



**COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS
June 20, 2024**

ATTENDANCE

Members: Holly Tillman (Chair); Debbie Baker; James Boito; Frank Carson; Ruben Chavez; Sara Cowell; Ken Domer; Christine Engel; Jennifer Fisk-Becker; Kelly Fujio; Jose Garcia; Debra Garnes; Greg Gomez; Jay Ingram; Benjamin Jones; Larry Koman; James Kyriaco; Malcolm Lillenthal; Jessica Lobedan; Octavio Martinez; Bridgette Moore; Liz Morris; Lisa Murphy; Lisa Murphy; Sharona Nazarian; Ida Obeso-Martinez; Lori Ogorchock; Todd Rigby; Terry Sayre; David Shapiro; Michelle Shoresman; Alysson Snow; Erica Stewart; Joshua Sweeney; Tamala Takahashi; Elizabeth Talbott; 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 Tillman and Cal Cities staff, Caroline Grinder, welcomed the committee members and introduced themselves.

Cal Cities' Executive Director and CEO, Carolyn Coleman, joined the meeting to commend the work of the committee and provide an update on an impending decision from the California Supreme Court regarding the Taxpayer Deception Act. Ms. Coleman thanked members for their commitment to the committee and underscored that the policy committees drive the work that informs and sets the organization's direction. Chair Tillman thanked Ms. Coleman for her leadership, and the staff provided an update on upcoming Cal Cities events.

II. Public Comment

Chair Tillman opened the meeting to public comment. There was none provided.

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. Listos California Presentation

Monisha Avery, the inaugural Chief Equity Officer in the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, presented on the Listos California Grant Program. The program engages a statewide network of community-based organizations, Tribal Governments, and Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) across the state to boost resiliency around disaster

preparedness. The program aims to increase accessibility to resources and information related to disaster preparedness by providing resources in different languages and in a manner that is culturally appropriate to the community they are trying to connect with.

Kimberly Arredondo-Blanco, Project Manager of Community Healthworks and a Listos grantee, along with Jake Heflin, a fire captain with the City of Long Beach, presented to the committee about how cities can partner with Listos on their disaster readiness efforts. Ms. Arredondo-Blanco, spoke to how the program helps reinforce disaster preparedness among people with disabilities, older adults, households with limited English proficiency, and individuals experiencing homelessness.

Mr. Heflin encouraged the committee to partner with community organizations and apply for grants offered through the program. He informed the committee about [CERT](#) programs and encouraged cities to partner with their CERT teams to increase visibility and leverage funding opportunities for their communities. Additionally, Mr. Heflin informed the committee that local jurisdictions with a CERT program registered with the state may be eligible for up to \$25,000 in grant funding to grow and develop their program. The committee and Chair Tillman thanked the speakers for their presentation.

For more information on the Listos California Grant Program, visit [Listos California](#).

V. Prop 1 Implementation Update

Molly Wiltshire, Director of External Affairs, [Office of Governor Gavin Newsom](#), and Kim McCoy Wade, Senior Advisor on Aging, Disability and Alzheimer's for the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom, provided an update on next steps for implementation of [Proposition 1](#). This presentation also included an overview of the state of homelessness in California, and the impact of the Mental Health Services Act over the last 20 years across the state.

In May, the governor's office launched the [Mental Health for All](#) resource, a one-stop-shop for people seeking mental health resources. This website also includes information about the ongoing changes to the state's behavioral health system and will soon include a way to monitor counties' implementation of several key programs, including Prop. 1, CARE Court, and conservatorship reform.

State officials will roll out \$3.3 billion in funding for behavioral health housing this summer. Cities can apply for these funds, half of which is reserved specifically for cities and counties.

They also highlighted several important requirements in the recently released [bond guidance](#). Notably, all applicants must be supported by the county behavioral health director where the project is located. Applicants must also base their proposals on local behavioral health needs data, community engagement, and regional collaboration. These requirements are critical. They will help ensure the state directs the funding to the projects that will make the most impact in communities throughout the state.

The governor's office is making a concerted effort to ensure cities receive the information they need to implement Prop 1 in their communities and are well prepared. The office is also working to eliminate barriers and inform cities about what funding their county has already been granted and how it's being used.

VI. Budget and Legislative Update

Caroline Grinder, Cal Cities Legislative Affairs Lobbyist, provided an update on Cal Cities' continued budget request for the state to invest \$3 billion in ongoing, permanent funding to prevent and reduce homelessness and boost the supply of affordable housing.

The committee was updated on the Joint Legislative Budget Plan, which includes \$1 billion for round six of the [Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention Grant Program](#) (HHAP). However, the budget does not commit to ongoing funding for the program in future years and eliminates nearly \$300 million in HHAP bonus funds that were previously budgeted for. More Information on the budget can be found [here](#).

Ms. Grinder also provided an overview of Cal Cities sponsored bills related to recovery housing two of which were held in the first house, [SB 913](#) (Umberg) and [AB 2121](#) (Dixon). [AB 2081](#) (Davies), a Cal Cities co-sponsored bill, and [AB 2574](#) (Valencia), a Cal Cities-sponsored bill, continue to move forward in the legislature. AB 2081 (Davies) would require licensed recovery home operators to disclose to potential patients the status of their licensure. AB 2574 (Valencia) would expand reporting requirements to enhance the Department of Health Care Services' oversight of sober living homes that are operating as an integral part of a licensed treatment facility located elsewhere.

More information on Community Services position bills can be found [here](#).

VII. Closing Discussion

Chair Tillman asked committee members to discuss what issues the Community Services Policy Committee should take on next year. Several committee members brought up issues related to behavioral health, nurse and family partnerships, and childcare-planning interventions.

Members also discussed local challenges around funding for diversion programs for individuals who are taken to the emergency room for mental health-related emergencies. Other matters discussed by the committee were related to the state's mental health care workers and the need for legislation to support the growth of the profession so that practitioners are equipped to address the needs of Californians living with mental health conditions.

Chair Tillman thanked the committee for their thoughtful contributions to the discussion and let the committee know about next year's in-person committee meetings.

VIII. Adjourn

Chair Tillman thanked committee members for attending and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: Staff will notify committee members by August 23 if the policy committee will meet **virtually** in October. If you have any questions, please contact [Meg Desmond](#), Cal Cities Associate Manager, Legislative Administration.