

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - Shelter Monitoring Committee and Shelter Standards of Care]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to reduce the frequency of Shelter Monitoring Committee (“Committee”) site visits; require the Committee to establish in its bylaws the threshold number of complaints or out-of-compliance findings during a year that would trigger additional site visits; revise eligibility criteria for Seat 1 on the Committee; revise the Standards of Care for City Shelters by establishing requirements for shower stalls with working hot and cold water controls, minimum passing space for sleeping units that are not up against a wall or partition, and signage posting regarding availability of translation services; eliminate the minimum shelter stay requirement for single adult reservations; revise the complaint process and investigation procedure; and update several programmatic terms.

Existing Law

Article XIII of Chapter 20 of the San Francisco Administrative Code established the Shelter Standards of Care (“Standards”) and sets the minimum standards for all City funded shelters to ensure that all shelter clients are treated with dignity and respect and are provided with a clean, healthy, and safe shelter stay; authorizes the Shelter Monitoring Committee to investigate complaints against City funded shelters concerning violations of the Standards; and requires that the City take corrective enforcement measures against City-funded shelter operators who fail to comply with the Standards.

Amendments to Current Law

This legislation requires City funded shelters to provide shower stalls with working hot and cold water controls, to allow 36 inches of passing space for any side of a sleeping unit that is not up against a wall or partition, and to post signage regarding the availability of translation services. The minimum number of annual site visits would decrease from four to three and this legislation authorizes the Committee to conduct additional site visits for shelters who are out-of-compliance or when a site reaches a threshold number of complaints during the year. The criteria for Seat 1 of the Shelter Monitoring Committee is expanded to include any person providing direct services to homeless families or who is a parent, legal guardian, or caregiver and is experiencing, or has experienced, being homeless. Finally, this legislation eliminates the minimum shelter stay requirement for single adult reservations, clarifies the complaint and investigation procedure, and updates several programmatic terms.

Background Information

This legislation establishes new minimum standards for City funded shelters; allows the Committee to focus their efforts on investigating shelters who are out-of-compliance or sites that receive more complaints during the year; expands the criteria for Seat 1 to increase the pool of candidates who are eligible serve on the Committee; and makes other changes as recommended by the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing and the Shelter Monitoring Committee.

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