



**COMMUNITY SERVICES POLICY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHTS**

Thursday, January 23, 2020

League Office, 1400 K Street, 3rd Floor, Sacramento

ATTENDANCE

Members: Oley Olsen (Chair); Heidi Messner (V. Chair); Paul Akinjo; Darlene Barber-Martinez; Denise Barnes; Kevin Bash; Ken Berkman; Jeff Boyles; Ruben Chavez; Heather Cousin; Marta Cruz; Christine Engel; John Gran; Shon Harris; Sarah Henry; Lorenzo Hines; Jay Ingram; Janet Jimenez; Jean Josey; James Kyriaco; Julia Mates; Jenny McAdams; Peggy McQuaid; Leticia Miguel; Bridgette Moore; Liz Morris; Mark Nagales; Maria Nunez; Alexandra Orologas; Sunny Youngsun Park; Kristen Petersen; Pam Powell; Katie Regan; Todd Rigby; Matt Rinn; Jesse Sandoval; Stuart Schillinger; Michael Smith; Nolan Sullivan; Elizabeth Talbott; Olivia Trujillo; Wanda Williams; Curtis Yakimow

Staff: Derek Dolfie, Legislative Representative

I. State Budget and General Briefing

On Thursday, Olivia Valentine, Chair, League Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee gave a brief introduction at the General Briefing Session. After her welcome, she introduced League President John Dunbar, Mayor, Yountville, who welcomed everyone and thanked them for their commitment to the policy committee process. President Dunbar then recognized his fellow officers in the room, and shared that they had met with legislators and the Governor's staff earlier that week. He emphasized the importance of League members contacting legislators when in Sacramento to make the most of everyone's time during their visit. President Dunbar explained that there is a lot of value in building relationships and advocating on legislation that could affect cities.

Turning to the budget, President Dunbar stated that he was excited to see money heading to cities. He is encouraged by the relationship between the League and the Governor and the open lines of communication that they share. President Dunbar closed by reiterating the importance of sharing the message of protecting local authority in meetings with legislators and continued participation in policy committees.

President Dunbar introduced Carolyn Coleman, League Executive Director. Ms. Coleman thanked President Dunbar for all of his hard work, and welcomed everyone to Sacramento. Ms. Coleman thanked everyone in attendance for their time engaging and building a strong voice for the League. She explained that the League would not be as effective if it were not for the collective efforts of the policy committee members. Ms. Coleman also acknowledged the League partners present and thanked League staff for all of their hard work. She concluded by introducing everyone to Melanie Perron, League Deputy Executive Director, Advocacy and Public Affairs.

The League's Fiscal Policy Advisor, Michael Coleman, walked everyone through the State Budget update, which included how the State plans to spend the \$5.9 billion surplus and pay down debts while growing its reserves. He further explained how there is substantial funding in the budget to address housing and homelessness, natural resources and the environment, and fire protection. Mr. Coleman reminded everyone that this is only a budget proposal and is not final. There will be a May revision to this proposal, but this proposal is a

good indication of where the Governor's budget is headed. The finalized budget will be voted on by the Legislature and signed by the Governor by the end of June.

Jason Rhine, Assistant Legislative Director, kicked off the legislative update by discussing issues related to housing, community, and economic development. Mr. Rhine emphasized that it is currently the second year of a two-year legislative session, and in addition to the two-year bills, there likely will be over a thousand new bills introduced this year. He emphasized that SB 50 is one of the biggest bills this year for housing, and despite recent amendments, the League remains oppose unless amended on this measure (this measure failed passage by the legislative deadline of January 31). Mr. Rhine then spoke about homelessness. He explained that this is the third year with significant money in the budget to address homelessness, with about \$1 billion in investment. Mr. Rhine explained that the League will continue to work with the Governor's office to address issues related to homelessness.

Bijan Mehryar, Legislative Representative, highlighted issues related to governance, transparency, and labor relations. He began by explaining that this year there will be a large focus on pensions as a component of cities overall fiscal sustainability. In relation to pensions, Mr. Mehryar highlighted SB 266, a two-year bill that may be acted upon this year to require cities to directly pay retirees disallowed retirement benefits using general fund dollars. Mr. Mehryar then discussed labor and workers compensation noting AB 418, which seeks to extend evidentiary privileges between union agents and a represented employee (this measure is a two-year bill currently on the Senate floor). He finished his update emphasizing he will continue to monitor issues related to elections and redistricting into 2020.

Charles Harvey, Legislative Representative, explained several evolving public safety issues. Mr. Harvey expressed that one of the big issues this year will be cannabis. He was happy to report that AB 1356 will not pass off the Assembly floor. Instead, a new bill related to model retail ordinances will be introduced. Mr. Harvey does expect to see a cannabis enforcement bill later this year, extending to cities the authority to impose civil fines and penalties against illicit cannabis operations. He is continuing to monitor issues related to cannabis taxation, including a recently introduced bill to lower excise taxes. Lastly, Mr. Harvey highlighted AB 1190, which the League supported regarding a framework for drone regulation. He explained this bill will be referred to three policy committees in the Senate, and he will continue working with cities in shaping drone policy this year.

Derek Dolfie, Legislative Representative, began his presentation by discussing environmental quality. He highlighted the League is working on issues related to utility initiated power shutoffs, grid hardening, and electrical undergrounding in conjunction with the Transportation, Communications, and Public Works, and Public Safety Policy Committees. Mr. Dolfie then turned to solid waste and recycling, thanking the cities in attendance who weighed in on SB 54 and AB 1080 related to the reduction of single-use plastic waste. He emphasized these bills are still moving through the legislative process, and there will be an updated action alert issued soon.

Mr. Dolfie then discussed community services. He mentioned the Governor issued an executive order last year creating a Master Plan for Aging and a stakeholder advisory committee. Mr. Dolfie highlighted Immediate Past President, Jan Arbuckle, Council Member, Grass Valley currently serves on this committee representing the local government perspective. Mr. Dolfie also added the Governor's budget proposal includes \$65.1 million for the creation of a "Parks for All Initiative," which seeks to expand access to parks, open spaces, and natural lands for all Californians.

Rony Berdugo, Legislative Representative and Federal Policy Liaison, gave a legislative update on transportation, communications, public works and federal issues. He began by reviewing the scooter legislation carried over from last year, AB 1286, which the League co-sponsored, and AB 1112, which the League opposes. Mr. Berdugo then turned to the active litigation that the League is in with the Federal Communications Commission. He explained the Transportation, Communications, and Public Works Policy Committee would get an update on this case later in the day. Mr. Berdugo also mentioned he has been working with the California Public Utilities Commission on closing the digital divide through broadband deployment. Mr. Berdugo finished his update by reviewing federal issues of importance to the League, including remote identification for drones, streamlining of the National Environmental Policy Act, and the recently approved federal budget.

Lastly, Nick Romo, Senior Fiscal Policy Analyst, highlighted issues related to revenue and taxation. He explained the Revenue and Taxation Policy Committee will continue to work with and monitor the activities of the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration as they have begun collecting sales and use taxes from out of state retailers following the passage of AB 147, regarding Wayfair v. South Dakota. In regards to annexation, Mr. Romo highlighted a two-year bill that the League supports, AB 213, currently in the Senate Appropriations Committee. He reiterated the League will continue to support annexations and incorporations into 2020. Mr. Romo closed his update by addressing the Governor's recent streamlining of Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts (EIFDs) by removing the 55 percent vote requirement. While helpful, EIFDs remain difficult for cities to initiate.

II. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Olsen and Vice Chair Messner welcomed the Community Services policy committee members, asked them to introduce themselves and articulate the three issues most important to them and their city. They explained this process would help to inform the CS 2020 work program.

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Overview of Parliamentary Procedures and Roberts Rules

Derek Dolfie, Legislative Representative, gave a brief overview of the League's parliamentary procedures and Robert's Rules. This overview included a reminder of how many votes are required to pass a motion for an action item, the order of how substitute motions and friendly amendments are heard, and a suggestion to review the "call for the question" procedure.

V. Committee Orientation

Mr. Dolfie went over the role and purpose of the committee as well as the way League staff interact with the committee. The committee was then introduced to the League's process for determining positions on pending legislation before the Legislature. Mr. Dolfie explained that during future policy committee meetings the committee will hear relevant details and may hear from subject matter experts before debating and deciding on a recommendation to send to the League Board for final review.

Mr. Dolfie then went over the role of the Chair and Vice Chair, member responsibilities and the importance of each member's participation in the process. He encouraged members to be active, ask questions, and to bring new ideas. He then announced that the next meeting of this committee would take place on April 2 in Anaheim, CA.

VI. **League Strategic Priorities for 2020**

Mr. Dolfie explained the process by which the Strategic Priorities were established during League Leaders in December 2019. He then went over each of this year's five strategic priorities:

1. **Improve the supply and affordability of housing.** Provide cities with financial tools to increase construction of housing, particularly for vulnerable populations, reform state regulatory barriers, and ensure cities retain flexibility based on the size, geography, demographics, impact mitigation and land use needs of each community.
2. **Advocate for increased funding and resources to prevent homelessness and assist individuals experiencing homelessness.** Secure additional resources and flexibility to provide navigation assistance, emergency shelters and permanent supportive housing and strengthen partnerships with stakeholders to ensure mental health, substance abuse treatment, and wraparound services are available for adults and youth at risk of – or already experiencing –homelessness in our communities.
3. **Address cities' fiscal sustainability to deliver essential services and meet pension obligations.** Raise awareness among stakeholders about the fiscal challenges cities face and work collaboratively to secure new revenue tools and flexible prudent policies to ensure cities are able to provide essential services to their residents while maintaining their ability to meet pension obligations.
4. **Strengthen community and disaster preparedness, public safety, and resiliency.** Improve community resiliency to disasters and environmental threats, and strengthen infrastructure stability and control, through expanding partnerships, including state and federal agencies, and securing additional resources and support for climate change adaptation, planning, preparedness, response, recovery, and sustainability in our cities.
5. **Address public safety concerns of California cities.**
 - Reform recently enacted criminal justice laws — enacted by both statute and initiative — that have eroded public safety protections of California residents through the passage of the Police Chiefs/Grocer's-sponsored criminal justice reform measure eligible for the November 2020 state ballot, or by equivalent reforms achieved through legislative action.
 - Protect public safety by reducing access to firearms by the mentally ill.
 - Support additional tools and resources to address critical community challenges such as homelessness, mental health, domestic violence, drug rehabilitation, human trafficking, and workforce development for ex-offender reentry.

Mr. Dolfie explained that strategic priority number four, related to community and disaster preparedness, public safety, and resiliency partially involves the Community Services Policy Committee. The Environmental Quality Policy Committee has the primary jurisdiction for disaster legislation, but the Community Services committee does focus on issues related to community resiliency and the impacts disasters have on the community. He explained while these strategic priorities are what would guide the work of the League this year. They are not a limiting document.

VII. **Master Plan for Aging**

Adam Willoughby, Assistant Director – Legislation and Public Affairs, California Department of Aging and Grass Valley Councilmember Jan Arbuckle, Immediate Past President of the League and member of the Master Plan for Aging Stakeholder Advisory Committee, presented an update to committee membership on the creation of the Master Plan for Aging.

Mr. Willoughby started his presentation by introducing himself and sharing his background before getting into his slides. He then spoke about the Governor's direction to create a Master Plan for Aging in the State of California to help address issues as it relates to aging.

Development of the ten year master plan is informed by committees, experts in aging, health, government, and family care and is led by Health and Human Services Secretary Mark Ghaly.

The committee was then introduced to a data dashboard housed on the Department of Aging website, which can be used as a resource guide for local use and planning.

Mr. Willoughby briefly touched on the four goals for the Master Plan:

- Services and Support
- Livable Communities & Purpose
- Health & Well-Being
- Economic Security & Safety

Mr. Willoughby went over the next steps for the Master Plan:

- Winter and Spring 2020
 - Continued recommendations gathered from aging and disability communities;
 - Webinar Wednesdays;
 - Community Events; and
 - Recommendations received via website, email, and postal service.
- March 2020
 - Long-Term Services and Supports Subcommittee report due to Governor.
- Summer 2020
 - Final input received and draft deliverables reviewed by Stakeholder Committee.
- October 2020
 - Master Plan for Aging issues by Newsom Administration – Implementation.

Mr. Willoughby shared with the committee that currently four million Californians are 65 or older and this number will double over the next decade. Of that group, 20 percent of older adults suffer from at least five chronic conditions.

Immediate Past President Arbuckle spoke as a member of the Stakeholder Committee and supported Mr. Willoughby's presentation. She encouraged rural cities to be active in the discussion as those jurisdictions tend to have fewer resources to address an aging population. She mentioned homelessness is one of the major issues facing our state and as people age and their income stays stagnant while costs rise, there is a risk to our aging population entering homelessness.

Ms. Arbuckle encouraged all cities to work closely with local non-profits that can assist in addressing this issue.

After the two speakers finished their presentations, the presenters opened the floor for questions. The following questions were asked:

- A committee member asked if the webinars presented by the department are available online. Mr. Willoughby mentioned that they are archived and available on the Health and Human Services website.
- A committee member mentioned that no East Bay legislators were included in discussion round tables.
- Committee members also asked that more positive language be used in the final plan, guardianship be addressed, and ADA compliance also be addressed.

VIII. Update of Existing Policy & Guiding Principles

Mr. Dolfie provided an update to committee members on the guidelines between 2018 and 2020. Chair Olsen referred the committee members to the League's updated Existing Policy & Guiding Principles document, and encouraged them to familiarize themselves with the policies. Mr. Dolfie explained the importance of the guiding principles document as the foundation for League advocacy positions. The document is updated and published every two years to reflect significant policies adopted by policy committees and approved by the Board. Committee members reviewed the proposed update and considered whether it accurately reflected the actions taken by the policy committee (and League Board) over the last two years, and whether there were any missing policy items or errors in describing policy.

After Mr. Dolfie concluded his remarks, a motion was made and seconded to approve the updates to the existing policy.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion and second to adopt the proposed update to Existing Policy & Guiding Principles, as presented.

Motion Approved, with unanimous support.

IX. Adoption of 2020 Work Program

Mr. Dolfie explained the 2020 Community Services work program creation process to the committee, highlighting the work program would help guide League staff in selecting guest speakers and content for the committee. He assured the committee that the work program is a guiding document, and does not limit the scope of work the League does in the Community Services space.

The committee had a robust discussion on what items they would like to add to this year's work program. The committee ultimately decided on the following work program:

- Libraries;
- Natural Disaster Preparedness;
- Parks and Open Space;
- Aging, Senior Issues, and Adults with Disabilities; and
- Mental and Physical Health, Wellness, and Well-Being for Children and At-Risk Young Adults.

COMMITTEE ACTION: Motion and second to approve proposed 2020 CS work program for 2020.

Motion Approved, with unanimous support.

X. Legislative Update

Mr. Dolfie provided a brief legislative update to the committee. He mentioned there are no pending two-year bills for the committee to discuss. However, once the legislative deadline passes on February 21, 2020, they will have a better idea of what new bills are introduced and what the committee should focus on.

He also mentioned the Governor's budget proposal includes modest increases in funding, but the budget mainly focuses on implementation of last year's proposals. One thing of note was \$50 million is proposed for allocation to help transition municipal animal shelters to a "no-kill" model. He also mentioned the Governor's "Parks for All" initiative to help revitalize existing parks and create a new state park in the East Bay area.

Mr. Dolfie gave members a quick tour of the League's website and showed members where they can access League provided resources including our analysis of the Governor's budget. He also highlighted the CS Policy Committee [webpage](#), which he explained is home to a lot of valuable information and resources for committee members.

Though specific bills were not discussed, the committee was made aware that not a lot of bills introduced yet, but they are coming in fast and to be on the lookout for a lot of disaster related bills as well as bills regarding the use of e-cigarettes/vaping.

Chair Olsen then thanked the committee members for their time and commitment and adjourned the meeting.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 2, Sheraton Park Hotel, 1855 S Harbor Blvd, Anaheim.