

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
M I N U T E S  
October 18, 2018 Special Meeting

The special monthly meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, October 18, 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  
                              GEORGE YAMASAKI, JR.
- OTHERS PRESENT        Noelle Simmons, Deputy Director – Economic Support and Self-Sufficiency  
                              Elizabeth LaBarre, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director / Secretary – Human Services Commission  
                              Susie Smith, Deputy Director – Policy and Planning  
                              Dan Kaplan, Deputy Director – Finance and Administration  
                              Other department staff and interested citizens
- ROLL CALL                President Kahn called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m., noting that all Commission members were present.
- AGENDA                  On motion of Vice-President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the agenda as posted.
- MINUTES                 On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the minutes of the September 27, 2018 Regular Meeting as circulated.
- EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S REPORT     Deputy Director Noelle Simmons furnished an update regarding federal, state, and local activities.

FEDERAL UPDATES

Proposed federal change to Public Charge monthly update: On October 10, the Department of Homeland Security formally issued a proposed change in the Federal Register, which expands the definition of what it means to be a "Public Charge." As a reminder, "Public Charge" is a term in immigration law that refers to an individual who is likely to rely on government benefits as their main source of support. The Trump administration would like to expand the type of benefits considered when an individual applies for legal permanent residency and admission to the U.S., including non-emergency Medicaid (with limited exceptions), SNAP/CalFresh, Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy, housing assistance, HCV and public housing. This expansion will actually impact very few of our clients, but we are concerned that the fear and confusion caused by the rule will result in immigrants choosing to withdraw from benefit programs or opt out of applying. San Francisco has been very vocal about its opposition to this rule change. We are currently in a 60-day public response period; we are in the process of writing our opposition to the rule change. This is followed by a review by the federal government and then a ruling. What is most important to emphasize is that nothing has changed about immigrant eligibility for benefits, and even if the rule changes are adopted, it is prospective not retroactive. In addition to informing and training our staff, we are partnering with many local organizations to mitigate Public Charge confusion including collaborating with Bay Area Legal Services on a hotline.

STATE UPDATES

The governor vetoed CWDA-sponsored Assembly Bill 2043 (Arambula), noting that the bill requires significant, ongoing general funds and as such, should be considered as part of the budget process. This was a bill for foster youth that would have created the California Coordinated Response System (to provide immediate assistance to caregivers and children and youth in the foster care system who are in crisis). The county association will likely bring the bill back next year.

CWDA-sponsored Assembly Bill 2083 (Cooley), Trauma-Informed Services for Foster Youth, was signed by the governor. This bill requires agencies at all levels to improve and coordinate services for foster youth. State agencies will help counties with the implementation of the required MOUs.

Senate Bill 918 (Weiner), the Homeless Youth Act, was signed into law. The bill directs the state's Homeless Coordinating and Financing Council to establish specific goals for preventing youth homelessness including the prevention of homelessness in foster youth and youth exiting the juvenile probation system. We support this bill and look forward to working closely with the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing to submit data to the state.

The new legislative year is approaching. The Department of Human Services (DHS) submitted a few ideas to our county association for consideration as new bills. Several of the submissions relate to helping the homeless retain their Medi-Cal benefits.

LOCAL

Mayor Breed launched a new youth workforce development initiative that will provide jobs and internship opportunities. We are working with the Office of Economic and Workforce Development (OEWD) and the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (DCYF) to ensure DHS is involved with identifying disadvantaged youth for the initiative.

The mayor launched the Rising Up campaign, a public and private partnership with the City and Tipping Point, which seeks to cut youth homelessness in half by 2022. DHS will be a partner in this campaign as a referral source for homeless youth in our programs and as a preparer for employment services.

Amendments to the Minimum Compensation Ordinance (MCO) were approved by the Board on October 16. Among city contractors and nonprofit partners, IHSS workers will receive an increase in wages. The wage increase will cost an additional \$27M/year with no funding source identified. This issue is to be discussed at the Board of Supervisors meeting later this month.

#### PROGRAMS

We submitted a supplemental budget request to the Mayor's Office that seeks approval of additional funding and position authority to implement two new state initiatives. The first is the CalWORKs Home Visiting Initiative, which will provide state funding to deliver evidence-based home visiting services to CalWORKs families, much as we are already doing through the locally funded P500 program. New state funds will allow us to expand to serve 80 additional families. The second initiative seeks to increase the number of CalFresh eligibility workers hired to handle the anticipated growth in caseload due to a state policy change that makes elderly and disabled recipients of SSI eligible for CalFresh. We will be working with the Mayor's Budget Office to get these proposals through the Board approval process as soon as possible as we need to hire and train new staff for implementation next June.

San Francisco was awarded \$1M to expand the Housing Support Program (HSP) for families in CalWORKs. This additional funding was made available by the state legislature and we just received notice of these additional dollars. This allows about 110 additional families to be housed.

#### SFBN - CalFresh & Medi-Cal

The 2019 Covered California Enrollment and Renewal period begins October 15 and runs through January 15.

#### FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (FCS)

We continue to plan for the eventual closure of the Child Protection Center. We received bids from our community partners to provide a new model for emergency child placement. However, we have changed our timeline on this project to ensure a deliberate and effective process. We no longer anticipate closing the CPC at the beginning of the year, but we may be looking for a slower transition mid-2019.

We are conducting interviews this week for a Family and Children's Services Deputy Director.

We are awaiting appointment of a fifth commissioner by the mayor. President Kahn wrote a letter to the mayor reminding her of this need but has yet to hear back.

#### EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

President Kahn announced a team as the October 2018 Employee(s) of the Month, the Utility Crew with Facilities in Operations. The team includes: Shalise Bill, Jerry Cheng, George Dionne, Natasha Fuiava, Eddy Lee, Melvin Martinez, Trina McQueen, Rodney Powell, Jose Rivas, and Nick Stolte. The Commission recognized the team for their comradery and hard work, citing an impressive fact: the crew completed 2,383 work requests last year. The Utility Crew was awarded a large, engraved clock to hang in their workspace for all to enjoy. Trina McQueen spoke on behalf of her team, reiterating the importance of working together and expressing her appreciation for her colleagues. Deputy Director Simmons added that she was especially pleased with this month's selection as the Utility Crew is truly behind the scenes and not acknowledged often enough for their very essential role in the day-to-day success of the Agency.

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved and ratified actions taken by the Executive Director since the September 27, 2018 Regular Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of October 18, 2018:

1. Submission of requests to encumber funds in the total amount of \$1,032,431.39 for purchase of services or supplies and contingency amounts.
2. Submission of 3 temporary position for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period of 9/11/18 to 10/10/18.
3. Submission of 30 temporary appointments made during the period of 9/11/18 to 10/10/18.

#### ARRIBA JUNTOS

Andy Beetley-Hagler, Community Services Specialist, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with ARRIBA JUNTOS.

On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to enter into a new grant agreement with ARRIBA JUNTOS to provide Refugee Benefits Linkages; during the period October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2021; for the amount of \$160,629, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$176,692.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

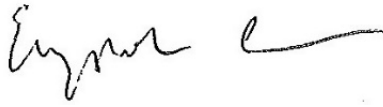
President Kahn's call for public comment yielded no responses.

#### CLOSED SESSION

Due to Executive Director Rhorer's absence, the Commissioners postponed the Public Employee Performance Evaluation until the Regular Meeting on November 15, 2018. On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to move to the Regular Meeting on November 15, 2018

#### ADJOURNMENT

President Kahn adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth LaBarre', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary  
Human Services Commission