

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

March 28, 2024 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, March 28, 2024 in person at the Born auditorium at 170 Otis Street. Meeting attendees also joined virtually via Webex and telephonically as a disability accommodation.

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON SCOTT KAHN, President  
JAMES MCCRAY, JR., Vice President  
SALLY COGHLAN MCDONALD  
RITA SEMEL

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA WEBEX DARSHAN SINGH

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON Trent Rhorer, Executive Director  
Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary  
Dan Kaplan, Deputy Director – Finance and Administration  
Anna Pineda, Deputy Director – Economic Support and Self Sufficiency  
Joan Miller, Deputy Director – Family & Children’s Services  
Susie Smith, Deputy Director – Policy, Planning & Public Affairs

CALL MEETING TO ORDER President Kahn called the meeting to order at 9:37am.

ROLL CALL Commission Secretary Elizabeth LaBarre took roll, noting the presence of Commissioners Kahn, McCray, Semel and Coghlan McDonald in person in the Born auditorium and Commissioner Singh via Webex from his home. At the time of roll call, Commissioner Singh was off camera but was able to connect to his camera later in the meeting. His wife, Olivia, joined him throughout the meeting to assist with the Webex technology.

AGENDA On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the agenda as posted.

FEBRUARY 15, 2024 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the adoption of the February 15, 2024 Special Meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT Executive Director Trent Rhorer provided updates on Human Services Agency (“SFHSA” or the “Agency”) programs and federal, state and local policy and activities as they relate to the Agency.

**STATE**

As Executive Director Rhorer noted during the January commission meeting, the state budget situation continues to be dire. The governor is projecting a \$38 billion shortfall resulting largely from lower than anticipated tax collections and lower capital gains tax collections. The independent Legislative Analyst’s Office released a report estimating the deficit to be closer to \$73 billion. Executive Director Rhorer is watching what happens in April when tax revenues come in. The governor’s main budget revision reflecting updated revenues will be released to the

legislature in May and is known as the May Revise. Negotiation between the governor and the legislature will follow. In the spirit of working together, the Governor's Office announced an agreement on early actions with the budget—a reduction of \$12 billion - \$18 billion, similar to what the Senate proposed in their budget committee work, though additional details have not yet been released. Senator Weiner of San Francisco said he is pleased with the early action and that the deficit now feels more manageable because they are using reserves and closing the gap. It is good that they are talking early in the process rather than making last-minute cuts, which then gives counties less time for advocacy—sometimes a strategic move by the governor. Hopefully, this is a sign that they are open to hearing from stakeholders.

As usual, SFHSA has been very active on the advocacy front to oppose the cuts that affect our programs, particularly in child welfare, CalWORKs, and some housing funding delays. On March 20, the Assembly Budget Subcommittee hearing focused on poverty and on human services cuts, particularly in CalWORKs. Many CalWORKs families gave testimony. Susie Smith, Deputy Director, Policy, Planning & Public Affairs, testified at a hearing on subsidized employment programs and the testimony was very well received. Executive Director Rhorer reminded the Commission that the San Francisco subsidized employment program started under then-Mayor Newsom and eventually became the state model. Newsom was one of the lead advocates to get the state to put funding into subsidized employment (around 2012), so Deputy Director Smith made it a point to highlight that in her testimony strategically.

## **LOCAL**

Prop F, on the ballot for the most recent election, passed with almost 60% of the vote. Executive Rhorer provided a brief overview of Prop F to the Commission, reminding them that it directly affects the Agency's CAAP clients by requiring a screening and evaluation for substance use disorder. When the screening reveals that there might be a substance use disorder or an addiction to an illegal drug, there is a further clinical evaluation and then treatment plan developed. The CAAP client has to comply with the treatment plan in order to continue to receive their cash assistance. The goal of Prop F is to reduce substance abuse and overdose deaths among CAAP clientele. Over 800 people died of drug overdoses in San Francisco each year for the last couple of years, ~13% of which were CAAP clients. About 30% of CAAP clients are identified by the Department of Public Health (DPH) as having a substance use disorder. Of those diagnosed, almost half have participated or are currently participating in treatment. As the Mayor and the Police Department have stepped up enforcement of drug dealing and open-air/public drug use, it was found that about 20% of those cited or arrested were CAAP clients. Clearly, there is a disproportionate number, when compared to the general population, of individuals who suffer from substance use disorder who also receive cash assistance. Executive Director Rhorer and the Mayor's Office are hoping that Prop F will provide an incentive for cash aid, and that readily available treatment options will help incentivize CAAP clients to get into treatment.

If treatment is not available, then the cash grant will not be reduced. Additionally, treatment must be free to the client. Treatment options will be discussed between the client and the clinician, and the client selects an option that they are most comfortable doing; “treatment” includes a wide array of options, including but not limited to counseling, peer group attendance, withdrawal management, detox programs, residential treatment, etc. CAAP has always required assessments. Prop F will be added to the existing employability assessment as a vulnerability assessment. CAAP has always required participation in activities (e.g., workfare, job training, GED coursework, etc.) to continue receipt of benefits. The Treatment Plan will be added as an eligible activity. Implementation is January 1, 2025. The SFHSA Planning team and leadership have been planning for months and will continue to do so leading up to the new year.

In addition to mentioning Prop F in her State of the City address a couple of weeks ago, the Mayor announced a goal of 1,000 people per year served by the Homeward Bound program. The Human Services Agency used to administer what was called the Homeward Bound program in 2005. It provided free transportation for homeless CAAP clients to return to their support structure, whether it was family, friends, a job, housing, etc. When the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) was established in 2016, the operation of Homeward Bound shifted to them. However, over the last year, SFHSA has resumed operation of the program out of CAAP. HSH continues to operate other relocation assistance programs. The Mayor wants more people to take advantage of these programs. The participation numbers dropped during the pandemic and have not increased much since. SFHSA is operating another relocation program called Journey Home, which is linked to DMAPC (the Mayor’s Drug Market Agency Coordination Center, a Police Department led intervention to address the drug dealing and drug use in the Tenderloin). Journey Home is offered to individuals who are engaged on the street by various outreach teams as well as by the police.

Regarding the local budget, City departments submitted their budget proposals to the Mayor’s Budget Office for consideration. Over the next couple of months, the Mayor’s Budget Office will evaluate the submissions and work with department heads to refine them. The Mayor’s proposed budget will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors in June.

The Joint Report, drafted by the City Controller, the Board of Supervisors Budget and Legislative Analyst, and the Mayor’s Budget Office, will be released soon. The Report provides a nine-month overview of the city’s finances, including more updated revenues and revenue projections, an assessment of how the local economy is doing, and if the path to a balanced budget is on track. In the last Joint Report, released in December 2023, the City was projecting an \$800 million deficit over the upcoming two-year budget period.

## **AGENCY**

## **ESSS**

### *SFBN*

CalFresh – the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has extended the telephonic signature waiver through the end of the fiscal year (June 30, 2024). This waiver allows the Agency’s CalFresh team to transact business on the telephone without requiring a telephonic signature by the client, making CalFresh support easier to access for clients.

The federal government is offering a new food program for school-age children during the summer called SUN Bucks (also known as Summer EBT). Children who qualify for free or reduced-price school meals through a school meal application or an Alternative Income Form, or get CalFresh, CalWORKs, or Medi-Cal, are automatically enrolled. For children who are taking advantage of reduced or free lunch at school, they lose that nutritional support during the summer because there is no school. With SUN Bucks, money is loaded onto an EBT card to allow families to provide what had been provided through the schools. SFHSA does not have much of a touch point, but it does affect our families with school-age children.

Medi-Cal – New this year (effective January 1, 2024), children who are approved for Accelerated Enrollment (AE) Medi-Cal will maintain 12 months of coverage, irrespective of what happens to that household (for example, income increases or some other change). This is one of many of the governor’s efforts, in partnership with CDSS and DHCS (California Department of Health Care Services), to maintain health care coverage for the state’s lowest income families and their children.

## **FCS**

The new foster parent resource hub at 42 Gough is ready for use and will host a soft opening on April 18 from 4-7pm. The Commissioners are invited to attend. The Hub is a physical location for foster parents (also known as resource parents/families) to get together, attend trainings, etc. The Hub also hosts a clothes closet. Leadership from the foster parent association approached Executive Director Rhorer many years ago, prior to the pandemic, with a request for a space for a clothes closet (a closet of clothes where resource families can “shop” at no charge). The Agency/FCS took it a step further and created a clothes closet within a bigger, nicer space for resource families to get together.

### **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

President Kahn announced CHRISTOPHER LEONG, Principal Clerk, Program Support Operations (PSO) as the March 2024 employee of the month. He was awarded an engraved desk clock, which he graciously accepted with thanks to all.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved and ratified actions taken by the Executive Director since the February 15, 2024 Special Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of March 28, 2024:

1. Submission of request to encumber funds in the total amount of \$3,495,185 for purchase of services or supplies and contingency amounts.
2. Submission of 2 temporary positions for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 1/20/24 to 3/21/24.
3. Submission of 107 temporary appointments for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 1/20/24 to 3/21/24.

*COMMISSION BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS*

CHILD ABUSE  
PREVENTION  
MONTH  
PROCLAMATION –  
APRIL 2024

Joan Miller, Deputy Director of Family & Children’s Services, and Jenny Pearlman, Chief Policy Officer of Safe & Sound, presented the request for adoption of a resolution proclaiming April 2024 as CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH.

**Proclamation: Recognition of April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention Month**

**WHEREAS**, child maltreatment impacts not just the child, but the family, the community, and society at large. The physical, mental, and emotional effects of maltreatment persist long after child maltreatment occurs and result in ongoing costs to society; and

**WHEREAS**, San Francisco had a reported 5091 allegations of child abuse and 561 substantiations in 2023. The preliminary estimations of the cumulative financial impact to the San Francisco community for the 561 verified child victims in 2023 is in excess of \$345 million. Abused children are more likely to experience negative educational, health, and behavioral outcomes, which contribute to many of San Francisco’s challenges, such as homelessness, chronic health issues, and high school dropout rates; and

**WHEREAS**, rates of both allegations and substantiation of child abuse disproportionately impact BIPOC families, requiring us to address long-standing issues of structural and systemic racism. Society has a moral and ethical obligation to protect families from unnecessary intervention of child welfare and ensure the availability of services and supports that strengthen all families; and

**WHEREAS**, direct investment in social programs for children and families and community protective factors--such as economic supports, community institutions and services, high quality childcare, and policies and educational campaigns that promote equity and inclusion and change social norms--prevent child abuse and provide short- and long-term benefits, far outweighing the overall cost of downstream interventions to address the costly results of child maltreatment and trauma; and

**WHEREAS**, effective prevention efforts succeed because of collaboration between community and public organizations, recognition of the strengths, experiences, and wisdom of families, and accessible, non-stigmatizing services. San Francisco has invested in several key prevention strategies, including the Family Resource Center Initiative, jointly funded by the Human Services Agency, First 5, and the Department of Child Youth and Families; and

**WHEREAS**, it is essential to continue to invest in child abuse prevention and raise awareness about child abuse and the need to support all vulnerable children and their families. Healthy children and families create the foundation for communities to thrive; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, We, the Human Services Commission, join with others, including the Human Services Agency and Safe & Sound, to recognize April 2024 as Child Abuse Prevention Month. We urge all San Franciscans to take shared responsibility for child and family well-being and for ensuring that every family has what they need to be safe, healthy, and strong.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the resolution proclaiming April 2024 as CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH.

INSTITUTO  
FAMILIAR DE LA  
RAZA

Raena Sebay, Program Support Analyst, requested authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with INSTITUTO FAMILIAR DE LA RAZA.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with INSTITUTO FAMILIAR DE LA RAZA for the provision of Differential Response Services; for the period of March 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026; in the additional amount of \$49,581, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$1,804,925

CSU FRESNO  
FOUNDATION

Massiel Gonzalez, Program Manager, requested approval of a sole source waiver and authorization to enter into a new contract agreement with the CSU FRESNO FOUNDATION.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new contract agreement with the CSU FRESNO FOUNDATION for the provision of Bay Area Academy (BAA) Child Welfare Training 24-29; for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029; in the amount of \$2,889,560, plus a 10% contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$3,178,516.

EVIDENT CHANGE

Matthew Younger, Principal Administrative Analyst, requested approval to modify the sole source waiver and contract agreement with EVIDENT CHANGE.

On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the sole source waiver and contract agreement with EVIDENT CHANGE for the provision of SafeMeasures Database Subscription & Reporting; for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2027; in the additional amount of \$339,660, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total contract amount not to exceed \$726,116.

GENERAL PUBLIC  
COMMENT

President Kahn's call for public comment yielded one response:

"Good morning, Human Services Agency Commission and thank you for allowing me to speak. My name is Christopher Kline, and you should have a copy of my CDC Freedom of Information Act request, which clearly shows that I have no reportable diseases, injury, illnesses or mental health disorders from 1/1/1991 through 9/12/2023. However, I constantly find myself often targeted by digital surveillance with systems such as Sherlock for interventions which need to stop and cease immediately. They are used to target immigrants, minorities, gays and lesbians... because the way you voted or because someone doesn't like you or to force you to move. I'm not here just to point fingers at concerning issues with Sherlock, or giving out access and credentials to friends, politicians, or donors. During the last 6 weeks, I have spoken with the Health and Police Commissions, Committee on Information Technology, Board of Supervisors, City Attorney's Office, Board of Directors [of] multiple community churches, and today, with the [Human Services] Commission, for my comments to attempt to only reduce violence, overdoses and suicides, I'm targeted daily by agencies with digital surveillance interventions because of this. And others have used this to attempt to cause homelessness, injury and illnesses, to attempt to silence me. ...severely limits legal resources for people such as [myself]. I have tried for months, actually, over 18 months to amicably resolve these issues and concerns and that is still my desire. However, I have recently filed criminal complaints with the Department of Justice, Health and Human Services, and the Department of Defense. As previously mentioned, the number 1 issue in San Francisco is the over-utilization of digital surveillance. Not revoking accessing credentials when an employee retires or resign or leaves and also giving out credentials to friends and family. Today, I'm asking the director and the commission to take the lead in resolving these concerns and setting the example for other departments and agencies that are doing the same thing. Thank you." The CDC Freedom of Information Act letter referenced in Mr. Kline's public comment is included in these minutes as an attachment.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kahn adjourned the meeting at 10:23am.



Elizabeth LaBarre  
Commission Secretary  
Human Services Commission

Posted: 4/12/24



***SENT VIA EMAIL***

December 04, 2023

Chris Ward Kline  
250 Kearny Street #618  
San Francisco, CA 94108  
Phone 4155139334  
ckblueaqua@gmail.com

***3<sup>rd</sup> Letter Subject: Final Response Letter***

Dear Mr. Kline:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (CDC/ATSDR) received your September 12, 2023, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request on September 13, 2023, seeking:

“...all files, metadata, public health surveillance, disease registries, EPI-X data and all other data pertinent to Chris Ward Kline. [01/01/1991 to 09/12/2023]”

A search of our records failed to reveal any documents pertaining to your request. The National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP), the National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) found no responsive records.

You may contact our FOIA Public Liaison at 770-488-6277 for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov); telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.

If you are not satisfied with the response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Deputy Agency Chief FOIA Officer, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Hubert H. Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, Suite 729H, Washington, D.C. 20201. You may also transmit your appeal via email to [FOIARequest@psc.hhs.gov](mailto:FOIARequest@psc.hhs.gov). Please mark both your appeal letter and envelope “FOIA Appeal.” Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted by March 04, 2024.

Sincerely,

Roger Andoh  
CDC/ATSDR FOIA Officer  
Office of the Chief Operating Officer  
Phone: (770) 488-6399  
Fax: (404) 235-1852