

**COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS**

Friday, June 14, 2019

League Office, 1400 K Street, 3rd Floor Carpenter Room, Sacramento, CA

ATTENDANCE

Members: Larry Moody (Chair), Oley Olsen (V.Chair), Janet Abelson, Darlene Barber-Martinez, Kevin Bash, Ken Berkman, Stacy Berry, Edi Birsan, Ruben Chavez, Heather Cousin, Christine Engel, Maria Garcia, Jay Ingram, Kathleen Kelly, Scott Koll, Irais Lopez-Ortega, Jesse Loren, Shelly Masur, Peggy McQuaid, Heidi Messner, Bridgette Moore, Trish Munro, Kim Nguyen, Ana Maria Quintana, Todd Rigby, Matt Rinn, Lydia Romero, Bruce Roundy, Crystal Ruiz, Stuart Schillinger, Mariam Shah, Michael Smith, Nancy Smith, Nolan Sullivan, Suzanne Wolf.

League Partners: Emily France

Staff: Derek Dolfie

I. State Budget and General Briefing

Jeff Slowey, Chair, League Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee, gave a brief introduction to the General Briefing Session. After his welcome, he introduced League President Jan Arbuckle, Council Member, Grass Valley, who welcomed everyone to the third round of policy committee meetings of the year. President Arbuckle thanked everyone for making the trip to Sacramento for policy committees and expressed her appreciation for their attendance. President Arbuckle then shared that she has visited all of the League's 16 regional divisions and shared how much she has enjoyed visiting the various divisions. President Arbuckle closed by reiterating the importance of policy committees and expressing that the League is strongest when we focus on our common interests.

President Arbuckle then introduced Carolyn Coleman, League Executive Director. Ms. Coleman thanked President Arbuckle for all of the hard work she dedicates to her role. She also briefly mentioned the success of the recent Joint Disaster Summit that brought together local government and the Governor to discuss disaster response in the state. Ms. Coleman went onto acknowledge the League partners in the room and thank League staff for all of their hard work. She concluded by reminding everyone that while we have already done so much to protect the interests of cities this legislative session, there is still much work to be done.

Ms. Coleman then introduced Dan Carrigg, League Deputy Executive Director and Legislative Director. The rest of the briefing was presented by the League's legislative team. Mr. Carrigg began giving a brief overview of the budget and highlighted how Governor Newsom has heeded the advice of Governor Brown regarding budget spending.

Mr. Carrigg then introduced the League's fiscal advisor, Michael Coleman, to walk everyone through the State Budget update. Mr. Coleman's State Budget Update included how the State is going to spend the \$20.8 Billion surplus and pay down debts while growing its reserves. He also went on to explain how the impact of the sales tax exemption of diapers and menstrual products will have on local revenues. Mr. Coleman handed the meeting back over to Mr. Carrigg where he then introduced the League's lobbyists to discuss their respective issue areas.

Jason Rhine, League Assistant Legislative Director, focused on the housing affordability and availability challenges throughout the state. Mr. Rhine highlighted several bills including SB 330,

SB 13, AB 1279, and AB 1763. Mr. Rhine encouraged policy committee members to speak to their legislator about SB 330 and to look at the SB 330 Action Alert. SB 330 would, among other things, declare a statewide housing crisis for a five-year period and freeze nearly all project related fees once a developer submits a “preliminary” application. (For more information, please visit the League’s Action Center.) Mr. Rhine also briefly discussed the unprecedented amount of dollars to housing and homelessness. The Housing and Homelessness Update Document mentions several existing funding opportunities including SB 2 planning grant dollars. While the Housing and Homelessness Budget Trailer bill had not yet been released, Mr. Rhine stated that the League has been working closely with the Governor’s office and Legislators on the trailer bill language.

Dane Hutchings, Director, Government Affairs at Renne Public Policy Group (RPPG), is currently on contract with the League representing the League on issues related to governance, transparency, and labor relations. Mr. Hutchings began by discussing the political realities in Sacramento surrounding employee relations legislation and then briefly discussed several bills regarding workers’ compensation and elections. Mr. Hutchings highlighted SB 266, which would require cities to directly pay retirees compensation that has been deemed “disallowed.” This would result in an unconstitutional gift of public funds and would lead to a significant increase in costs for some cities. Mr. Hutchings also highlighted several bills in the workers’ compensation space, including SB 542, AB 932, and AB 1400, which would expand the scope of workers’ compensation and ultimately lead to increased costs for local agencies. More details can be found in the Workers’ Compensation Document. While Governor Brown held the line on worker’s compensation, we will have to wait and see where Governor Newsom will land on workers’ compensation bills this year.

Charles Harvey, League Legislative Representative, gave an update on various public safety related issues including cannabis, drones, and police use of force. Mr. Harvey discussed AB 392 (Weber), the reintroduction of a police use-of-force bill from last year, which the League opposed. AB 392 was amended and a large number of law enforcement groups now no longer oppose the bill. More information can be found in the Police Use of Force Document. On the topic of cannabis, Mr. Harvey discussed AB 1356 (Ting). Under this bill, if more than 50 percent of the voters of a local jurisdiction voted in favor of Proposition 64, these local jurisdictions would be required to adopt a local licensing structure for retail commercial cannabis activity. More specifically, the bill requires these cities to issue a minimum of one retail cannabis license for every four liquor licenses. AB 1356 was moved to the inactive file and is dead for the year.

Derek Dolfie, League Legislative Representative, highlighted evolving environmental and community services issues. The issue of improving the quality of drinking water in California continues this year with several proposals spanning from an increased safe drinking water tax to general fund allocations. There is currently a deal struck that does not involve a tax but the deal is not finalized. Another major issue is organic waste diversion and the regulations that will implement a 50% reduction target coming out this summer. Mr. Dolfie also discussed the various bills and proposals that have been introduced because of the recent wildfires. This includes the issue of utility liability and the recommendation out of the Governor’s Strike Force Report. The discussion is ongoing and the League will continue to work closely with the Governor’s office and Legislators on the language. More details regarding disaster and emergency response can be found in the Disasters and Emergency Response Document. Mr. Dolfie also touched on issues such as homelessness and a master plan on aging.

Rony Berdugo, League Legislative Representative, discussed transportation, communications, and public works. Mr. Berdugo began by discussing the proposal to link SB 1 transportation

dollars with housing production. The proposal was met with hostility by many legislators and will not be included in the budget this year. Mr. Berdugo then described AB 516 (Chiu). This measure would eliminate the ability for cities and law enforcement to adequately enforce state and local vehicle violations. This bill is still moving through the legislative process and Mr. Berdugo encouraged policy committee members to speak to their legislator about the bill. More information can be found in the AB 516 Action Alert. (For more information, please visit the League's Action Center.) Next, he discussed the FCC small cell order and how the League and others have attempted to push back against this in the courts and on the federal level. Finally, Mr. Berdugo discussed two bills related to scooters that have been tabled for the year, seismic safety legislation, the 911 fee budget trailer bill, and AB 1699 (Levine), which would prohibit a mobile internet service provider from impairing or degrading the lawful internet traffic of public safety agencies during a state of emergency.

Lastly, Dan Carrigg briefly discussed issues related to revenue and taxation. Mr. Carrigg touched on AB 147 (Burke) being signed into law. This measure implements the Wayfair decision in California and increases revenue for local governments. It is also anticipated that revenues collected through the implementation of AB 147 will be higher than what was initially expected. Mr. Carrigg went on to discuss SB 5, an important economic development bill. SB 5 would reinvest the state into tax increment financing. A renewed investment would greatly improve opportunities for economic development and provide a great opportunity for the state to work with locals to accomplish shared state and local goals. Mr. Carrigg encouraged policy committee members that are with cities who have not yet submitted a support letter, to do so as soon as they can. (For more information, please visit the League's Action Center.)

II. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Moody introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the committee meeting. The committee went around the room and introduced themselves.

III. Public Comment

No public comment.

IV. The Primary School

Meredith Liu, Co-Founder and Chief Design Officer of The Primary School (The School) gave a presentation to the committee. She opened her presentation by providing background on The Primary School and its three years operating in East Palo Alto. She explained that The Primary School is a "community-first" school that selects children via a lottery system. The School follows an integrated system model where the teachers work with parents, academics, and health for children. Their goal is to "build a game changing & replicable system of care for children" around the state and country.

The School has three core elements of health for their students: health services, health behaviors and health systems. Health services means creating access to care, such as developmental screening, dental care, vision and hearing screening, asthma supports, etc. Health behaviors means a holistic approach to building healthy behaviors, including: oral health, physical activity, media health, hand hygiene, etc. Lastly, health systems means promoting medical home care. The School has developed partnerships with various community partners to host and facilitate parts of school programming for the benefit of students and their families.

The School operates with a curriculum that embeds socio-emotional learning with literacy. The Primary School focuses on the concept of "conscious discipline," which is an evidence based and trauma-informed approach to learning. They also focus on a self-regulation practice that

combines socio-emotional intelligence with learning. The School also serves as a bridge to preschool by offering two years of free preschool.

Ms. Liu then discussed the demographics of East Palo Alto and how the makeup of The School was comparable with the City overall. 83% of families are eligible for state-subsidized preschool. She also noted that 40% of school staff are from the city of East Palo Alto and they have a parent advisory group that helps guide school programming and fosters connections between The School and broader community. The School seeks to build parent capacity by involving parents and students in programs that foster socio-emotional recognition and development. The parent model involves group coaching and individual coaching.

After her presentation, Ms. Liu then took numerous questions from committee members. Some notable questions included: how does The School fit in with First 5? And how much public funds are used to pay for programming? She responded by stating that The School works with First 5 as a learning program, and has built a partnership with First 5 on how to leverage their existing dollars to develop a program in San Francisco. The School has a unique funding situation, as they are the beneficiary of a single philanthropist source that funds the majority of their programming, but they do also receive a small amount of public funding.

Chair Moody then thanked Ms. Liu for her presentation and for traveling to Sacramento.

V. City of San Jose

Alexandria Felton, Senior Executive Analyst in the Intergovernmental Relations Department for the City of San Jose gave a presentation to the committee. Mr. Dolfie provided some brief comments as to the recent work between the League and the City of San Jose to promote more funding for city emergencies and disaster mitigation. Ms. Felton then opened her presentation by discussing how disasters are local and require local resources, response, and management by local officials to manage them.

Ms. Felton discussed how in 2017, the San Jose City Council decided to bolster its “road to resilience” for emergency management and resiliency. This involved creating an Emergency Management Roadmap, which includes focusing on increased coordination, strengthening emergency management organization, improving hazard emergency management capacities, promoting resilience and recovery, and being innovative and ready. She concluded her presentation by discussing the advocacy efforts of both the City of San Jose and the League on AB 291 (Chu), which seeks to give locals more funding for disaster preparedness and hazard mitigation. This bill was made a two year bill, but Ms. Felton said the City would continue to advocate for this bill next year.

After her presentation, Ms. Felton took several questions from the committee. One notable question she received was what the role tech companies are playing relative to the city’s disaster preparedness efforts. She said that this is something that their Office of Emergency Management is exploring and developing a plan, especially given our close proximity to Silicon Valley. However, the City is in the beginning stages right now.

Chair Moody then thanked Ms. Liu for her presentation and for traveling to Sacramento.

VI. Legislative Agenda

Speaker: Derek Dolfie, League Legislative Representative

1. [AB 344 \(Calderon\)](#) New Beginnings California Program.

Derek Dolfie summarized the contents of AB 344, which would provide matching grant funding to cities and local continuum of care programs to implement, expand, or continue employment programs for homeless individuals. The committee discussed the staff recommendation. A motion to support the bill was made by Nancy Smith, seconded by Jesse Loren, the motion carried unanimously.

Staff Recommendation: Support AB 344

Committee Recommendation: Support AB 344

Action: **Approved Unanimously**

2. **SB 258 (Hertzberg) California Emergency Solutions and Housing Program: grants: homeless shelters: pets and veterinary services.**

Derek Dolfie summarized the contents of SB 258, which would require the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) to create and administer a program that would award grants to homeless shelters that allow for pets. These grants would allow for shelter to provide food, shelter, and veterinary services for pets that are owned homeless individuals.

Mr. Dolfie gave a brief history of how the League, the Institute for Local Government, and the California State Association of Counties compiled a Homelessness Taskforce Report back in 2017. This report noted that homelessness has increased in virtually every metropolitan area in the state in 2018. The report also noted how homeless individuals often look to pets as sources of comfort and support, seeing the pets often as their family. Shelters not allowing for pets creates a barrier for homeless persons. The committee discussed the staff recommendation. A motion to support the bill was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff Recommendation: Support SB 258

Committee Recommendation: Support SB 258

Action: **Approved Unanimously**

VII. **Legislative Update**

Speaker: Derek Dolfie, League Legislative Representative

Mr. Derek Dolfie welcomed the committee and gave an overview of legislative and budget items pertaining to Community Services. Mr. Dolfie began by reporting about the creation of a stakeholder advisory committee at the California Department of Health and Human Services to help shape a statewide master plan on aging. Next, he discussed various items in the proposed 2019-20 state budget.

Those budget items included:

- \$47 million toward workforce development training for homeless persons and others with mental health challenges;
- Funding for youth homelessness, including connecting individuals 18-21 with various services, including funding for foster children and emancipated youth; and
- Focus on and expanding full day kindergarten and full day pre-school

Mr. Dolfie then gave a brief update relative to wildfires including various pieces of legislation and recent reports. He referenced the general session handout for more details on wildfires. Mr. Dolfie then made closing comments and thanked both Chair Moody and Vice Chair Olsen for their leadership. Chair Moody then adjourned the meeting.

2019 Work Program Items Covered to Date:

Homelessness, including vulnerable populations, causes of poverty, services and outreach:

- [AB 344 \(Calderon\)](#) – New Beginnings California Program – Action Item;
- [SB 258 \(Hertzberg\)](#) – Homeless Shelters: Pets – Action Item;
- Project WeHOPE presentation on the homeless services they administer in East Palo Alto; and
- City of Costa Mesa presentation from Mayor Katrina Foley on the new homeless shelter Costa Mesa created and the homeless services the city provides.

Library vitality and services:

- Met with the California State Librarian, Greg Lucas, to discuss how cities can partner with the state library.

Emergency/disaster prevention and preparedness:

- Engaged on the ongoing legislative discussions on wildfires and seeking more local funding for emergency and disaster preparedness and response;
- [AB 291 \(Chu\)](#) – Local Emergency Preparedness Fund – League Support; and
- City of San Jose presentation on their “road to resilience” for emergency management and resiliency.

Stages of life services, including transitional stages for children, foster youth, and seniors:

- Retirement Housing Foundation presentation on the challenges seniors face to find affordable housing and the services they administer to seniors around housing;
- The Primary School presentation on how they are taking an integrated system model where the teachers meld with parents, academics and health for children; and
- Building partnerships with the California Department of Health and Human Services for their stakeholder advisory committee for a statewide taskforce on aging and senior issues.

Next Meeting (tent.): Annual Conference, Long Beach, October 16

Staff will notify committee members after August 22nd if the policy committee will be meeting in October.