

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to establish a new Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing; transfer homeless-related functions previously performed by the Department of Human Services to the new department; and establish the Local Homeless Coordinating Board to advise the new department on homeless policy and serve as the Continuum of Care governing body in accordance with federal regulations.

Existing Law

There is no single City department currently charged with overseeing all housing, programs, and services for homeless persons in San Francisco. Various homeless-related functions are currently performed by the Department of Human Services and the Department of Public Health.

There is no codified City law establishing a Local Homeless Coordinating Board.

Amendments to Current Law

Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing

The ordinance would create a new Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (“DHS”) to manage and direct all housing, programs, and services for homeless persons in the City including, but not limited to, street outreach, homeless shelters, transitional housing, and permanent supportive housing. The Mayor would appoint a Director to serve as department head. The Director would serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

Local Homeless Coordinating Board

The ordinance would establish the Local Homeless Coordinating Board (“LHCB”) as a nine-member advisory body with four members appointed by the Mayor, four by the Board of Supervisors, and one by the Controller. The LHCB would advise the DHS on homeless policy and budget allocations. The DHS would provide administrative support to the LHCB. The LHCB also would serve as the Continuum of Care governing body in accordance with applicable U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) rules and regulations. The composition of the LHCB would conform to current HUD regulations which require that the Board include at least one homeless or formerly homeless individual, and represent the relevant organizations and projects serving homeless subpopulations in San Francisco.

Public Benefits Utilization Ordinance

The ordinance would amend the recently enacted Public Benefits Utilization Ordinance, which requires City-funded housing providers to assist residents to apply for public benefits, by replacing references to the Human Services Agency or Department of Human Services with DSHS for certain purposes.

CAAP Discontinuance Rental Assistance Pilot Project

The ordinance would amend the recently enacted County Adult Assistance Programs (CAAP) Discontinuance Rental Assistance Pilot Project to replace references to the Human Services Agency with the City and/or DSHS.

Shelter Monitoring Committee

The ordinance would revise the composition of the Shelter Monitoring Committee to replace the existing Committee member from the Department of Human Services with a member from DSHS.

Human Services Care Fund

The ordinance would re-name the existing Human Services Care Fund as the “Homelessness and Supportive Housing Fund,” and would replace the Department of Human Services with DSHS for certain purposes related to administration of the Fund.

Mayor’s Fund for the Homeless

The ordinance would transfer administration of the Mayor's Fund for the Homeless from the director of the Mayor's Office of Housing Opportunities, Partnerships and Engagement (HOPE) to the Director of DSHS.

Background Information

The Local Homeless Coordinating Board (“LHCB”) was initially established by resolution of the Board of Supervisors in 1997. Since that time, the Board of Supervisors has adopted several subsequent resolutions regarding the composition and duties of the LHCB but it has never codified the LHCB by ordinance.

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