



# Measure O Citizen's Oversight Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2024, from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

## Meeting Recording:

<https://sonomacounty.zoom.us/j/982541234567>

Access Passcode: =qkZmz5U

Members Present: Shirlee Zane (Chair), Gregory Fearon, Kevin McDonnell, Edward Sheffield, Ben Ford

Members Absent: Betty Chavez

## DHS Staff Present:

Tina Rivera, Director

Julie Gallego, Department Analyst, Fiscal

David Hiatt, Program Planning and Evaluation Analyst

Leah Benz, Administrative Services Officer II

Alea Tantarelli, Program Planning and Evaluation Analyst

Sid McColley, Acute & Forensic Services Section Manager

Melissa Struzzo, SUD Services Section Manager, Behavioral Health Division

Karin Sellite, Youth and Family Services Section Manager, Behavioral Health Division

Kelley Ritter, Chief Financial Officer

Christina Welch, Department Accounting Manager

Dave Kiff, Homelessness Services Division Director

## Presenters

Bobby Young, Client Services Director, HdL Companies

## 1. Call to Order/Introductions/Roll Call

Chair Zane called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and welcomed everyone and a round of introductions was then conducted.

## 2. Approve Minutes of 10/4/23 Meeting (Action Item)

Attachment: Draft 10/4/23 Minutes

Action: Moved by Gregory Fearon, seconded by Kevin McDonnell; Approved

Aye: Kevin McDonnell, Gregory Fearon, Shirlee Zane, Edward Sheffield

Absent: Betty Chavez, Ben Ford

## 3. Measure O Forecasting for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Attachments: HdL Newsletter

Presenter: Bobby Young, Client Services Director, HdL Companies

Forecast: Bobby Young presented the HdL Sonoma County forecast for Measure O revenues.

Summary:

Introduction: HdL has been in business in California for over 40 year serving over 700 local communities, including

#### 1. Sales Tax Basics:

- The overall countywide base sales tax rate is 8.5%.
- Some local jurisdictions add their own local rates on top of this base rate.
- The base 1% sales tax is commonly referred to as the Bradley Burns.
- Additional portions of the sales tax go to specific purposes:
- Half a cent for county agencies designated for Prop 1, 72, or public safety funding.
- About 1.5% for counties specifically designated for mental health, welfare, and additional public safety.
- A quarter cent set aside for countywide transportation funding.
- In Sonoma, there are additional tax measures totaling 1.25%, including Measure O.

#### 2. Recent Trends in Sales Tax:

- In 2020, during the pandemic period, the economy experienced a full economic shutdown.
- However, throughout 2021 and 2022, there was dynamic growth, with double-digit year-over-year gains in sales tax.
- Consumers received federal government funds, leading to increased spending.
- This surge in demand contributed to inflation, as prices rose due to increased consumer purchases.
- The most recent data (third quarter of 2023) shows a lower pace of growth compared to 2022.
- This pullback by consumers was expected, especially as the Federal Reserve raised interest rates to combat inflation.

#### Staff questions:

Leah Benz asked how staff can use this data. Bobby Young replied that it can be used for quarterly fiscal reporting, budget forecasting, and allows staff to analyze the data which improves their insights and contributions to the budgeting and resource allocation.

#### 4. Fiscal Review for Q1 & Q2 of FY 23-24

Presenter: Julie Gallegos, Fiscal Department Analyst for Measure O

Attachment: Fiscal reporting for Q1 & Q2 FY 23-24

#### Summary:

##### 1. Fiscal Reports covered:

- Measure O special revenue accounts.
- Operating accounts.
- Operating expenditure accounts broken down by subcategory.

##### 2. Measure O revenue account statement:

Report covers:

- Beginning fund balance.
- Sales tax revenue from the prior year.
- Revenue from interest on pooled cash.
- California administrative fees.

Highlights:

- Revenues are categorized into five categories base on Measure O spending guidelines.
- The data represents the first four months of the current fiscal year (July through October) due to a two-month lag in receiving Measure O funds.
- Quarter 2 revenue appears low because it only includes October data.

- Quarter 3 reporting will provide a clearer picture as the measure over reimbursement funds will have been moved by then.
3. Percentage of Actual Expenditure to Budget:
- The concern about the actual expenditure being only 32% compared to the expected 50% at the halfway point (6 months) is understandable. However, it's essential to consider the timing of expenses and invoice processing.
  - The actual expenditure reflects invoices paid and posted as of December 31, which represents expenses through November.
  - Bills are not necessarily received and paid every month during the same month they are incurred, leading to a lag.
  - As the year progresses, more invoices will be processed, and the actual expenditure will catch up.
4. Transitional and Permanent Supportive Housing:
- The low budget compared to the high revenue and reimbursements in this category is due to its management history.
  - As we move forward, quarterly billing will be in place, providing a clearer picture of expenses.
  - The small dollar amounts in these categories represent funds flowing but not yet fully reflected.
  - Categories 4 and 5 fund the homelessness division through reimbursement.
  - The timing of invoices impacts what we see in the reports.
  - By the next reporting period, the expenses from the homelessness division will be accounted for.

#### Member Comments:

Kevin McDonnell asked about Fund Balance. Julie Gallegos responded that the Fund Balance obligations on the report are not part of the current county budget and represent future expenses included in the fiscal year when they are spent. There is no current date for that yet. At the end of the year fiscal staff will record all expenditures and revenue to determine the fund balance. Kevin then asked about Transitional and Supportive Housing and how he hears from community members asking where Measure O dollars are going to them. He stated that it is hard to create a narrative explaining this and asked how that this information can be better communicated. Tina Rivera asked how often newsletters come out and Leah Benz stated they are quarterly and the annual report. Tina Rivera agreed that communications could improve and perhaps provide monthly updates on expenditures and stated that staff are working on a NOFA for mental health, substance use disorder and homelessness services in the amount of 5 to 5.7 million dollars and that there will be a huge media blitz. Tina Rivera said the department will be utilizing the newly hired communication specialist and will be developing a communication strategy. Shirlee Zane stated that the community wants things client-centered in a narrative form of stories. Gregory Fearon stated he appreciated the communication strategy, but the fiscal report was a poor document and leads to more questions and as a result he can't depend on it. He stated that as a fiscal guru for nonprofits DHS must create reports that can be understood without a lot of caveats which will support the narrative. He further stated that without a better job on fiscal reports the public will not trust the information and that promises of forthcoming reports have not met the standards. Kevin McDonnell stated that the large Fund Balance begs the question of why there is more money in Fund Balance at the end of the year than at the beginning. He suggested that staff create something like a 5-year plan and that without a better presentation of the data that is not possible. Tina Rivera asked what his requests were from the last meeting and said she wants to balance the committee requests with staff work and asked if what was wanted was future looking documents to include encumbrances not just where we were. She asked if what was being requested 3 years out and that that would be difficult to provide because of the need for Board approval. She stated a lot

of the dollars are committed for things like the Mobile Support Team and future NOFAs and asked for clarification on what was being requested. Kevin McDonnell stated that he wanted to so that the Fund Balance would be going down at the end of the year aside from money that would be appropriate to set aside such as a 6-month reserve. Shirlee Zane expressed a desire to have funds out on the street as quickly as possible. Leah Benz stated that the large number of behavioral health programs has slowed expenditures. Tina Rivera stated that as this is an election year further mandates may be coming down. She stated that the fund balance is committed but that timing is the problem, and that department is budgeting appropriately and that any fund balance is because it has not been budgeted in this fiscal year. It was suggested that future reports describe how programs are rolling out and if it is on target. Gregory Fearon stated that this might be beyond the scope of the committee but that it would be helpful, and Tina Rivera responded that this would be done as a favor.

#### Public Comment

The speaker asks how much is in the bank and if that is the 30 million dollars discussed and what exactly is Measure O. The speaker stated that money is needed for behavioral health and areas such as Roseland and asked if there were age restrictions on the spending. The speaker asked what an MST team is and what is a NOFA. Additionally, the speaker asked what nonprofits Measure O supports. The speaker stated there is a need for behavioral health programs in the county to protect our children and provide them services. Shirlee Zane suggested the speaker contact staff outside of the meeting to answer the questions that may not be Measure O related.

## 5. Staff Reports

Presenter: Karin Sellite, Youth and Family Services Section Manager, Behavioral Health Division  
Behavioral Health School Program

#### Summary:

- The program is generously assisted by Measure I.
- Staffing updates include hiring a manager, a behavioral health clinical specialist, a senior office assistant, and a behavioral health clinician.
- Interviews are ongoing for AOD counselors.
- The program aims to expand to additional locations, including West County and Sonoma Valley.
- A request for proposals will add family and peer services to support young people and families.
- Youth Treatment Services Expansion:
  - An RFP for expanding youth treatment services will complement the behavioral health school partnership.
  - The goal is to have places to send students needing services.
  - Drug Medical Organized Delivery System expansion process is underway.
  - The state's implementation plan and readiness review are in progress.
  - The estimated launch date for D. ODS is July 1, 2024.
  - Additional positions have been approved, including a health program manager overseeing treatment providers and an outpatient program.

Presenter: Sid McColley, Acute & Forensic Services Section Manager  
Psychiatric Health Facility

#### Summary:

1. Psychiatric Health Facility (Crestwood Sonoma Healing Center):
  - Operated under contract with Crestwood Behavioral Health.
  - Serves medical beneficiaries aged 18 and older in psychiatric crisis.
  - Located on the Los Guilicos campus.

- Aims to increase throughput, reduce overstay at the crisis stabilization unit (CSU), and lower utilization of more expensive hospitals that do not accept Medicare.
  - Provides 14 dedicated beds for Sonoma County medical beneficiaries.
  - Successes include a 95% utilization rate last quarter.
2. Challenges at the Psychiatric Health Facility:
    - Length of stay is too long due to several factors:
      - Individuals previously stuck at the CSU now face delays at the psychiatric health facility.
      - Challenges in finding long-term beds for conservatees.
      - Difficulty establishing safe discharge plans in the community due to housing issues.
  3. Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU):
    - A 24/7 facility for individuals in psychiatric crisis.
    - Authorized to serve up to 16 clients but has faced staffing limitations.
    - Mandated staffing ratio: one licensed staff for every four clients.
    - Accepts voluntary and involuntary individuals.
    - Provides crisis evaluation, medication, support, and referrals to various services.

#### Mobile Support Team Expansion

1. Mobile Crisis Services Expansion:
  - Mandated by the State to provide county-wide 24/7 mobile crisis services.
  - A call center will allow residents to speak directly with crisis counselors for counseling, screening, and triage.
  - The plan was submitted to the State and received a high rating, but full implementation awaits complete staffing and training.
  - Collaboration involves the currently operating county Mobile Support Team, the Santa Rosa In-Response Team, the SAFE Team (operating in Petaluma, Rohnert Park, and Cotati), and the Community Oriented and Equity Policing Team (CORE Team) in Healdsburg.
  - The program aims to be operational by April 1.
2. Integration with Other Services:
  - Close collaboration with mobile crisis services providers.
  - Regular meetings to discuss triaging services between the call center, mobile support team, and law enforcement.
  - While not directly integrating with homeless outreach services, coordination ensures efficient response.

Presenter: David Hiatt, Program Planning and Evaluation Analyst

Annual Report

Summary:

1. Categorization and Framework:
  - The goal is to categorize and break down information within each department.
  - Understanding the specifics of different programs, such as transitional housing, is essential.
  - The framework allows for better tracking of spending and results.
2. Evaluation and Integration:
  - Ongoing evaluation of programs is crucial, considering the various funding sources and alternative funding.
  - Integration efforts involve collaborating with different teams, such as the mobile support team (MST) and homeless outreach services.
  - The focus is on creating a comprehensive picture and providing real-time data.
3. Community Engagement:
  - Plans include community engagement through social media, newsletters, and meetings.

## **6. Member Vacancy**

Leah Benz stated that Orlando is no longer on the committee and asked the members to suggest individuals with lived experience to apply.

Shirlee Zane thank everyone for coming out and thanked the staff for their hard work and adjourned the meeting at 5:59p.m.