

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

>> Hi everyone thank you for joining this is Cassandra with JCOD. Thank you so much for joining.

>> CHAIR STEELE: There we go. What's going on everybody, how is everyone doing today? I appreciate many of you being very, very quickly responsive to the change. I see folks are still coming in. Okay. Okay. All right in the essence of time, and thoughtfulness we'll go ahead and get started. Are we situated effectively from -- I'm sorry I can hear the interpreter. I don't know if you all can hear that too.

>> Can you hear me Derek Steele steel I can hear you, yes. Of I wanted to make sure we get him situated in this space that he needs to. How are you doing today?

>> Pretty good, pretty good. Myself I'm good.

>> CHAIR STEELE: Glad to hear it. Veronica has her hand raised so can you make her a cohost. Veronica Lewis all the advisory committee members if you can raise your hand.

>> MEMBER LEWIS: Chair Steele, I was trying to respond to you.

>> CHAIR STEELE: Thank you very very much Member Lewis, Mr. Cyrus-Franklin, Member Moore, Member Knight, Mr. Carbajal, we are all here. There we go. Try to give it one more moment before we get started you all. If you joined and you're in the advisory committee, use the raise your hand function so the team can see you. And get you added. If you're an alternate as well, that's totally fine. About 30 more seconds. Thank you very much everyone. Again I appreciate for the attentiveness and the switch. I'm sorry, the make use of available virtually. We were supposed to meet in person today. But in the essence of the things that we're trying oh get accomplished, and also with all the motions and the things that happened at this week's meeting,, you know, from a capacity standpoint, it just made more sense for there to be the Town Hall since a majority of what we needed to get accomplished is built around the presentations.

To get more context, more information. So before we get all of you into the framing can we read the disclosures and we'll get into the acknowledgements and then I'll frame it and we'll get into the presentations for today. So we'll start the disclosures.

>> Thank you Chair Steele I will read the meeting disclosures. This meeting is being recorded by remaining in this meeting you consent to being recorded. This is a public meeting and subject to the Brown act since conversations and statements on the chat are not visible to people on the telephone and who are unable to participate, the chat function

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

is limited to technical assistance. There will be no response nor forwarding of any public comments to the advisory committee members.

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>> CHAIR STEELE: Thank you very much for that. I want to go ahead and read the land acknowledgement. The land beneath our feet is the ancestral lands of people who live in Los Angeles County and surrounding areas for thousands of years. I would like for us to acknowledge the Gabrieleno Tongva people and the Fernandeno Tatavium tribe and the Ventureno Chumash people. These native people understood and respected the land connected and respected the four legged creatures who once roamed the earth freely and winged ones and everyone in the -- everything in the ocean. Their hearts told them never to take more than they could use and always give -- every time I read that their hearts told them no never take more than they could use and always give back to mother earth. These amazing people are still here today living and breathing amongst us and still giving back to the community that surrounds us. Aheehe, thank you to our ancestors.

Please bring forth the community labor acknowledgement. Most modern day U.S. Constitutions have benefitted from the unaddressed legacy much stolen labor as the foundation of this nation and vast inequitable wealth. We respectfully acknowledge our debt to the enslaved people primarily of African descent who is labor and suffering built

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

and grew the economy and infrastructure of a nation that refuses to recognize their humanity. While the 13th Amendment of the Constitution technically ended slavery in the United States, we know that the slavery's ongoing impacts are still felt by countless people forced through violence threats and coercion to work in the United States. We recognize our debt to exploited workers past and present whose labor was and continues to be stolen through unjust practices.

We acknowledge our collective debt to the indigenous people of the land whose labor was forced and exploited the Chinese immigrants who built records and allowed to westward American development, Japanese Americans whose while incarcerated during world war 2, migrate workers from Philippines Mexico and central and south American. We recognize the immigrant American workers of African Asian and central and South America descent. We recognize that our economy continues to rely on the exploited labor of incarcerated people largely people of color who earn pennies an hour while generating billions in goods and services each year. We know there are other people too numerous to mention who are prevented from reaping the true value of their labor by unjust systems and cruel practices. We mourn their loss of life, liberty and opportunity. We acknowledge that the theft of labor is the theft of generational progress. Nearly all people of color who have been robbed of the opportunity and wealth that their ancestors might otherwise have passed onto them. We see them we acknowledge them and glad to be able to work in service of them. Please bring up the community agreements my friends. Really quickly if there are members of the advisory committee are stuck on mute or video please raise your hand and they will make you available to be able to come off mute and video.

Let's read the community agreements together. Be respectful of the diverse voices being represented and remain open-minded. Be mindful of power dynamics in this space as well as the historical disenfranchisement of black indigenous communities. Accordingly prioritize and defer to community throughout this process.

>> Be mindful of diverse audience you're presenting to and make sure you speak with clarity.

>> Be collaborative.

>> Assume best intentions.

>> Challenge the idea, not the person.

>> Remember why we are here to center the Black, Brown and indigenous communities and other communities that have been most impacted by the carceral system, low income communities, trans and gender nonconforming folks, et cetera.

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CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

>> Come on folks we've got more folks in here.

>> Only number 7 is on the screen.

>> Defer to community.

>> Transparency and follow-through.

>> Be intentional about hearing and allowing space for additional voices to be uplifted.

>> Be an active participant and try to be succinct in your thoughts and contributions.

>> Let equity lead the way.

>> That part.

>> Make space for youth voices.

>> As much as possible allow community members to finish their sentence/thought during public comment.

>> Review community agreements before every meeting and amend them as needed.

>> Begin CFCI advisory committee meetings with the land acknowledgement statement recognizing and respecting the indigenous peoples of the land we now call Los Angeles County. Thank you for that, friends. Even in these days when we're just getting in the presentations, it's still important to really make sure we're acknowledging and, you know, the spaces that we're in, be the people who have helped establish them, and also just the agreements. Agreements piece becomes critical because of the work we have done in easier times or budget cycles, when there isn't as much unrest, is practice for moments like we are in now.

When the CO's office announces one of the most impacted budgets in the history of the county where 4 billion dollars of a lawsuit is going to have them paying for it all the way until 2051, where there are conversations around carceral systems that should have been closed but still queues while they are still open. To, you know, discussions around how dollars can be utilized and how we keep programs that are very impactful and effective funded. There's a lot of conversations, a lot of questions, contracts for workers in the county and several different parts of LA county not just in the government piece but in the ways we work in community and where those dollars come from to help make sure that those things take place.

We, there's CFCI has come up in several conversations for folks. And so the work we have done together in concert is practice for moments like this. Where we can get an understanding of why dollars with being unspent and come up with a game plan how to reallocate them to be as impactful as possible in our communities. We have to rise to the

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

occasion here, right so those types of community agreements and a way that we stand on business with each other becomes really critical.

We have had the ability to hear from JCOD so far and today begins the conversation with I want to say JCIT but they have a different title of their name. Am I correct that's where we're going with this? I'm going to pull it up, sorry, yes. We look at the breakdown, hold on a second. To the is the 17th. I'm sorry. Let me back up. I apologize.

We were supposed to start to hear from JCIT today but the calendar got switched because of availability and JCIT will be coming in person with us on May 1st, Thursday May 1st. It will be at the HOA room downtown 500 west temple they will be coming to us on May 1st. Today we're actually hearing from CEO. As you know, there have been an ongoing back and forth about how we get these recommendations to the board of supervisors. There was a large motion on the 15th of one specific of making sure the care first community advisory committee has precedent over how we get these recommendations into the board of supervisors so resources get out the way they are supposed to. CEO will be coming before you today to reiterate some of the positioning from the conversation before. But more importantly coming back to discuss with us some of the recommendations they have for the reallocation of resources of unspent funds. Please feel free to ask the questions along the way during this presentation. The last thing I will say before we hand the mic over to them, is that there have been motion that was put forward by way of cluster that I got a chance to participate in on Wednesday that actually helps to outline what this process should look like in the future so we don't get into this whole back and forth who is responsible for what.

So I'll pause there, you know, you can probably tell from my energy, the way I'm talking about this, that there might be a little bit more to the story. I want to say thank you, one, to JCOD team because they've had the most difficult position of trying to get all the information and actually make it make sense. The CEO's office also a thank you to a couple of them in their office who have helped to try to make sure that the definitions of these things are clear for people to understand. And being clear about the why behind some of the moves that they are making.

And I think it's really up to us as a body to learn from this process and also take what we need from it to be able to make the determinations about how we're moving forward just like we're listening to all the other departments. So there's a lot of words. I want to turn, oh, before I go. Member Lewis, yes.

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

>> MEMBER LEWIS: I was able to tune in probably around 3:00 or 3:30 to the bored meeting but it was amazing to see the community turn out to show so much concern and to try to remind our county leadership of what CFCI and Measure J is about, so thank you, Derek, and I saw a few of you speak towards the end but I wanted to say to the community here keep on showing up because it matters and I was very, I couldn't be there and they cut the queue off on the folks on the phone trying to make comments because of time so I couldn't say anything or that or measure A but I saw you all and it was amazing and let's keep up that energy and synergy even in this very challenging time. I was proud to be a part of the community and the committee.

>> CHAIR STEELE: That part. And thank you for that, because a few folks lift up Reba, pulled up, thank you Reba for pulling up in person and participating but I also want to lift up Megan Castillo because a lot of the folks who showed up on behalf of CFCI that day and the reimagine Los Angeles coalition under here leadership were definitely there in full force. I know you might not have got a chance to get on until 3:00 but she was there starting at 8:30 in the morning. There was a resource fair and open mic on the outside of the facilities. We had just over, I would say about 75 to 80 people who were there on site. To get access to the resources and come inside and give public comment on the different agenda items. Joey was there and making sure that the voice was there. Tencha was there as well. Making sure and the young folk with CBPN were there as well. And I think I'm sorry CMBP my bad, were there too, so it was nice to not only just the see the adults but the young people in the room standing on business. So I remember when.

>> Member JOEY WILLIAMS: Chair Steele CMBP, Tencha and Megan and leadership with the reimagine coalition, everyone who came together. I know you caught the 3:00 but folks will be there all day and I feel like the board should be more sensitive to the community who have been there all day. I felt like their comments went on and on and on. That was intentional. I am a paranoid person about things like that, but like it was intentional and it was disrespectful to the community and who comes out to be heard on their time off and hear the pontification of board members and staff of the county it felt disrespectful but I want to say I'm proud of the community for sticking through. I had to leave. I wrote my comments by written and submitted them and yeah, but I would love to have got a chance to speak but everyone held it down. And two on the jail closure whatever they are calling themselves now I appreciate the efforts but this feels disrespectful to the board of supervisors disrespectful to the not closing it. We have the Super Bowl and Olympics and these are reasons why it's not closed but I think it's unacceptable so that we're choosing

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

especially now when people are being abducted and it's a scary time and folks need to be out and cared for, not locked up and incarcerated. Appreciate all the efforts of everyone. Derek also your leadership. Thank you.

>> CHAIR STEELE: Received, Joey, thank you, man I really appreciate that. So yeah, there's a lot more work to do. A lot more work in front of us and I'm grateful to do this in concert with you all because what we do in this moment, we've had practice before but what we do in this moment with these resources and stand on business together will not only reverberate for the needs that exist in community now, but it sets the precedence how we can do this in the future. For those who may be sitting in the seats that we have now, in that future, they can do it as effectively as possible.

So I'll leave it there. Thank you very much for the energy and the time and we'll get into this presentation now. So I want to bring on Kieu-Ahn is here today from county CEO. Are you doing the presentation today? Kieu-Ahn are you doing it. They have the most money unspent and they had the wrong people leading it before. I got more confidence in folks who have got their hands on the wheel there now. I just hope it's not too late you know what I'm saying

>> Member JOEY WILLIAMS: I do too and I'm looking forward to meeting with them as well.

>> CHAIR STEELE: Kieu-Ahn did they get you off mute. County CEO here and proposals for us here and to give feedback. The floor is yours my friend.

>> Kieu-Ahn king: Thank you for the introduction, Noah should I share screen or do you have the PDF you can just bring up.

>> We have the PDF. Ruth can you bring it up for us.

>> Kieu-Ahn king: I will go ahead and start talking while Ruth preps. I don't need to point to the PDF Chair Steele vice chairs and members thank you for allowing me to take up some of your time today and allowing CEO to come about a month ago on March 20 to do an initial presentation on the topic.

When we came to the group on March 20 we were discussing one time CFCI spending recommendations generally. At the last meeting we talked through at a high level the Measure J and the charter language that addresses the board of supervisors annual allocation process. And the public input requirements and public hearing requirement that are a part of county charter. We discussed the CFCI board policy which provides further detail on the advisory committee's role in making recommendations on programming, the

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

annual set aside funding and but also instructs CEO to submit recommendations to the board on unspent one time funding.

At the last meeting, I also discussed a board directive to the CEO to identify 10 million dollars for wildfire eviction relief fund related to the fires in Palisades and Altadena. CEO provided a report to the board on March 7 which we provided a link to in our last presentation. That report identified CFCI as a potential source of 9 million of the 10 million that the board considered. In that report as well, CEO committed to the board to provide full information and a briefing to the advisory committee before we move forward with the wildfire eviction relief allocation and the recommendations on CFCI one time funding.

And that's what we'll do today. On the 20th as well I talked about the County's forthcoming period of austerity which I think Chair Steele recapped when he started off the meeting. This year as Chair Steele noted the county is going to face some pretty extraordinary challenges. We have threats to federal and state funding, declining property taxes, losses related to the fire and of course the potential 4 billion dollar A B218 settlement. County workers and county departments are being asked to make, to do more with less. We know that they are at the same time is a sizable amount of CFCI one time funding that has been sitting idle while needs in our community are greater than ever.

Unspent CFCI funding can only be spent to support the nine categories of alternatives to incarceration and direct community that are laid out in Measure J and in the board policy. As I noted last time only the board can approve reallocating any unspent one time CFCI funding. CEO can make recommendations but those recommendations are subject to the board. We agree with members of the committee and individuals who have come to make public comment that CFCI funding shouldn't be allowed to accumulate year over year without a plan to put it to work in our communities. We criteria the county should do everything we can to get the funding out into the community where this can do some good. We also agree with you the county should be investing CFCI funding in-housing, alternatives to incarceration and community programs. Our priority is to put the funding out into the community where it can do the most good. We know from your comments today and before, that the committee would like to take the lead in allocating this one time funding. CEO also recognizes the urgency of the issue and we intend to follow the board's instruction to make a recommendation. We hope that you can agree that putting the money to work in the community is more important now than ever, and we look forward to

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

hearing your feedback on the 15 recommendations that we have in the packet today which I'll discuss in just a minute.

At the last meeting multiple members asked to detail where CEO has identified unspent funding and the detail on the projects that are to be funded with the one time funds. All of that detail is in the packet today and that's why the packet is a little long. So today I will walk through the information in the packet. I won't walk through every row of data unless you want me to. But in terms of next steps, the one time funding recommendations will be part of the CFCI year four board letter. That board letter is going to come to public safety cluster two Wednesdays from today on April 30. The board letter as I noted earlier is subject to a public hearing and the public hearing is Tuesday June 24. So it's a little over two months from now.

As we move forward today and after today I will include one of my staff member's emails in the chat window in case you want to email CEO directly, but we will take all of the feedback that we hear today and we will ask JCOD to provide a recording and a transcript and then if it's easier for members of the committee or members of the public to just email the JCOD general email address, we can take feedback that way as well. We'll take feedback any way you want to provide it.

And so before I jump into the detail, there are four sections of the packet. Ruth, can you jump to page 2.

So page 2 I'll walk through in just a minute. Page 2 is a one page summary of unspent one time funding by CFCI spending plan year, by county department where the funds are budgeted and then administer county versus DPA. Ruth, can you move to page 3 of 15. Page 3 of 15 is the same data that's in page you just looked at, but this attachment has detail on every individual project by department and by year. And so the numbers at the bottom of section 2 in the bottom of the first page all tie the first page just the summary detail and the second is the full detail.

Ruth, can you jump to page 8 of 15. Page 8 is where CEO's recommendations for unspent one time funding begin. I'll walk through the full detail with you in just a minute but we thought it would be helpful to have a single snapshot one page view of the 15 projects that CEO is including to be recommended with CEO one time funding and then Ruth, if you scroll to the next page, page 9, page 9 is the full detail on each of the 15 projects and programs.

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

And so with that, before I start walking through the detail, are there any questions?

>> CHAIR STEELE: Yeah the first question I have, I see the different programs and their detail, right, the assumption that I heard in prior -- well maybe not about this but let me just ask my question. The recommendations for funding for the care first community investment dollars, Measure J dollars has specificity that the board approved, right. So the program areas themselves that the funding is allocated towards from year one, year two, year three, whatever, there's specificity there.

So were you all using the specific programs that have been identified where funding is supposed to go to identify what recommendations you are bringing forward in this regard do you understand what I'm saying? If I flip through the documented recommendations that this body has sent to the board of supervisors that the board of supervisors approved, there's specificity how the programs, the money is supposed to be spent. So are these programs in alignment, you know, I'm sorry, these recommendations are they in alignment with those programs

>> KIEU-AHN KING: These recommendations are all assigned with the prior focus areas that the committee has included in the last four spending plans. In page, on page 8, Ruth, if you can scroll upward, on page 8 we wanted to be sure that we tied in each of the 15 programs to the focus areas that the committee had included in the first four spending plans. So you can see that the third set for Department of Health services, for example, these are all harm reduction programs which I believe have been funded if not in more than one spending plan, just in year two. Some of these programs including the harm reduction drop in centers and overdose education were specifically included in prior recommendations that the spend, that the committee put forward.

>> CHAIR STEELE: You got it Member Lewis.

>> MEMBER LEWIS: Thank you. I'm not sure if you're going to, when you say you're going to go through detail I don't know if you mean page 8 but I have a question on page 2.

>> KIEU-AHN KING: Once we're done with high level questions we'll go back to start and I'll walk you through the projects with unspent funding and then the recommendations for one time funding.

>> MEMBER LEWIS: Okay I'll wait then because you may answer it, thank you.

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

>> KIEU-AHN KING: So why don't we scroll back up to page 2 and I'll start walking through and if members have questions as we proceed, feel free to raise your hand or just speak up.

Okay. So page 2 of 15 is the high level summary of one if I am funding to be reallocated. So we as you may have noticed already, CEO starting point is slightly different than the starting point that JCOD provided to you in one of your town halls maybe a month ago or a month and a half ago. I think the worksheet that Chair Steele or somebody from JCOD shared on-screen at that meeting just looked at the year one programs. CEO's approach to looking at unspent one time funding was to look at all unspent one time funding that has been unspent for more than one year. And so we looked at year one, year two, and year three. I think our year one total is very close to the total that Chair Steele shared in the worksheet a couple of weeks ago. I think that worksheet was 169 or 170 million, ours is 164. So I won't walk through every row of detail with you unless you want me to, but what CEO did, we started by looking at the 325.8 million at the bottom of column 1. You can see the grand total 325818. That is the one time carry over number that was in the CFCI budget when it was finally adopted in October of this fiscal year. So it would have been October of 2024.

We started the fiscal year with 325.8 million of unspent one time CFCI funding. That is in addition to the 300.6 million of ongoing CFCI funding that was budgeted for the various CFCI approved spending plan projects. We're just looking at the one time funds at this time. So we started with the 325 and you can see when we lay it out year by year, it makes sense that the majority of the 325 came from year one projects because those were funded in 21, 22 four fiscal years ago. There's been more time for balances to accrue. There's less from year two and very little from year three which makes a lot of sense because the year three projects are still very new. CEO then worked with JCOD and county departments to evaluate how much of the one time funding departments are projecting to spend in the current year. And so CEO's goal in putting together the one time funding recommendations is to be sure that departments and the TPA are able to administer their projects and to spend the funding that they intend to spend in the current fiscal year without any interruption or without any impediment. So what we did was as part of the regular budget process, and Member Stevens and Lewis I will stop in just a moment. As part of the budget process we work with departments in JCOD at regular intervals to get them to tell us how much of your funding are you going to spend this year. They told us as part of this budget monitoring process, that they are going to spend about 100 million of the 325 and that's why under column 3 net available we have a lower number of 218.9.

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

And so what CEO did was we wanted to be sure that we trusted what departments reported that they would need to deliver their services and programs in 24-25. And we lowered the amount of one time funding available from 325 to 218. I'm going to stop there. I don't know who raised their hand first but I'm happy to take

>> CHAIR STEELE: I got you. I'm going to go Member Lewis and I got you Member Stevens.

>> MEMBER LEWIS: Member Stevens hand was up before mine.

>> Member STEVENS: I prefer to follow Veronica Lewis because she may follow where I'm going.

>> MEMBER LEWIS: Look at page 2 and the very bottom row of year one, I'm assuming TBA means to be awarded is 27 million 936. Then page 7 that initially was allocated for the closure of main central drill. Can you explain, and I do know that some of the money that initially was transitioned to these two or three programs we saw standpoint in the last 15 months presented but explain to me the 27.9 million that appears again on the last line in year one and I see the number 119 on page 7. Can you explain that, please.

>> KIEU-AHN KING: Sure. TBA stands for to be allocated. That is the kind of budget account where we budgets CFCI funds that have not yet been allocated. In this case that is the one time fund balance for the close MCJ project that is administered by what used to be called the J closure prejudices team now called the community safety implementation team. That is the one time unallocated fund balance for the close MCJ project that hasn't already been allocated for specific projects in departments.

>> MEMBER LEWIS: Yeah, I thought so. That's why I asked and I think that like we understand the budget cycle, there's very devastating stuff about to happen on the homeless response system even with measure A. We understand the resources but given that's at the core of how all of this even started in the first place when we were ATI, et cetera, and the repeated requests for I'm sorry I didn't catch the full name, for them to work in tandem with this body to, so we can move the needle on tangible, measurable ways in which we are moving people from incarceration and then we got, heard about the projects that were fine but were only addressing a fraction of the need. I'm very concerned there was no conversation with this group. Because I believe it was made to seem as if all their dollars had been allocated to those projects. That was my interpretation. Again, it's been over a year ago.

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

So that's the core of why all of this started. None of us would be here without the very loud voice of the communities asking for there not to be the deep investment in the repairs and renovation and MCJ and ATI workgroup and then Measure J and now CFCI like there's a whole, and so what is the reason this 27 million has not come up or in a way that it was clear that it had not been awarded all of this time given that it's near one. Did we miss it, was it brought up? And then I have a part 2 to that question as well.

>> KIEU-AHN KING: Well, I think I'll defer to JCOD to talk through kind of what was communicated and what wasn't. What you're not seeing on-screen is the 42 million of ongoing closed MCJ funding. That funding I believe 38 of the 42 has been allocated. There's a remaining amount that is also in TBA but is not part of this analysis. The 42 million was budgeted in year one, I believe, while JCIT was still part of the CEO's office before JCOD was created in November of 2022. The 42 million I believe took some time. It took some time for the former JCIT to develop individual projects to be spent with the 42 million. A number of those projects were designed to be funded for two-to-three-year periods at JCOD, DMH, DHS and maybe one other department. And because of the 42 million was not spent immediately, there was underspend every year that continued to grow. The balance of the underspend for that closed MCJ project you can see here is 27936. I don't know if JCOD wants to speak up just about historical conversations, but.

>> Adam Bettino: I think you got most of what my understanding is and I don't have all the history but I've been at JCOD just a bit over a year. In the short time that it was actually at JCOD officially, JCOD stood up as a department. We have effectively one staff that was dedicated to the jail closure work. So even when I came on board, there was a lot of work that had been done, you know, during the time at ATI and I think we were starting to ramp up on recommendations and there was a motion from the board in I believe March of last year that moved it to CEO starting July 1.

So, I mean, the history is sort of this thing that is critical and I think previously was under resourced and is now I think resourced a bit more appropriately. And has moved in the CEO's office which does give it a little bit more, I don't want to say authority, but when it sits with a department trying to wrangle and corral other departments it makes it a little bit more difficult and yes CEO's office is a department however I think when CEO calls, we in department land pay be more apt to respond in a timely manner I'll say. That's some of the history but specifically around the 27 million, I can't really speak to why it's not allocated to date.

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

>> MEMBER LEWIS: I thought it sat with the CEO's office in the first place.

>> Adam: It did.

>> MEMBER LEWIS: I've been here since the beginning.

>> Adam: Yes.

>> MEMBER LEWIS: It's been a mess and all the strategies and all the work that went into the ATI that came out very community driven ATI process had some very clear ways to do things and certainly many of the projects have been founded county or TPA have been accomplished but obviously we know we need a significant scalable community-based housing and supports model. So when I see that the 27 million has not been awarded that has not been communicated to us to my knowledge in the last two years or in the last even six months or whenever the reality of the numbers came to be. And we were not engaged to talk about how to continue to build on and scale up and develop the infrastructure and invest in the existing many, many small housing providers that have the dwellings just don't have the money and capacity that really continue to expand the community-based part of this because how do you decarcerate or diversity or move people you have to have places in the community that are appropriate to serve them. And 27 million won't resolve all of it but on top of the 40 million it would allow us to do more. It's very frustrating and I followed all of this closely and so I don't want to say it was intentional with all the budget conversations and all of the requests that Chair Steele and vice cochair have been asking. It's very frustrating and the other thing I'll say is looking at page 8 and I don't know if you're going to get to that and I see critical important at 38 million dollars as part of the and la Casa about to give 400 million dollars in one of the key aspect of that work is right to counsel, I don't understand why you all would be trying found it and there's la Casa still getting footing or question marks around what they can fund but we know the right to counsel piece of the work is allowable under the senate bill that created la Casa and measure A dollars why would we be taking that when they are about to have 400 million. Maintenance is going to be part of their work that doesn't make any sense. Coming from two meetings today where the reality of the fact that our homeless response system, 350 million come July will basically not be able to enroll any new people into housing and give them subsidies people sitting in interim housing won't move unless they self-resolve. I'm going to say it for the record, we need more investment in making sure people have safe places to live, they can absolutely be funded by la Casa and again this I think is our frustration when these conversations are happening I know that the CEO's office is very aware of all these different moving pieces by the fact this landed here as opposed to la

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

Casa makes me question the process. We are literally about to have people, families with children because of the huge loss of DPSS funds, single adults, couples, you name it not having a recourse or place to go because we are at capacity and there is an opportunity for us to use these dollars to address some of that and so, you know, I don't know, maybe the budget hearing process is the place but we have to show up in, you know, droves in order to get the board of supervisors attention. I'm very concerned that the 27 million dollar unallocated portion specifically for the core of the reason this whole effort moves started was not communicated to us.

>> CHAIR STEELE: I couldn't have said that better. (Cut out) the piece on top of that with the, when you think about the process like the context that you're bringing to the table because of the different spaces that you're in is part of the reason why it's important for oh a body like this to be able to be providing the appropriate recommendations to the board of supervisors because of all the context that are beyond the narrow scope of unfunded board motions and stuff like that.

So but yeah Kieu-Ahn if you have any additional response to that if not I'll move onto Member Stevens.

>> KIEU-AHN KING: Yeah, MEMBER LEWIS we will definitely discuss the 38 million dollar for state house LA when we get to page 8 but I hear your feedback and I can discuss it a little more on page 8.

>> CHAIR STEELE: Member Stevens.

>> Member STEVENS: All of my questions were answered. Thank you.

>> CHAIR STEELE: Is there anyone else before we move onto a more in depth break down of the documentation in front of us. Anybody have any questions what they are looking at if you don't understand it and you need clarification.

>> MEMBER LEWIS: He's in the a cohost.

>> CHAIR STEELE: Got it.

>> MEMBER LEWIS: I did.

>> Member Crunk: I just got here. I apologize.

>> CHAIR STEELE: Kieu-Ahn, continue on. Thank you very much.

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

>> KIEU-AHN KING: Ruth can you scroll down to the bottom of this page. So the first three sections up top show you the unspent one time funding for each of the three years of CFCI starting with year one, year two, and year three. At the very bottom we gave you subtitled in case it's helpful. You can see that of the 325.8 million, about 236 is related to projects administered by county departments. They're another 27 that MEMBER LEWIS talked about related to the CIT and year one year two and year three. Those numbers are there in case you have questions.

If not, if we can move to the top of page 3, I can walk you through a few rows of the worksheet. Starting with row one for alternate defender.

[CAPTIONER CHNAGE 5:00 PM]

So starting with row 1 for alternative public defender. So looking left to right, I'll kind of walk you through CEO's thought process in putting together these numbers. If you have your document's open, you can see row one, alternate public defender has one. Their total's here. You can see the program name. It's the Jail depopulation Ndamukong Sue motion/ODR Beds. That's the plan that's funded through the \$42 million. You can see in column one, in blue, the small white one, their one-time budget as of October of 2024 was \$1.25 million. So APD had a full year of underspend for this project because they didn't have any costs in 23-24, the first year it was budgeted. What CEO did was we looked at APD's report on how much they think they would spend in 24-25. Column two shows \$612,000. What that means is when APD came to us or when APD came to J-COD to report how much of their funding they would spend, they said they would spend \$612,000 and that's 1.65 and so what we wanted to do when we approached this project, that anything the department told us they would need to encumber or spend in the current year to deliver services wouldn't be touched and that only the remainder is something we would look at for one-time reallocation. Another project that might be worth just glancing at is number six on the chart here. This is another Jcit project. In this case, the one-time funding for the year was \$7.3 million J-COD reported the entire amount would be spent this year. So the entire amount we included net available was 0. And the same logic applies to the next

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

couple of pages and to every and I'm happy to walk you through any of the numbers but every row of data follows the same logic. And if there are no questions, right now at least --

>> Member Steel: Really quick I wanted to go back to the reference on page two.

>> On page two. Bottom of page two.

>> Member Steel: All right. The breakdown we have been operating from identified that the TPA's dollars were all encumbered. So can you identify where this one million dollars is from?

>> Sure. The TPA total, you can see it's broken up into three rows in the top sections the year 1 TPA amount is \$18,614. And the year three TPA amount is \$1.7 million. Those three numbers are totalled up at the very bottom of the work sheet.

\$2.4 million. They were one-time CSCI balances when we adopted the budget is October and these are related to the length of time between the date TPA funds became available and when contracts were signed with TPA vendors and the first payments went out. And so for CSCI year one I believe, the funding was available on July 1st of 2022. The contracts were signed with the awardees I think on April 1st of 2023. And that was about 18 months after the funds first became available and so that means that for those 18 months, there were no expenses and that funding would be carried forward from year to year.

>> Member Steele: The \$5.3 million is what you're talking about.

>> Well, I'm talking about the \$18.6 million from year one.

>> Member Steele: But based on this document, 17.5 of it is unencumbered. So net available is 1.03.

>> Yes. So at the start of the year for year one, \$18.6 million was not encumbered. JCOD reported to us earlier this year the \$17.75 million would be encumbered or spent and that leaves only \$1.039 million of unallocated.

>> Member Steele: That's what I'm trying to understand. The 1.39 I'm trying to understand. Those are the different programs and everything, right. And so those things get allocated where they're supposed to. There's a million dollars that's unspent. What does that number represent?

>> I would defer to JCOD as the creator of the data.

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

>> Do you got a sense of that, Adam?

>> It's the for the administrative fee. And the reason that it's in this bucket, remember, is ongoing funding that was not spent and part of that is that lag is a so it becomes one-time. If you guys recall and, again, I don't have the history here but I've heard the ramp-up time to bring on the T.P.A. was significant. There was lots of time. You all lived this. So there was a lot of time that elapsed in getting to the third party administrator and bringing them on board and so this is that awkward staggered start that we see not only with the grants but everything when we call it start time, it doesn't align with the fiscal year. So there's always these odd gaps on one side or the other of the fiscal year and that leads to sort of this accrual of funding that then becomes one-time because it wasn't ongoing funding spent in the fiscal year it was allocated for.

>> Member Steele: I'm asking the question specifically about the T.P.A. because I want to be clear. I don't know if I agree with the way this is being characterized as if, you know, the T.P.A. has also inclusive of this larger conversation about us spending funds and dollars kind of sitting around. That's not the case here. Right. Like this is more of the timing piece and so I appreciate you saying that initiately, Kieu-Anh and underscoring that, Adam, that the process of actually getting the dollars out the door and into the community exists in all of this not just in the T.P.A., there's county departments that have done the same. The problem is that there are for whatever reason the larger amount of net dollars, \$33 million, \$49 million, we had the discussion about the \$27 million and they disappointed us there. Like these are the pieces that get lost in the conversation because we're pinpointing the T.P.A. or we're pinpointing, you know what I mean? Let's talk about what the real problem is here dollars that are sitting around that are not programized, that are not tied to programs for whatever reason, we need to solve that problem. So we can keep going down into the details of the different recommendations that you all have, Kieu-Anh but you've already heard from Member Lewis just looking at State Housing LA, the second question I have is really based on where these recommendations came from. You know what I mean and what is the context of it needing to come from this pot of resources when there are other pots of resources for them to actually tap into. .

>> I'm happy to talk through that as we move to page eight. Should we do that?

>> Member Steele: Yes, please.

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

>> Okay. Ruth, page 8 of 15. Page 8 is a one-page summary of the CEO's 18 recommendations for CFCI one-time unspent funding. As I noted before, this is just a look at one-time funding. It doesn't look at anything ongoing. The one-time projects, every project except for item number three eviction relief program. All of the other projects came about from departmental requests and the unmet needs, lists that they submitted as part of their 25-26 recommended budget requests. As I mentioned, when I started my presentation, departments requested about \$2.4 billion of programs to serve their constituents and their clients as part of a recommended budget. We said yes. From CEO's perspective, we said yes to very few requests this year for the same reasons that Chair Steele mentioned earlier in the call. It's an extraordinarily difficult budget year. At the time the CEO was requesting departmental, the CEO was reviewing departmental budget requests including the unmet needs that you see here on your screen now, we were also looking at the CSCI projected carry-over for 25-26. That amount is about \$284 million. So absent these recommendations and absent any board action on one-time funding, CSCI will continue to carry over a little less than \$300 million going into 25-26. And I think our process at CEO was to think through relative merit of the department requests that you see before you and many that you don't see. We wanted to look through what source is available funding were there. We also acknowledged that there were many projects not just the ones here that were fully compliant with measure J and CSCI and aligned with the spending plans and focus areas recommended for funding and prior CSCI spending plans. And so that's why you see this list of 15 projects before you today. There's a footnote on item two, it's a little small on state house delay. I acknowledge what member Lewis said earlier that the state house allocation is a state allocation while CEO works with outside partners to identify long-term sustainable funding sources for this project so maybe I should walk through.

>> Chair Steele: The funding terms, is this recommendation the \$1.3 million over five years?

>> Yes. So if you start up top. So looking left to right, we have it laid out by county department starting with public defender going down to alphabetical order. Each project is numbered. There's a quick description of the project there's an annual allocation. It's \$1.38 million for five years for a total amount of \$6.9 million most of the projects here, that will allow the departments to work to administer the projects for four to five years. It will allow for departments and CEO to identify alternative and sustainable sources of funding

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

to continue funding the projects after 2029-2030. And I see some hands. Reba, and then Christy anderson.

>> Thank you for all this information and thank you, Member Steele, for creating space for those of us who are challenged in understanding to be able to lean into that discomfort. So I really appreciate you for that. So a few things based on all of what you have presented, it's clear to me that there's money from the T.P.A. as well as from JCOD that's being moved to page 8 for the funding. I am mostly concerned about five years of funding, number one because we were talking about year one and now we're into five years down the line funding and if I'm wrong on what I'm hearing but I do want to also uplift the fact that there are county department that is have been around for years and for them to have unspent money, that's one thing but JCOT are very new to the game. That's the kind of language you use. So help me understand why we would disrupt the work that they are doing when they're doing so much and doing amazing work. I'm deeply concerned about that. Thank you. A response please.

>> I'm sorry was that for CEO?

>> Yes.

>> I think CEO, our intention is not to disrupt any of the work that JCOD or any of the other departments are doing. We wanted to work with the departments to be sure that their ongoing funding which should be enough to sustain each of their projects because they were funded on an ongoing basis. That funding is not being touched. We wanted to be attentive to what departments said they would need to spend in the current year. Like we showed a few minutes ago with the capital project that LA general medical center. So if departments reported that they would need the funding to deliver services in the current year, we automatically took that funding off the table and I think what we're -- what we are doing with departments is to the extent that they have needs beyond the current fiscal year for funding, we are encouraging departments to talk to us and to quantify what their needs are. I think departments would have to put it in writing, make a request and talk about their -- the availability of resources to address their ongoing service needs.

>> So I don't believe that my question and I probably should have not mentioned the chair as much but I'm still not clear about moving money from JCOD and so I'm just against money moving away from JCOD because it is still -- it's still very new and doing amazing work. Now I Did notice some of the areas where there was funding that was unspent. And I

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

just really want us to think about what we're doing here when we're disrupting the work of JCOD.

>> Chair Steele: Point of clarification, Member Stevens, when you talk about JCOD are you talking about taking from the pot or are you referencing something you heard that's saying that removing money from JCOD department to do other --

>> Member Stevens: Yes. Because JCOD is still very new where other county departments have been around for a very long time. If it was -- where are we? Where do we sit? We sit with JCOD.

>> Chair Steele: Right. Maybe I didn't hear that part. Is that what you were talking about, Kieu-Anh, moving money from JCOD to these other departments?

>> The detail of the unspent funding that we are proposing to be reallocated is included in the page two all the way up to page 7, so there are amounts all the way up to APE from all of the other departments that have been unspent for more than a year as of October of 2024.

>> Chair Steele: So you're taking money from JCOD because of the money that was unspent and we're going to move it to other places. So what Member Stevens is saying, we're not doing that. JCOD just got here, you know, and they need the ability to do what they need to do with the resources they have and I'm sure that they have programs that they've brought forward too. And so she saying that's not a good idea.

>> Thank you.

>> Chair Steele: And I agree with that, Member Stevens, then to turn around to give another department five years to spend these resources when I don't even have the confidence that will even take place.

>> Member Stevens: Can I just add one other point here? I'm thinking as a person representing lived experience and to experience like for instance the incubation the ceremonies, the transparency even the culture of JCOD is so different and to disrupt that, it feels very unfair I have to feel that the community would also agree that it's unfair to do this to an entity as to why we all are gathered here to begin with. This is our foundation. This is the structure in which we all come together. This is why we're pushing it just needs to be said.

>> I hear you and I think it goes back to one of the questions I was asking earlier of like where do these recommendations come from? You know, what are they centered in? How

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

have they been vetted to make the case for resources that you know, I know there's unspent dollars but the decisions to kind of take it from this part of the unspent funds and that part of the unspent funds, what was the community vetting process of that -- of those decisions being okay? You know what I mean? To be the ones that you want to take to the board of supervisors and make a decision on. Like what is the vetting on this? Because so far, there's been two from the advisement committee that have identified that's not a good idea. So I'm curious.

>> Well I think each request came about directed from a board motion. Each request came about from departmental proposals that were part of the 25-26 budget development process. I think each department knows it's knows it's obligations to its client base and to the community members that they serve. And the departments are here and are able to unmute if you want to talk through project by project but I think the genesis of the push for these particular projects came from the departments being attuned to their service needs. Attuned to the clients who currently and the clients and communities that are continuing to request those services and more.

>> Chair Steele: Is Christy anderson a -- okay. Cool. Thank you. Member Eakins. We're going to have public comment momentarily. We see you. There's a discussion with the folks on the advisory committee first but we've got you. Member Eakins.

>> Member Eakins: Can you hear me now? I just want to go on record but I am in total disagreement with this ask. As my grandma would say you're using my hand to rake out the fire. This money was allocated to support marginalized communities. It was to make things better and just like those other departments have needs, so does the community. I'm taking communities that are in need to give to other departments. And I don't think if the shoe was on the other foot, they would allow us to do the same. We're constantly needing more programs, dealing with what we have and barriers and using the so my thing is what if we say no. We are already in a deficit-based type situation. We're trying to help the millions of county residents who so desperately in need of these organizations to thrive. So why would we take from one to give to another. And UM not saying that those departments or those defenses are not as important, but this money was clearly allocated to help a group of people that have been continuously marginalized and if we say yes. If we allow, then we are part of the problem as well by continuously letting harm come to the communities that were supposed to serve. You know, so I just say no to it. It's not cool. It's not a good thing at all. And we know better, we do better. And we've seen over time how

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

communities and that's why we're here to advocate so it doesn't happen and we prioritize the needs of the communities we're charged to serve. So I would say no.

>> Chair Steele: Received and heard. You want to chime in, Tencha.

>> Hi everybody. You know, I wanted to say, you know I couldn't speak that day, there was just so many people speaking and I wanted to address the board of Supervisors but now we're able to address CEO. I wanted to put it into a context like this. The voters voted. So I feel like we're not listening to the voters. Basically saying we vote on this measure and we're going to pass it, but at the end of the day, we can tell you how we're going to end up spending it. So I want to put this into another frame for you. The native American community. That has to tell you there's a disconnect. Why? Because CBOs and organizations know how to serve their communities. Not saying you guys don't but you don't have the capacity to connect to the community the way that these organizations do think know how to connect to the people SNCHT if you're thinking the people are going to go to your offices, it's not going to happen. There's a disconnect and a trust issue. That's one. So I'm just going to say right now, it's a no for me. It needs to go back to the organizations that better know how to serve their communities. Thank you. .

>> Chair Steele: Received and heard. Thank you very much, Member Chavez. I see these came into you all by way of the different departments. I also don't want to throw them under the bus on this, right, as if these services that they have are the reason why they're on this list. Like you all selected the ways that you want to put them on the list and I think that's the thing I'm trying to ask. Yes, you told me where they came from, but what was the process of making these selections. Right. How did they why were some selected over the other? It was like what was the vantage point. Not the vantage point but the selection criteria. The community input based in this process at all. Was there an assessment of what's going on in the landscape to identify the things that make the most sense to get on the list. You know, I think the process is probably the part that is like the most disheartening here for me because I'm not saying that these aren't programs that actually could be really affective. But even the funding plans. You know, some of the organizations that started off on the very beginning on this are coming to the end of the life -- of the lifetime of their contracts and now have to go into a year to year situation. We haven't even taken into consideration what the needs are for the organizations that are already funded by this work so I think in the thinking of how to Ute sympathize these unexpected dollars in

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

the most effective way possible is in that it's not inclusive in the way you have presented this work so far. If you want to go. I'm sorry, I see your hand. I'm sorry.

>> Hi sorry. Thank you, Chair Steele. I want to share a little bit because our department is on this list. I know one of the questions is how we go through our budget process, so our department starts with the community we hold in the month of September, we hold 61 community meetings at all of our local parks and at those parks, we ask the community where are the priorities with respect to safety, and cleanliness at the park and so we take all of that information that we get from our September meetings and that informs the development of our budget process. So in terms of the youth and community meeting for unincorporated parks. This was one of the biggest data point that is we got from the community. This is going to support a 25 disease reduced fee from sports which we saw an increase in 25,000 to 2000 youth in unincorporated communities. We serve very high-need, low-income communities of color that otherwise would not have access to many of these quality programs because we know there's a lot of privatization with sports. We also this is also going to fund our cultural experiences and programs at our parks that celebrate the cultural diversity in our communities of LA county, advancing equity. So I wanted to share for our is to start with the community in September that helps again kind of inform what our budget request is. So just wanted to share that as part of our process and this discussion.

>> I see is that the nature of all the department. Here's a question back to Kieu-Anh.

>> I think each department has its own process and to develop registers that appear in their budget requests. I don't want to speak to the details of every department, but all of the departments that are reflected here are on the call. I don't know if any of them want to make a comment.

>> Just the ones that are actually on this advisory committee. I'm not going to open the floor for departments to come. They can speak in public comment like community Orgs. So if you're on the advisory committee, of course, if you want to chime in here, please do. But outside of that, I think it's not about the nature of the work, it's about how they got on this list because there may be some who probably have done the same thing but then end up on this list. Correct? We

>> We also look at issues that have been raised by members of the public that have been identified by the board.

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

>> Ultimately as you're making decisions and the board hearing, the budget hearing piece for the public was helpful to see. As you all are making decisions, is there like a prioritization list? I'm still unclear about how you decide especially when there may be potential other resources again even in a tight budget here or especially rather in a tight budget year. But is there something one to two pager is described and ultimately how decisions are made by the CEO? You know, again I find it funny -- not funny frustrating that that's not communicated with accept the body yes we have no governing authority. Everybody was communicating with except for the body. What's the number? \$219 million of funds are being sent away from and as one of the, you know, there's a few of us that have been here since the very beginning and I'm one of those. That we labored and toiled over. To figure out what we'll move forward with over a million dollars worth of projects from the community. And so does that exist somewhere where we can see in writing the decision how decisions are made I'm sure from county departments than you do resources?

>> I can look to see what is publicly available and what we have created already. I -- I don't know if I'm able to share all the details of our internal evaluation processes because they're internal, but I think a lot of the concerns that we look at are what I explained a few minutes ago. You know, departments as departments go through their own community feedback processes, make their requests, those requests coming to us usually in December or early January. CEO works through and evaluates departmental requests for a couple of months, maybe about two months and then --

>> And I don't want to cut you off. You've explained that pretty well. I'm asking for something very specific. So if you can follow up and we're not looking for the details of all the tools you used, that's not my request, but something that describes how you ultimately prioritized and made the ultimate decision, what are the key factors that you use because you've named several of them. In the interest of time, I don't think we need to hear them. You were very clear and articulate about those. But when you have more requests than resources is there something that you can high-level describe and the last thing I'll say is at the beginning of your presentation, you talked about the fact that in your evaluation of these projects, you all made sure that the core principles, I forget your exact wording of CFCI would be fulfilled by these projects and I just want to ask you the direct question. If that was the case, can you talk about the decision to not even bring those considerations to this committee before we got to this point?

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

>> Well, I think CEO had to go through our internal preorganization process, prepare the documentation, brief the board offices, right, and then after that, we came to the committee. We briefed the board offices on this package maybe about two weeks ago so it's still very new information and this was the next regularly scheduled committee meeting after we.

>> Just the ultimate decisions of the board, these are spending recommendations. Are they not?

>> These are recommendations that the CEO has been directed to make the board policy and the board has the ultimate.

>> I said the same thing you said. I said what is our core functions. You said the first year setting the policy and doing the heavy lifting to figure out how to balance and one of our core functions is to advise and on spending recommendations for the CFCI dollars, all of them. And so, you know, I'm not going to bother asking you a question again because clearly you won't be able to give me a direct response. So what I will formally request and maybe we need to still write a letter is that any spending recommendations related to CFCI funds which I know because we worked on charters and all kinds of stuff being brought forth to this that that process not be left out in any future considerations. I'm going to formally make that request. That's our core function. So you all can do word Jenga, but the core function of this body is to advise and weigh in on spending. All CFCI dollars so please don't do this again. I know you don't control it but you're the representative so I'm going to tell you and see if we can write a formal letter but for people who are new to the body, I want to be clear. That is the function of the CFCI committee to recommendations about how all the fun is spent. We should not allow this very unique process to be overlooked or circumvented ever again regardless of the budget environment. You circumvented and now this is not even an actional item. So please don't do that again and I'm going to formally make that request.

>> Chair Steele: That's received. Letter update written. We can definitely get that written immediately and that's the principal of the argument that's been made thus far and why we were there on Tuesday to the Board of Supervisors at the same time and we'll continue to beat that drum until it is heard fundamentally. As I mentioned, there's even a motion to clarify it as well, Member Lewis, so you can know that that energy is actually being pushed forward. Member Clark I saw you raised your hand, sir.

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

>> Yeah. I didn't want to beat a dead horse, but I think the state of this entire country, man, I think Member Lewis just the passing, the frustration, you know I think in my mind, the people I thought that this was set up. You've got to understand, I've already conceded that America is built to play the game they want to play and they can switch up the rules whenever they want to do it. Don't upset me, it's not like I haven't seen it. We've got an administration that's taking us back to the 50s right in front of our face and sometimes you just feel helpless like there's nothing you can do. But to have somebody sit up here and, you know, you ask a question, you dance around it and I understand politics and all of that. Obviously, you can't answer something or you're not -- you've been given the directive to only give so much. My point is where it's the transparency from the person that can come in and say, we were short over here, put it here. Or the respect saying this doesn't supercede this. And then have people like she said toiling spending hours after hours on this call that's a host. I got caught up with my actionable work I mean, it's a very demeaning feeling and I just want everybody to know that's what I feel from what she said. She just said I'm asking a question and I don't even think the person is being asked a question is trying to be that but whatever directions you were given, it is being like disrespectful. It's being demeaning, it's being I'm smart you're dumb. And I just think that take a step forward, few steps back. You know, I just wanted to say that I 100% feel her frustration. And I know that the community feels the same way. I'm just hip to the game. Man, been around the block a few times and I just know the game is set up for you not to win, and if you start winning, we forgot, we implemented this room. So that's why communities and things happen in the community and that's why people feel the way they feel because this is how they're treated time and time again. I'm going to to do what I want to do. No explanation and what are you going to do about it. It's a pucked up feeling. Excuse my French.

>> Chair Steele: I hear you, Member Crunk. A lot of these members on this list are solid programs and many of them are our peers who have been doing this work with us. You know, along the way and they get thrown under the bus and this whole process because you all are trying to utilize resources that are supposed to be allocated and focused and also determined on what the registers are in a different way than what you're doing. It's the status quo and that's the problem. This work, the measure J work is not the status quo processment that's not what this is supposed to be. Regardless of what is in the board motion and whatever rules you're saying that you're following. You opted not to follow it in years past to let the community lead the way but then all of a sudden here we are, in this

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

process after having a set of recommendations that we didn't have nothing to do with. So it's a little disheartening. I definitely feel you on that, Member Crunk, and member Contreras. I saw you had your hand up, I want to pass it over to you.

>> Thank you. From the time I joined this committee I really tried to make sure that I was authentically engaging and it does feel like when things get tough, the county goes silent and the community speaks up and, you know, I think we've been in solidarity on certain issues. So I just want to share my experience. It's not to question or challenge the approach that you all are taking. I would say more power to you if you're able to be successful but I can tell you I'm responsible for administering my department's budget and I have an unhappy puppy behind me, sorry. I'm responsible for administering my department's budget. If I have unspent funds, the CEO can decide whether or not I make my argument for how I want to use them or keep them but the C.E.O. can decide to allocate those dollars. So I think that's the reference point that has been restated over and over again like that is a usual process. And the fact that wasn't employed in the past was a good thing. I think it was a solid decision and now in this budget decision. I GONT want people walking away thinking all the department heads were involved. It's a CEO function. It's part of the responsibility and I just wanted to make that clear if it's helpful.

>> Chair Steele: You're always coming in with the heat. Thank you for that level setting. That was kind of the last part I was just saying, you know, the casualty in all this is like the county departments are just trying to take funds. That's not the narrative here. And, Wesley, you're spot on, bro. There's a lot of time and energy that goes into this. You know, and we have these meetings but then there's also the meetings before the meetings that take place to make sure that we can get this done and get it right. And we understand the gravity of these resource that is are unspent and what it can mean and how it can be very supportive to many different things in this community but there's a process that we came up with to make sure that those dollars are going in the right places to make the most impact, to make sure that we can impact the most lyes. Right. So that's where this has been coming from and you know, you and I have been in several meetings over the last month with the same energy. So I hope you don't take it on that way in this discussion but it is a pointing, a wagging of the finger and probably even more of that even shouting from the roof tops like this is not the way we should get this done.

>> Real quick, I know you've got to get to public comment. I just want to say the CEO's office has been in a very difficult position this year. We understand that. We understand

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

their responsibility. No matter what anybody says about the bureaucratic process, I want to remind you that measure J creates a different project whereby it's just an informative role. We know we don't have any govern Nance, we know it's up to the CEO. So this is not that part of it. This is about seemingly the intentional decision regardless of the time lines. The timelines have also always been tight. I told you about the amount of work we have to do in year one to get over the threshold, you would not believe me. You think these meetings are adding on or something, you would not believe me if I told you this. So we understand timelines. We understand statutory deadlines. This is about the fact that and I want to remind the committee members because a lot of them are here, there is supposed to be a difference and we are supposed to be able to advise and inform but we're not able to do that if we're left out of the process. That's it. It doesn't question any other parts of the bureaucracy that exist or tear things down. It's just a reminder that this is not business as usual.

>> I think that's a perfect way to end all of this. I appreciate you come engine and sharing. You know what these recommendations are. For the process that we are in because we're still going to continue on with our process. We'll take these on as recommendations. I'm sorry, as proposals for the recommendation process that we're going to be able to go through after we've done the fact finding on a lot of different fronts. You know, I know there's a process that you're going to continue to move forward on and we'll probably see you in those rooms and conversations as well but thank you very much for your time for being here with us. We're going to go ahead and move on to public comment. And then, general public comment and we'll wrap up the meeting.

>> Thank you, Chair Steele. We will now open the general public comment period. Please note the general public comment are limited to the matters within the subject matter jurisdiction of the CSCI committee. The public comment time is one minute per person. Computer and smartphone users locate your raised hand feature to be placed in the queue. We will call on you in the order that your hand was raised. Please remember to state your full name before you begin your comment. Noah, how many comments do we have online?

>> I have the first commenter, Kristy Anderson. Ms. Anderson, I'm going to ask you to unmute yourself and if you can state your first and last name for the record. You have one minute to speak. Thank you.

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

>> Hello, my name is Kristy Anderson and I'm calling about line 12, parks and Rec. I feel that we should keep the funding is very important for the parks and Rec because we serve the underserved and there's no other way that the children will be able to play these sports if the funding is not available for them. I also believe that this program helps keep the kids off the street. So please reconsider taking the funding from the parks and Recs. Thank you.

>> Next commenter I have is a phone number, 16616046778 tell I'm going to have you unmute yourself for the record.

>> Hello, can you hear me?

>> We can hear you. You have 60 seconds to speak, thank you.

>> Thank you. I just want to talk about some of the things --

>> Sir, if I could have you -- could I have you state your first and last name for the record before you begin your comment?

>> Yes. My name is Christopher Wear. I just want to talk about some of the programs that this has helped funded. I have been a contributor to the parks and as an employee for many years and I've seen the impact that this has on the community. There's been so many kids that have helped out including when I was younger and I can't see that this program goes away because it has helped the community. I used to go to a high school and there's been multiple am different people that I've been able to refer this program to and if you take it away. Then they don't have somewhere where they can go and feel safe.

>> Got it thank you, next. Next guest I have speaking is Byron. State your first and last name.

>> Byron with the transLatino coalition. In March, the CEO mentioned how these money by the law under measure J are supposed to be rolling over. So we as a stakeholder list the priorities where we definitely echo the sentiment of this body being overwriting of this body's role for the board who has the voting power, it is still undermining the CFCI measure J process and since we're doing five-year funding, the program 14s can you make it a five-year program based on CEO's rules. Thank you.

>> Thank you. Next guest I have who raised their hand is Sonya Vasquez. If you can state your name for the record.

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

>> Thank you, my name is Sonya Vasquez at the department of public health. The 14 on the recommended list, the transgender, gender expansive intersex and wellness and equity initiative. I did want to share this was a request that came from the community to the Board of Supervisors and DPH was asked to support and make sure this gets implemented. The majority of the money goes out the door to organizations that are serving individuals that as we all know are being targeted and attacked right now. If there's an opportunity to share and present more on this program, I'd love to do so. We do have a report back that we've given to the board on what this will look like and I can share more if there's an opportunity to do that. Thank you. .

>> Thank you, the next guest I have Anthony Almond. State your first and last name for the record. You have 60 seconds to speak.

>> My name is Anthony Allman. I'm an army veteran and former chair of the LA County Veterans Advisory Commission. Thank you for this opportunity to rise in support of funds dedicated to improving the lives of justice involved veterans throughout LA County. In particular, on August 21st, 2024, all ten commissioners voted unanimously on the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors in support of the director's vision CFCI dollars accomplished a goal of serving and permanently housing justice involved homeless veterans as broad-based support in the LA County veterans community. Programs funded by CFCI will be funded by a veteran with lived incarceration experience. I strongly encourage the committee to vote in favor of the programs to serve military veterans. Thank you very much.

>> Thank you for your comment. Next guest I believe is Dalia Vasquez. You have 60 seconds to speak. Please state your first and last name.

>> Hi. My name is Dalia Vasquez and I'm calling and giving my opinion on the parks and recreations funding. I have two children that are 5 and 6 years old and I've been -- they've been in the program for at least for the last two years and if the funding goes away, my kids wouldn't be able to experience any kind of sports due to I am a single parent and I wouldn't be able to afford putting them in private sports. Also, it's also -- it means a lot to me because as I was growing up, there was never any kind of funding to any kind of parks where my parents were able to take me as I was growing up and I believe this is a good FUNGDing is good for the community especially Huntington Park has never had this kind of opportunity to have free sports and it helps keep the kids in safe

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

>> Thank you for your comment. Next guest I have is AVG. State your name for the record.

>> My name is Albert Gomez. Can you guys hear me?

>> Yes.

>> You have 60 seconds to speak. Thank you.

>> Okay. Good afternoon. My name is Albert Gomez. I was invited by parks and Recs. Yeah. So actually I was -- I'm a volunteer coach for a couple of the sports teams including soccer and basketball at Walnut Park. I just want to say these programs have been incredibly valuable not just to my players but to the -- for the families and the community. They give kids -- they give kids a safe, positive space to grow, stay active, learn teamwork and discipline. For many families, I mean, especially in underserved areas, this is their only access for free quality sports programming. Losing this would be a huge blow to the community. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

>> Thank you. Next guest I have is Nina Watson. If you could please state your first and last name for the record, you have 60 seconds to speak.

>> Hi. Yes. My name is Christina Watson. Thank you so much for allowing me to speak today. I'm a member of the Val Verde historical society and I grew up in Val Verde which is predominantly Latino and black community in the African American history of southern California. I was a park kid. I was calling because I just wanted to speak to how important the parks program is for the youth in that community. I was able to do lots of sports because I had a single mother who couldn't pay for sports and I see it today in the kids that continue to go there. I just also want to say I understand this body's frustration with the county as well and they definitely need to be held in this process.

>> Next commenter is Yvette Crayon if I can have you state your first and last name for the record. Thank you.

>> Good evening, commission. This is Yvette Crayon I'm the CEO for G.R.I.P. gang reduction intervention program. I would just like to say I totally support all of the park programs but with our growing crime rates and the release of our individuals, being released into our community. The CFI funds should be directed to those individuals not only to maintain to make sure they are sustainable to be an asset. The process of this funding in which they have decided to roll over or to hold in reserve should have been received to CFI to assist in and all of these different organizations that have these

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

wonderful programs should have went through CFI and the CEO of LA county as well as all of the other organizations that attend this meeting to make sure that our communities are safe. Thank you.

>> Thank you for your comment. The next guest I believe we have is phone number 6615856500 if you could please state your first and last name for the record. You have 60 seconds to speak. .

>> Hello, my name is Leandria Liner. As a parent, I do support I am a mother of three and my children are very active. And here we don't have a lot of these activities and resources for the children. And I feel like the resourcing is not only going to help with my children but with their emotional not just my children but the children in the community. It helps with the access of these programs also helps with the community to connect and help with the funding. .

>> Thank you for your comment. I believe the next guest to speak is Debbie Anderson if you can state your first and last name for the record.

>> Hi everyone. My name is Debbie Anderson and I wanted to comment on the library tutoring program and share that that program was created based on direct feedback from the community. We held listening sessions with families and the parents told us that they really needed this program. Their children were suffering from, you know, struggling with being able to read and their math and so that program was launched in direct response to community need. We did it one summer. Last summer and it was incredibly successful. The children in just a few short weeks were able to raise their reading scores by around 20%. So it's important to know that that program was a direct impact from community response. Thank you.

>> Thank you for your comment. The last hand that I see raised is Grace Reyes if you can state your first and last name for the record. You have 60 seconds to speak.

>> Can you hear me?

>> Yes.

>> Grace Reyes. I'm the (unintelligible) for the LA County Library. I just wanted to reiterate what Debbie Anderson stated that we feel like this program aligns with CFCI initiative supporting development and addressing systemic barriers to success and underserved communities. As she mentioned, these are a response directly from community input

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

gathered during the visioning sessions and reflects the priorities and the needs of the residents and the most impacted by historical investment. We provide free community-based math and reading. Skills, fosters long-term well-being and contributes to a care-first approach that PREEFBTs future justice VOVLT involvement.

>> One last hand raised. I see Hala Masri. Sorry if I mispronounced your name. If you can state your first and last name for the record. You have 60 seconds to speak. .

>> Thank you so much. My name is Hala Masri. I'm with the Department of Health Services. I would just like to thank everyone for their comments and voices today. I would like to share that for the proposals that are on the table for our team at the Harm Reduction division that our funding is contracted out to community members and we do have a really substantial infrastructure for community engagement on our team. We have monthly listening sessions with our participants who are predominantly people experiencing homelessness and living on the streets and we also have feedback structure from community-based organizations through our steering committee that meets monthly. So we really appreciate the community advisory board's guidance with the CFCI funding. Our funding is really dedicated to the most vulnerable in our society. Thank you.

>> Thank you for your comment. There are no more hands online. As a reminder, if you would like to submit a written comment, public comment for a future meeting, please e-mail JCOD LACounty.gov. This concludes the public comment period. I'll now pass it back to you Chair Steele.

>> Thank you very much for the additional time everybody. I really appreciate the engagement and the presentation today. There's a lot of work ahead of us. A few things as far as next steps are concerned, there will be a work to reactivate and we'll talk about this at the next meeting. The community engagement sub committee that we created a few years ago because as we're learning and garnering more information from the different departments and the reasons behind the unspent funds and also the game plans so we can determine with how much we're working with here and the proposals, we also need to make sure we're providing the opportunity to learn from the community and get proposals from them as well. So we have the ability and come up with a set of recommendations that is robust. You heard me mention earlier that the CEO's office has their own office and protocols on what they're looking to try to do and what they presented to us today but we will take their recommendations as proposals. We'll give information from the CEO's office on more details for those recommendations so we can, you know, be able to have that as

CFCI ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

CART Transcript

April 17, 2025

Virtual Town Hall

apart of our vetting process. But, yes, I really appreciate the time and energy. There are several next steps that we'll take together. We're just in the beginnings of it. Trying to roll up our sleeves. Thank you, have a great rest of your weekend and I'll see you again soon.

Meeting adjourned.