

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES
February 14, 2018 Special Meeting

The special monthly meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Wednesday, February 14, 2018, in the Ronald H. Born Auditorium at 170 Otis Street, San Francisco.

MEMBERS PRESENT	SCOTT KAHN, President JAMES MCCRAY, JR., Vice President RITA SEMEL PABLO STEWART, M.D. GEORGE YAMASAKI, JR.
OTHERS PRESENT	Dan Kaplan, Deputy Director of Finance and Administration acting on behalf of Trent Rhorer, Executive Director – Human Services Agency Elizabeth LaBarre, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director / Secretary – Human Services Commission Krista Ballard, Communications Specialist Noelle Simmons, Deputy Director – Economic Support and Self-Sufficiency Susie Smith, Deputy Director – Policy and Planning Sylvia Deporto, Deputy Director – Family and Children’s Services Other department staff and interested citizens
ROLL CALL	President Kahn called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. noting the Commission was present.
AGENDA	On motion by Commissioner Stewart, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the agenda as posted.
MINUTES	On motion by Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the January 25, 2018 regular meeting as circulated.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT	Deputy Director Dan Kaplan furnished an update regarding the State and City’s budget processes, and program activities on behalf of Executive Director Trent Rhorer.

FEDERAL UPDATES

- President [Trump] released a budget earlier this week which was greeted with disapprobation; it is more a statement of political priorities that is unlikely to influence lawmakers. To speak to a few points relative to the work of the Department of Human Services:
 - The budget proposal would include massive cuts in SNAP which [in California] is CalFresh.
 - Limits ABAWD (Able-Bodied Adults without Dependents) waivers.
 - It calls for, once again, a repeal of the Affordable Care Act.
 - Calls for significant cuts in TANF (referred to as CalWORKs in California) spending and redirection of TANF monies toward work requirements and away from cash benefits to clients.
 - Huge cuts in workforce investment spending for adults, dislocated workers and youth.
 - Much more immigration enforcement: an additional 2,000 new Border Patrol agents and 75 immigration judges and support staff.
 - While this budget would not be favorable to our Agency, it has yet to gain traction in Congress.

STATE 2018 BUDGET AND POLICY

- To review what we talked about last month, the Governor’s budget that was proposed on January 10 includes small reductions in CalWORKs and CalFresh spending, in both cases tied to caseload reductions.
- A lot of discussion last session about developing new budgeting methodology around CalWORKs. Not sure it will be completed by the May revise. [If the development of new budgeting methodology is not reached by deadline], there will be advocacy by counties to push for short-term restoration of the CalWORKs funding. How successful that will be is hard to tell at this point.
- State budget allocated more money for Medi-Cal eligibility. During the time of the Affordable Care Act implementation, Medicaid caseloads grew immensely, throughout California and certainly in San Francisco. Money was added to the Medi-Cal administration budget. Counties have argued that they have fallen behind because it is such a growth area. This is certainly true in San Francisco, where the increase in allocations has not kept up with the increase in costs. There is a bit more money, about \$55M statewide for Medi-Cal administration. Interestingly, there was a proposal in the Governor’s budget to end redistribution of money among counties on the Medi-Cal program. Important to San Francisco’s social services budget over the last decade is the shifting of dollars from the lower spending counties to the higher spending counties. This occurs on a one-time basis during the fiscal year at this time of year. On a political level, this is important because we want to show that we are spending the money. San Francisco has been the beneficiary of redistributed money for most years. A provision to stop redistribution would hurt us so we will be pushing back on this proposal during the legislative process.
- One bill that was introduced between last meeting and this meeting is AB 2043 (Arambula) – Foster Youth – Response System (introduced 2/6/18)
 - This legislation supports efforts to implement the Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) in California’s Foster Care System by creating the California Coordinated Response System (toll-free hotline available 24-hours/day, 7 days/week; mobile crisis care available 24-hours/day, 7 days/week), adapted from successful response systems in other states.
 - Ultimate goal = stabilization

LOCAL

- In the news: Federal leak of Notice Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that would greatly expand the benefits that could be considered in determining whether a person is likely to become a public charge. Immigrants’ use of public benefits – or that of their family members, including U.S.-born children – could be weighed in deciding whether to deny entry to the country or become lawful

- permanent residents (LPRs). It's in the leak phase, meaning nothing has changed at this point. The process to issue this change could take about six months or so. For now, we will be messaging to staff that clients should continue to get benefits.
- More rumors in the news: Increased ICE raids in California and in the Bay Area in particular. We have reviewed our policies regarding ICE agents arriving at our city properties. The city's position is, though we are a Sanctuary City, we are seeking to remain in compliance with federal law. We are working with the City Attorney's Office to draft more specific policies and protocols for staff in the event ICE agents show up to our properties. However, the current messaging to staff and clients (with consultation from the City Attorney's Office) is to immediately notify a supervisor and direct the officials to our Investigations Office located at 160 S. Van Ness Avenue. We have also reminded staff that there are still no changes to California's public assistance eligibility requirements; immigrants who are currently eligible to receive benefits through HSA programs are still eligible.
- The ordinance establishing Tenant Assistance Fund for Hazardous Housing passed. We will provide relocation assistance and manage housing subsidies for people evicted due to Department of Building Inspection (DBI) or Fire Code violations. This is based on the existing fire program.

AGENCY
CalWORKs

- We are still having success placing people in housing through the CalWORKs Housing Support Program (HSP); however, most are placed in counties outside of San Francisco.

SFBN - CalFresh & Medi-Cal

- February 1st, SFBN began a pilot project for placing Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWD) in jobs through our JobsNOW! employment program, which is now required due to the expiration of the waiver. This requirement starts September 1, 2018.
 - The pilot will measure how many clients need to follow the work requirement, how many referrals of CalFresh clients are made to our Workforce Development Division, and how many clients follow through with the referrals. It will also track how many clients we can exempt from work requirements.

ADMINISTRATION

- Budget Proposal Presentation to follow.

EMPLOYEE OF THE
MONTH

President Kahn announced Krista Ballard, Communications Specialist, as the February 2018 Employee of the Month. The Commission recognized Krista for her hard work. Krista was presented with an engraved desk plaque and graciously accepted with thanks to all. Guests present in support of Krista included her husband, mother and father.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion by Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission ratified actions taken by the Executive Director since the January 25, 2018 regular meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of February 14, 2018:

1. Submission of requests to encumber funds in the total amount of \$0 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;
3. Submission of report of 32 temporary appointments made during the period of 1.13.18 thru 1.31.18.

DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SERVICES
FISCAL YEAR 2018-
2019 BUDGET AND
2019-2020 BUDGET
PROPOSAL

Deputy Director of Finance and Administration Dan Kaplan presented the request for the Commission's consideration of the Department of Human Services and Human Services Agency Fiscal Year 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Budget Proposal.

Deputy Director Kaplan stated that the Agency is facing stable revenue. He addressed a plan to reclassify positions to assist with \$3M less revenue, however no services will be cut as a result. Deputy Director Kaplan proposed programs such as Jobs First with funding through the Mayor's office and the CalWORKs program whereby we bring two functions together. In response to Commissioner Semel's concern regarding where funding would come from, Deputy Director Kaplan replied that his team would consult with the Mayor's office and the Agency could likely shift funds from elsewhere in the budget as needed.

Deputy Director Kaplan discussed the fire/hazardous housing program that he introduced earlier and, in response to a question raised by President Kahn, clarified that this was covered in the previous year's budget (\$2M - \$3M); however, this didn't include the hazardous housing program, it only included fire. In response to a follow-up question from President Kahn, Deputy Director Kaplan further clarified that this program would provide funding separate from landlord insurance, which only covers costs to fix buildings; whereas this fund would cover costs associated with providing temporary housing for displaced tenants while building repairs are made.

Commissioner Stewart requested more information regarding how Family and Children's Services would use funding allocated to specialized placement services for high-needs youth. Deputy Director of Family and Children's Services Sylvia Deporto responded that her program will be adopting a collaborative approach to foster care and mental health care services for these youth that involves multiple agencies working together to support the placements and provide a continuum of care. Commissioner Stewart asked if this collaboration is already happening, to which Deputy Director Deporto responded that it is happening with three agencies, and that they are currently working to develop an RFP to solicit for a lead agency to create a consortium of providers. In response to Commissioner Stewart's request for updates on progress, Deputy Director Deporto confirmed that once developed, the RFP would be brought before the Commission for consideration and approval.

Commissioner Stewart remarked that, in the 17/18 budget compared to the 18/19 budget, Salaries and Fringe Benefits continue to increase and account for a significant percentage of the overall budget. In response, Deputy Director Kaplan clarified that the reasoning is tied to caseloads. If we look at our caseloads, we have seen reductions in some of our programs, but even if the caseload decreases, it doesn't necessarily mean our work reduces because we are working with those people still (i.e., in our workfare programs). The average need of the client goes up considerably.

On motion by Commissioner Stewart, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the Department of Human Services and Human Services Agency Fiscal Year 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 Budget Proposal.

ZORAH BRAITHWAITE Fair Hearings Officer for the County Adult Assistance Programs (CAAP) Jennifer Williams presented the request to authorize renewing the contract agreement with Zorah Braithwaite.

On motion by Commissioner Stewart, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request for authorization to renew the contract agreement with ZORAH BRAITHWAITE to provide Part-Time Fair Hearing Services during the period 7/1/2018 to 6/30/2019 in the amount of \$67,500, plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$74,250.

PUBLIC COMMENT President Kahn's call for public comment yielded a response from Nancy Cross with a grievance related to HSA and the shelter system. Her second grievance was related to a form. President Kahn advised that Nancy write a letter to the Commission.

PUBLIC MEETING
ADJOURNED Commissioner Yamasaki motioned to adjourn the meeting in memory of former Commission Member and President Allen Haile (Lieutenant Colonel Allen Cleveland Haile, PhD.), August 1930 - January 2018, a distinguished member of San Francisco civic life who served in many capacities. He then moved to San Luis Obispo where he was Dean of the College of Business and then the Director of Community and Government Relations at California Polytechnic State University. His obituary indicates that his idea of a good time was jazz and a glass of chardonnay.

On motion by Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, President Kahn adjourned the meeting at 11:18 a.m. in memory of Dr. Allen Haile.

Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Human Services Commission