

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

June 26, 2023 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Monday, June 26, 2023 in person at the Born auditorium at 170 Otis Street, virtually via Webex and telephonically.

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON JAMES MCCRAY, JR., Vice President
SALLY COGHLAN MCDONALD

MEMBERS PRESENT REMOTELY (VIA PHONE) DARSHAN SINGH

MEMBERS ABSENT (EXCUSED) SCOTT KAHN, President
RITA SEMEL

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON Trent Rhorer, Executive Director
Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Teresa Young, Director – Communications

ROLL CALL Vice President McCray called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

Commission Secretary Elizabeth LaBarre took roll, noting the presence of Commissioners McCray and Coghlan McDonald in person in the Born auditorium with Commissioner Singh present remotely via Webex from his home. Commissioners Kahn and Semel were absent.

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

MAY 25, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the minutes of the May 25, 2023 Regular Meeting as circulated.

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.

FEDERAL

Two of SFHSA's programs were included as part of the debt limit negotiations: TANF (known in California as CalWORKs) and SNAP (known in California as CalFresh). For the TANF program, the President and the House agreed to a change in the way states are held to work requirements. However, this change will not impact California.

The federal government is increasing the age limit for work requirements for adults who don't have dependents who are employable (those without a disability) in the SNAP/CalFresh program to 55 (currently at 49). It was structured to be phased in over several years. While the policy change goes into effect three months from the signing of the debt limit deal, by the time the state receives the federal guidance, then interprets that guidance,

then passes it along to counties, there won't be any operational changes on the ABAWD (able-bodied adults without dependents) side for a while.

STATE

The Legislature forwarded its proposed budget to the Governor in time to meet its constitutional deadline, June 15. There are disagreements between the Legislature's budget and the Governor's May Revise, mainly around transportation, capital projects, climate change and education, but not related to health and human services programs. The Legislature supports a rate increase for foster family providers and childcare providers and wants to make permanent a 10% grant increase in CalWORKs for rent that was due to expire in fiscal year 2025. The budget must be agreed upon and signed by the Governor by July 1. We don't anticipate any last-minute changes that would impact our funding or operations.

LOCAL

Executive Director Rhorer thanked the commissioners for agreeing to reschedule today's meeting. The commission meeting that was scheduled last Thursday conflicted with the Board of Supervisor's second round of budget hearings Executive Director Rhorer is required to attend. The process is: departments present their budget to the Board of Supervisors Budget Finance Committee in week one, then the budget legislative analyst (BLA) reviews each department's budget, comes up with recommendations for reductions, presents those to the board, and then departments respond the following week, which is what Executive Director Rhorer did last Thursday.

The budget legislative analyst recommended cuts totaling about \$4.4 million in FY 2023-2034 and then \$12 million in FY 2024-2025. The BLA highlights policy matters for the Board; they don't take a position on it, but they want the Board to, and in the case of SFHSA, the matter was around \$20 million for food support programs, the revenue for which comes from Prop C dollars accruing in the Department of Early Childcare's budget. The total revenue from Prop C is over \$200 million, some of which is unobligated. So, the Mayor proposed shifting those dollars to SFHSA's food programs, which caused a fair amount of controversy. The BLA asked the Board if they agree with this sort of major policy decision in the funding shift. As an agency we do not have a position except that we need funding to support our food programs; we don't care where it comes from. The Mayor's Budget Office's decision to use the unbudgeted, unallocated interest that has been accruing on the proxy revenue has not been finalized yet. Ultimately, it looks like the \$30 million for food programs in the current fiscal year will be reduced to \$20 million.

Every year the BLA recommends deleting positions that have been vacant for a long period of time and every year Executive Director Rhorer argues against the cuts—just because they aren't filled yet does not mean they aren't needed. Additionally, this year they proposed not allowing some position substitutions of vacant positions to different classifications. Ultimately, the SFHSA budget team was able to keep four vacant positions

and create three manager positions while other classification changes were not approved.

\$9.6 million in the budget for the move out of 170 Otis and a new lease was on the chopping block. Because the move money has been in the budget for a while, the BLA claimed SFHSA doesn't need the money, which is ridiculous. So, the BLA decided to put the \$9.6 million in a budget reserve and so that when we do find a building, we will need to return to the Board and ask the funds to be released.

Reductions we agreed to won't have huge impact. \$20 million in food program funding is a win considering the state of the City's budget and the \$750 million deficit.

SFHSA supported the annual Chinatown Food Giveaway for a second year in a row. The event started in 1996 and took place every year until the onset of the pandemic. With the financial support of SFHSA, the event returned to the community last year and served 5,000 low-income San Franciscans with culturally tailored food items. Chinese Newcomers Service Center registered 5,000 low-income residents for the event and assembled 5,000 bags of food through their partnership with 200 volunteers from the community. Traditionally, this event takes place only in Chinatown but this year Visitacion Valley was added so that residents can have more convenient pick up options. Several elected officials attended including representatives from the office of Assemblyman Phil Ting, Assessor-Recorder Joaquin Torres, Supervisor Aaron Peskin, and City Administrator Carmen Chu.

AGENCY

Executive Director Rhorer provided an update on safety initiatives at the 1235 Mission location:

- He has been working with the City Attorney's Office and the Department of Public Works to limit the vendor tables that station themselves in front of 1235 Mission. Typically, the vendors are providing free cell phones. Most recently, there have been rogue COVID testing booths popping up, which creates congestion issues. Additionally, staff have witnessed not just cell phones being sold at these tables. We succeeded in getting a Public Works order that declares the block on Mission between 8th & 9th a vendor-free zone. This should clear the sidewalk on the south side of Mission for SFHSA staff and clients to walk unimpeded on the sidewalk and access the building directly without navigating crowds and commotion that the vendor tables have been creating. The order went into effect last week along with enforcement by the Department of Public Works and SFPD. Agency leadership will continue to monitor the situation.
- Staff training on SFHSA's security role and general safety awareness will be held on July 17 & 18 virtually. Staff can sign up through Learning and Organizational Development (L&OD).

COMMUNICATIONS

The Museums for All program is a great program outside SFHSA's usual human services offerings. It is a partnership between SFHSA and San Francisco museums for free and reduced access to museums for low-income families and seniors. Summertime promotion for the program has kicked off. SFHSA's communications team partnered with the Mayor's Office and the Treasury Tax Collector's Office on a June 9th press release along with coverage on radio and print. The press release highlighted a new case study and impact report: the Program was used more than 130,000 times by low-income San Franciscans for free admissions to 22 museums and cultural institutions. Executive Director Rhorer is really pleased to be a part of a program that exposes SFHSA clients to cultural institutions that might otherwise not be available given their costs.

ADMIN/FINANCE

DEIB

Alexis Cobbins has been appointed to replace Asa King, who left SFHSA as the DEIB Manager to pursue a position with the Department of Public Health. Alexis comes to SFHSA from UCSF Preterm Birth Initiative, where she was the Executive Director for four years. She previously worked for SFHSA in the Families Rising program, which was a part of Project 500. Alexis will be tasked with increasing diverse recruitment efforts, managing the creation of racial equity content training available to all staff, partnering with the Controller's Office to build a workforce equity dashboard and other tasks associated with the second phase of the racial equity action plan.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY (ESSS)

SFBN

Medi-Cal

Modeled after the Young Adult Expansion, which provides full scope Medi-Cal to young adults 19 through 25 irrespective of immigration status, and the Older Adult Expansion, which provides full scope Medi-Cal to adults 50 years of age or older, the Adult expansion, which will provide full scope Medi-Cal to eligible individuals ages 26 through 49, becomes effective January 1, 2024 and is anticipated to expand coverage to over 11,000 San Franciscans who will for the first time have access to important preventative and routine care through full scope Medi-Cal. The Medi-Cal team will be working with community-based partners as usual. We have now done this now twice, with the young adult and older adult expansions, so it should hopefully go off without a hitch.

WDD

Because of the pandemic and, as a result, the slower economic recovery, JobsNOW! has been slower at recruiting participants. To strengthen the connection and engagement with SFHSA clients, JobsNOW! staff have a rotating presence at SFHSA client centers at 3120 Mission, 170 Otis, 1235 Mission, and 1440 Harrison, along with a presence at the EDD Office at 801 Turk, and at a CBO partner location to engage and provide case

management to SFHSA or potential SFHSA clients. This helps get the word out about the program. If folks are struggling to find employment, they can enroll in JobsNOW! and seek employment through SFHSA and have their wages paid by the employer, but then the employer is reimbursed by our program.

Executive Director Rhorer is hoping to see positive outcomes with a new CalWORKs program for families when they leave assistance due to income increases. CalWORKs families often find jobs and then SFHSA loses touch with them; often we don't know what becomes of the family unless they come back onto aid. CalWORKs families leaving the program for a job opportunity can now receive \$200 and then two additional payments if they remain employed at the three-month and six-month benchmarks. These incentives are consistent with some of the work the state is doing around efforts to retain engagement in CalWORKS and maintain relationships with local agencies so that career advancement services and childcare can be provided. The financial incentive helps a bit with the connection. The program just started and so far, 11 clients have received an initial exit incentive. Staff will be looking at this program closely and Executive Director Rhorer will report back.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES (FCS)

Sophia Isom, an FCS program director, retired after 30 years of service. During her career, she stepped in as interim deputy for FCS, she oversaw the adoptions efforts, resource families, foster parent recruitment, and independent living skills. Executive Director Rhorer wanted to take a moment to recognize Sophia. She often presented to the commission. She was a consummate professional. She always supported her staff and always had this can-do attitude, "we'll get it done, don't worry about it" approach. She always ensured that the foster parents, caregivers and foster youth were taken care of by her programs and staff. Thank you for your three decades of service to SFHSA and happy and healthy retirement.

Vice President McCray noted that he will miss Ms. Isom.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD

Vice President McCray announced that PATRICK YAM, a SENIOR CLERK with the CONTRACTS UNIT was the June 2023 employee of the month. Vice President McCray presented Patrick with 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 the consent calendar, which comprises:

- A. Actions taken by the Executive Director since the May 25, 2023 Regular Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of June 26, 2023:
 1. Submission of request to encumber funds in the total amount of \$860,606 for purchase of services or supplies and contingency amounts.

2. Submission of 13 temporary positions for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 5/20/23 to 6/21/23.
 3. Submission of 71 temporary appointments for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 5/20/23 to 6/21/23.
- B. Approval of the Continuing Authorizations that may be taken by the Executive Director in Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

*COMMISSION
BUSINESS – ACTION
ITEMS*

Cindy Ward, Homeless Benefits Linkage Manager, requested authorization to enter into a new grant agreement with BAY AREA LEGAL AID.

BAY AREA LEGAL
AID

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with BAY AREA LEGAL AID for the administration of the Housing Disability and Advocacy Program (HDAP); for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the amount of \$3,783,374, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$4,161,712.

SENECA FAMILY OF
AGENCIES (SENECA)

Vanetta Dunlap, Program Support Analyst, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with SENECA FAMILY OF AGENCIES (SENECA).

Vice President McCray asked if youth end up in emergency placement, how long do they stay, to which Ms. Dunlap responded that is it typically 45 days or less, but on occasion they may stay longer; they stay until a suitable placement can be found.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with BAY AREA LEGAL AID for the provision of Individualized Legal Support Services; for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027; in the amount of \$1,378,980, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$1,516,878.

URBAN SERVICES, A
BRANCH OF THE
YMCA OF SAN
FRANCISCO (URBAN
Y)

Karina Zhang, Program Support Analyst, requested authorization to enter into a new grant agreement with URBAN SERVICES, A BRANCH OF THE YMCA OF SAN FRANCISCO (URBAN Y).

The executive director of Urban Y, Cesnae Crawford, noted that he was excited for this partnership. Urban Y has been a longstanding partner with SFHSA and the family resource initiative for 28 years. Mr. Crawford looks forward to bringing 10+ years of the HOPE SF initiative to the Parent Partner Program.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with URBAN SERVICES, A BRANCH OF THE YMCA OF SAN FRANCISCO (URBAN Y) for the provision of the Parent Partner Program; for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the

amount of \$1,788,826, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$1,967,709.

SAFE & SOUND

Karina Zhang, Program Support Analyst, requested authorization to enter into a new grant agreement with SAFE & SOUND.

Dr. Pegah Faed, the new CEO of Safe & Sound, thanked the Commissioners for their support and partnership and noted that she looks forward to continuing to great work in the City.

On motion of Commission Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with SAFE & SOUND for the provision of mandated reporter trainings, intervention services, multi-disciplinary teams for Commercially Sexually Exploited Children and Youth (CSEC), and system improvements; for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028; in the amount of \$3,979,550, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$4,377,505.

SAFE & SOUND

Karina Zhang, Program Support Analyst, requested authorization for a sole source waiver and to enter into a new grant agreement with SAFE & SOUND.

On motion of Commission Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request for a sole source waiver and new grant agreement with SAFE & SOUND for the provision of a Children's Advocacy Center; for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028; in the amount of \$1,235,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$1,358,500.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO (UCSF)/EAT SF

Cathy Huang, Senior Administrative Analyst, requested authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO (UCSF)/EAT SF.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO (UCSF)/EAT SF for the provision of a large-scale food voucher distribution program to food insecure households; for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$4,500,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$9,946,765.

MULTIPLE PROVIDERS (CHINATOWN YMCA, FARMING HOPE, SAN FRANCISCO HOUSING

Cathy Huang, Senior Administrative Analyst, requested authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with MULTIPLE PROVIDERS (CHINATOWN YMCA, FARMING HOPE, SAN FRANCISCO HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION).

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION)

existing grant agreement with CHINATOWN YMCA for the provision of the Food Sovereignty Infrastructure – Community Kitchen Access program; for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$325,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$755,328.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with FARMING HOPE for the provision of the Food Sovereignty Infrastructure – Community Kitchen Access program; for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$1,075,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$1,824,900.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with SAN FRANCISCO HOUSING DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION for the provision of the Food Sovereignty Infrastructure – Community Kitchen Access program; for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$475,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$840,206.

DOLORES STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES

Tommy McClain, a Program Analyst with the Citywide Food Access Team, requested authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with DOLORES STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES.

Vice President McCray asked Jacqui Portillo, who was representing Dolores Street Community Services as the Community Services Director and Program Manager, if she wanted to share anything, to which she responded with a thank you for the opportunity to partner with SFHSA.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with DOLORES STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES for the provision of culturally relevant grocery distribution at The Little Market in the Mission District; for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$2,400,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$7,177,500.

SF NEW DEAL

Tommy McClain, a Program Analyst with the Citywide Food Access Team, requested authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with SF NEW DEAL.

Vice President McCray asked Kayla Marquez Velloso, Program Manager with SF New Deal, if she would like to say anything. She declined.

Vice President McCray then asked for Mr. McClain to clarify his statement, “At any given time” - how long can “a given time” last? How long does a child stay in the program? In response, Mr. McClain noted that as long as

the child is 5 years old or younger, they can stay in the program. Commissioner Coghlan McDonald then asked if the rationale is that children over 5 years of age will then receive food at school and Mr. McClain agreed. Vice President McCray then asked if the [Citywide Food Access] Team anticipates a drop in participation rates since the amount of funding in the second year is lower, to which Mr. McClain stated that the dollar amount merely reflects the amount of available funds.

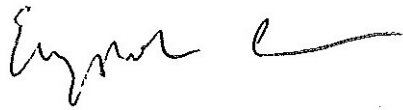
On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with SF NEW DEAL for the provision of meal support services to families with young children; for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$4,050,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$9,260,428.

GENERAL PUBLIC
COMMENT

Vice President McCray's call for public comment yielded no responses.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President McCray adjourned the meeting at 10:54a.m.



Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Human Services Commission

Posted: 7/16/23