as a reference tool to advocate on newly adopted issues.

For 2024, in accordance with previous committee action, the proposed policy additions included:

- A behavioral health policy.
- A substance use policy.
- A policy related to housing for individuals experiencing homelessness.

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

#### **VI. Master Plan for Aging Update and Local Playbook Presentation**

Cal Cities staff introduced guest speaker, Jaqueline Tompkins a Senior Strategist with the Department of Aging.

The Master Plan for Aging (MPA) brings together state and local government and community partners to prepare California to meet the needs of the state's changing demographics. Jaqueline emphasized that the state is experiencing increases in its aging population. The Jan. 2021 MPA was designed to address the needs of older adults, those with disabilities, and those who provide older adults with family/caretaker assistance. [The Master Plan for Aging Playbook](#) is a resource designed to assist state and local government, communities, and private and nonprofit organizations in building environments that promote an age-friendly California.

Additionally, California has become the 8th state to join AARP's Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, and over 90 communities have joined this network. For more data tools and resources, please see the [AARP Livability Index](#) and the [MPA Data Dashboard](#).

#### **VII. Aging Resources in California Information**

Chair Tillman introduced the guest speakers, Debbie Toth, the President and CEO at Choice in Aging, and Susannah Meyer, the Executive Director at Empowered Aging.

Speaker Debbie Toth commended the committee for their local leadership and provided them with key resources for their work in addressing the needs of aging populations in their communities. She also shared information about how local governments, county agencies, and nonprofits can come together to create services for older adults, such as Adult Day Health Care, California Community Transitions, Caregiver Support, and Multipurpose Senior Services Programs. More information can be found at [Choice in Aging](#).

Speaker Susannah Meyers discussed Empowering Aging's ombudsmen services. Empowered Aging has a multitude of programs to serve and advocate for the interests of California's aging population and individuals living with disabilities. She let the committee know there are many ways to become an age-friendly city. Although it is costly for a city to implement age-friendly programs, Susannah ensured the group that plenty of grants are available. Additionally, any small yet meaningful actions that cities can take to serve the lives of their aging populations better should be a priority for local leaders. More information can be found at [Empowered Aging](#).

#### **VIII. Adoption of 2024 Work Program**

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 in the coming year.

Staff provided an overview of the survey responses and proposed work program and allowed for discussion. Robust discussion among committee members resulted in expanding the work program to include four priority areas.

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

- Homelessness
- Behavioral health services
- Seniors and aging
- Emergency preparedness and response

#### **IX. Budget Update**

Cal Cities staff discussed the Governor's 2024-25 Budget Proposal. The proposed 2024-25 state budget forecasts a deficit of \$38 billion, with a proposed budget of \$291.5 billion. The proposed budget does not include a redirection of city funds to address budget shortfalls and does not cut most state programs. However, it also does not include new ongoing funding to address homelessness and includes large cuts to both climate change and housing programs, with \$1.7 billion in cuts to housing programs.

Regarding Community Services issues, the budget proposal maintains \$3.4 billion in General Funds to address homelessness. Subsidized funding for childcare is maintained and includes \$2.1 billion to fund roughly 146,000 new slots. The budget also pulls back on funding for parks, open spaces, and libraries.

Cal Cities budget request called on the state to honor funding commitments made to cities in the prior year's budget, create a permanent dedicated funding stream of \$3 billion annually to address homelessness and construct more affordable housing, and safeguard local revenues. For more information, see the [Cal Cities Budget Letter](#).

**X. Proposition 1 Overview and Wrap-Up**

In December, Cal Cities leadership voted overwhelmingly in support of Proposition 1. Cal Cities staff discussed the committee's role the previous year in deliberating over the legislative vehicles that comprise Prop 1, including [AB 531](#) (Irwin) and [SB 326](#) (Eggman). Cal Cities staff will continue to discuss and engage with cities regarding this ballot measure's regulatory aspects and concerns about sober living homes.

Community Services bill positions can be found [here](#).

**XI. Adjourn**

Chair Tillman thanked everyone for their time and adjourned the meeting.

**Next Meeting: In Person, Thursday, March 21, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, 2500 N. Hollywood Way, Burbank**