



# AGENDA REPORT

SAN CLEMENTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
Meeting Date: December 5, 2017

Agenda Item 6-L

**Approvals:**

City Manager [Signature]

Dept. Head [Signature]

Attorney [Signature]

Finance [Signature]

**Department:** Finance and Administrative Services  
**Prepared By:** Erik Sund, Assistant City Manager

**Subject:** **2017 WASHINGTON D.C. SOBER LIVING HOMES REFORM TRIP**

**Fiscal Impact:** Yes. An appropriation of Council Contingency for \$2,600 is being requested.

**Summary:** The Association of California Cities – Orange County (ACC-OC) and the California Contract Cities Association (CCCA) will be hosting a sober living residence reform federal advocacy trip in Washington D.C. This trip comes as many cities are dealing with the impacts of sober living home and facility proliferation felt throughout the State of California and many other regions across the nation.

**Discussion:** The City of San Clemente has been actively addressing the negative impacts that sober living homes create in residential communities. However, it is imperative that the legislation/reform from the federal level be initiated to help local agencies provide more effective oversight and regulation.

The City of San Clemente is proposing to send the Mayor, a representative from Community Development and representative from Best Best & Krieger. Currently there is no money budgeted to fund this expense, thus an appropriation from Council Contingency is being requested. The requested budget will cover airfare, hotel, transportation and per diem.

In addition, the City does not typically allow for out of state travel and wanted to seek City Council approval.

**Recommended**

**Action:** STAFF RECOMMENDS THAT the City Council:  
1. Approve an appropriation in the amount of \$2,600 from the Council Contingency Reserve Account to account number 001-203-43060 and authorize out of state travel.

**Attachments:** Attachment I-Draft Schedule  
Attachment II-June 2, 2016 United States Senate Memo

**Notification:** None



**2017 Washington D.C. Sober Living Homes Reform Trip:  
Draft Schedule**

**Suggested Evening of Arrival: Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**

**Dates: December 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017: Monday and Tuesday**

**Hotel: The Hyatt (400 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC 20001)**

**Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>: Suggested Evening of Arrival**

- **Sunday 6:00 PM:**
  - Optional Dinner, TBD

**Monday, December 11<sup>th</sup>: DAY 1**

- **Monday 8:30 AM Breakfast:** Discuss speaking strategy and meeting overview
- **Monday 9:30 AM:** Leave for Health & Human Services/ Capitol Hill
- **Meetings:**
  - Department of Health & Human Services
  - Department of Housing & Urban Development
  - Congressmembers:
    - Rep. Paul Gosar (R- Prescott, AZ)
    - Rep. Jacky Rosen (D - Henderson, NV)
    - Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R - Miami, FL)
  - Senators:
    - Sen. Murphy (D – Connecticut)
    - Sen. Warren (D - Massachusetts)
    - Sen. Feinstein (D - California)
- **Monday 12:30 PM: Lunch**
  - TBD
- **Meetings:**
  - Senators:
    - Sen. Harris (D - California)
    - Sen. Rubio (R - Florida)
    - Sen. Hatch (R - Utah)
  - Congressmembers:
    - Rep. Chris Stewart (R - Salt Lake City, UT)
    - Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D - New Haven, CT)
    - Rep. David Schweikert (R - Scottsdale, AZ)
- **Monday 4:30 PM: – Adjourn**
- **Monday 6:00 PM: Dinner**
  - TBD

**Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>: DAY 2**

- **Tuesday 7:30 AM – Breakfast**



- **Tuesday 8:30 AM** – Leave for Capitol Hill
- **Meetings w/ Los Angeles & Orange County Federal Delegation**
  - Rep. Cardenas
  - Rep. Gomez
  - Rep. Issa
  - Rep. Lowenthal
  - Rep. Rohrabacher
  - Rep. Walters
- **Tuesday 12:30 PM Lunch (TBD)**
  - Rep. Bass
  - Rep. Correa
  - Rep. Lieu
  - Rep. Royce
  - Rep. Waters
  - Potential White House Staff Meeting
- **ADJOURN by 3 PM for flights home**

ELIZABETH WARREN  
MASSACHUSETTS

COMMITTEES:  
BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS  
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS  
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[www.warren.senate.gov](http://www.warren.senate.gov)

June 2, 2016

Mr. Gene L. Dodaro  
Comptroller General of the United States  
U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO)  
441 G. Street NW - Room 7100  
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Mr. Dodaro:

We write to request that GAO conduct a review of federal and state oversight of sober living homes. These properties – also known as transitional homes or three-quarter homes<sup>1</sup> – serve as residences and provide recovery services to individuals with substance use disorders.<sup>2</sup> Sober living home staff may also help tenant's access outpatient substance abuse treatment and recovery services, such as medication-assisted treatment.<sup>3</sup>

Many states have little to no regulations for sober living homes, placing these facilities in a regulatory gap; they are not considered to be half-way houses, standard living accommodations, nor substance abuse treatment facilities.<sup>4</sup> There are numerous unanswered questions about how many sober living homes exist, the type of recovery services they provide, the standards under which they operate, and their interaction with Medicaid or other federally funded health care programs. We are particularly concerned about allegations of "kickbacks" received by sober home administrators for referrals of residents to Medicaid-funded drug and alcohol treatment programs.<sup>5</sup>

The ongoing opioid epidemic has fueled a high demand for substance abuse services, and it is critical that individuals receive the care they need, and that facilities purporting to help individuals with substance use disorders are actually doing so. Amidst this epidemic, states are facing fiscal and regulatory obstacles to providing adequate access to treatment and recovery services for those with substance use disorders. It is therefore important that we provide transparency and information about these sober living homes to ensure responsible stewardship of limited taxpayer dollars, protect vulnerable populations, and promote public health.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/01/nyregion/new-york-city-task-force-to-investigate-three-quarter-homes.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3057870/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.buzzfeed.com/catferguson/addiction-marketplace?utm\\_term=.pam9kKK2Dg#.be9y1xxqW5](https://www.buzzfeed.com/catferguson/addiction-marketplace?utm_term=.pam9kKK2Dg#.be9y1xxqW5)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/01/nyregion/new-york-city-task-force-to-investigate-three-quarter-homes.html>

<sup>5</sup> [http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/31/nyregion/three-quarter-housing-a-choice-for-recovering-addicts-or-homelessness.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/31/nyregion/three-quarter-housing-a-choice-for-recovering-addicts-or-homelessness.html?_r=0)

We request that the GAO assess the following questions:

1. How many sober living homes are there in the United States? How many individuals do they serve and what are the characteristics of this population?
2. How are sober living homes regulated at the federal, state, and local level?
3. What is the range of services offered by sober living homes? Are sober living homes being used to expand the available resources to support recovery from substance use disorder? What is known about the effectiveness of services offered through sober living homes?
4. How do sober living homes and their patients interact with Medicaid and other federally funded healthcare programs? What impact does this have on Medicaid costs and on the effectiveness of Medicaid-funded drug and alcohol-abuse treatment programs?

Sober living homes can be an effective recovery service for those suffering from substance use disorder, but little is known about how this cottage industry functions overall.<sup>6</sup> Additional information about the sober living homes will help us to provide proper oversight to ensure that individuals with substance abuse disorders are receiving the care they need.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Orrin Hatch  
United States Senator



Marco Rubio  
United States Senator

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2860009/>