

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

September 28, 2023 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, September 28, 2023 in person at the Born auditorium at 170 Otis Street, virtually via Webex and telephonically.

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

MEMBERS PRESENT REMOTELY (VIA WEBEX) DARSHAN SINGH

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON Dan Kaplan, Deputy Director – Finance and Administration
Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Anna Pineda, Deputy Director – Economic Support and Self Sufficiency
Susie Smith, Deputy Director – Policy, Planning and Public Affairs

ROLL CALL President Kahn called the meeting to order at 9:40am.

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 remotely at his residence in San Francisco with his wife, Olivia Singh, in the same room assisting him with the meeting technology (the Webex interface and computer controls like the volume and camera).

AGENDA On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the agenda as posted.

August 24, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the minutes of the August 24, 2023 Regular Meeting as circulated.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT Deputy Director Dan Kaplan presented the executive director's report in Executive Director Trent Rhorer's absence. Mr. Kaplan 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

The Federal shutdown looks like it will happen. Most of the larger Department of Benefits and Family Support programs—CalWORKs, CalFresh, Medi-Cal and Family & Children's Services—have substantial Federal funding. In the short run, there should be no disruption effecting client benefits or Agency finances. CalFresh is funded through at least October. Medi-Cal and foster care funding are secure through December 31, 2023 because of advances already paid out. CalWORKs' authorization (called TANF at the federal level) runs out on September 30. However, the

state has some unspent TANF money from last fiscal year that can be used and has the ability to front load the use of state general fund at the beginning of the fiscal year and then use TANF later in the year after the shutdown is resolved. So, if a shutdown does not get resolved fairly quickly, the situation may change, but in the short term, programs should be ok.

STATE

The Governor has until October 14 to sign or veto bills. The Human Services bills in from of him at this point are not major, program-altering bills.

LOCAL

Over the last few months, Executive Director Rhorer has spoken about the City-wide effort to address drug use on the streets, with a special focus on the Tenderloin and South of Market neighborhoods. This effort has included the establishment of the Drug Market Agency Coordination Center (DMACC), first coordinated by the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and now coordinated by the Police Department (SFPD). SFHSA's role in this effort has been focused on the establishment of the Journey Home program. Journey Home, established in partnership with the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH), provides low-barrier, paid relocation services via bus or train, including a stipend, hotel/shelter stay and personal items to HSH clients who want to return home. Additionally, the program offers rapid intervention for people with substance use disorder (SUD) and homelessness who would like to leave San Francisco, along with re-connection services with family, friends or other support networks in their hometown. Journey Home started operation this week. There has been a great deal of interagency work to launch the program. SFHSA's team comprises 3 staff (Doris Barone, Rod Finetti and Dina Austin).

A Joint Planning Committee is coordinating how San Francisco will respond to a potential migrant mass arrival. The agencies involved are the Mayor's Office, DEM, our agency, Office of Community Engagement and Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA), and the Department of Public Health (DPH). The committee has established strategies for providing migrant case management services, relocation planning, legal assistance, temporary shelter and linkages to community-based organizations.

SFHSA has led work on a short-term strategy to stabilize a large group of migrant individuals and families upon arrival. A plan has been developed to activate a temporary shelter for those who identify San Francisco as their final destination and are seeking to settle in the community, as well as for those who have identified other destinations to which they will travel. As part of the short-term shelter plan, and in alignment with other jurisdictions that are relying on their local community-based organizations (CBO's), SFHSA has partnered with Good Samaritan to provide case management services to help navigate integration into San Francisco and

the SF Immigrant Legal Defense Collaborative to provide legal services including workshops, consultations and other supports.

Over the past few months, there has been an increased stream of immigrants coming to San Francisco. However, there is no intelligence at this point to suggest that there is a likely mass arrival in San Francisco.

AGENCY

ADMIN

Last week, we held an agency-wide Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration that was hosted by the Mi Gente employee resource group (ERG). The celebrations included office-specific events on Monday and Tuesday and ended with a gathering on Wednesday at 170 Otis. Around 300 employees participated in the celebration. Tony Lugo, Workforce Development Director, and me (Dan Kaplan) provided welcoming remarks. Employees then led an Aztec blessing and performed an Afro-Brazilian cultural dance called Capoeira. A local poet, Rafael Jesus Gonzales, also shared a few of his written works.

OFFICE OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION & BELONGING (DEIB)

The second agency-wide racial equity staff survey is currently open. The first survey launched in 2021 as part of the phase one of the Agency's Racial Equity Action Plan. This follow-up survey represents a valuable opportunity to build upon the insights previously gathered and further refine DEIB strategies for achieving a more equitable and inclusive workplace.

Mentioned many times by Executive Director Rhorer during past reports, a massive effort effecting two-thirds of the Agency's staff is underway, the CalSAWS Implementation. We are 31 days from go live today. There is a massive training effort going on now, with staff taking training modules relating to their functions. Trainings are both online and in person. The huge undertaking includes the installation of new lobby kiosks for client use. Behind the scenes, IT has been working on developing links between the new computer system and a raft of local systems –especially financial systems that are crucial for issuing benefits and managing different aspects of our programs.

ESSS

CAAP

On Tuesday, the Mayor announced a new initiative requiring testing and treatment for individuals with SUD as part of the CAAP program. Under state law, counties are required to have general assistance programs to provide aid to indigent individuals. CAAP is the San Francisco program that satisfies that requirement. It provides cash aid, and for many clients, access to either welfare to work, or SSI application assistance programs. It also facilitates the process of providing clients with CalFresh and Medi-Cal benefits. The state law that requires counties to provide General Assistance programs allows counties to require drug testing and participation in drug treatment programs if treatment services are available free of charge to

clients. These treatment programs would include a range of interventions, as appropriate for the individual client. Examples include residential treatment, medical detox, medically assisted treatment, outpatient options, and abstinence-based treatment, among others based on the needs of the client. This program change would require legislation. The legislative proposal is currently being drafted with the help of the City Attorney's Office.

To anyone who has been reading the papers on this over the past three days, this proposal is controversial. More to come.

SFBN

CalFresh

Currently, California is under a statewide waiver of the ABAWD (Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents) time limit. Regardless of waiver status, counties must remain ready to transition off the waiver when it expires and reintroduce the three new changes to the ABAWD time limit policy that the President signed into law in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 (FRA) on June 3, 2023. These changes include gradually increasing the age of those subject to the ABAWD time limit, adding new exemption criteria, and limiting states' ability to accrue and carry over discretionary exemptions. There are a few exemptions including Veterans who were honorably or dishonorably discharged.

Medi-Cal

The Medi-Cal team continues to work through post-pandemic redeterminations. There will be some reduction in caseload but it will take time to assess how big this will be. For July 2023 Redeterminations, 80% of San Francisco's Medi-Cal recipients returned their Medi-Cal packets and renewed their eligibility via automated county processes.

WDD

JobsNow! is picking up after a long period of reduced activity during the pandemic. For fiscal year 2023-24, JobsNOW! has reached a total of 208 verified unsubsidized and subsidized job placements, helping 306 individuals become employed with an average placement wage for the year of \$22.40/hour.

The Housing Support Program (HSP) in the month of July had 159 active families. Since the program began, 936 families have been served in the Housing Support Program through July 2023.

FCS

A guaranteed income (GI) pilot for foster youth is launching next month. The goal of the pilot is to help former foster youth in San Francisco become more economically stable, giving them the bandwidth to pursue their hopes and dreams. San Francisco is one of just seven agencies (and only 1 other public agency) across the State to be competitively awarded a grant to launch a guaranteed income pilot project. This Pilot will provide 150 low-income youth who have recently aged out of San Francisco's

extended foster care and juvenile probation systems monthly payments of \$1,200 for 18 months. The pilot will evaluate the impact of guaranteed income on educational attainment, income, housing stability, and overall wellbeing.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD

President Kahn announced that IFEANYI IHENACHO, Senior Financial Forecasting Analyst is the September 2023 employee of the month. President Kahn presented Ifeanyi with an engraved desk clock, which he graciously accepted with thanks to all, including family tuning in from Southern California on Webex and the phone.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the consent calendar, which comprises actions taken by the Executive Director since the August 24, 2023 Regular Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of September 28, 2023:

1. Submission of request to encumber funds in the total amount of \$10,047,377 for purchase of services or supplies and contingency amounts.
2. Submission of 5 temporary positions for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 8/18/23 to 9/22/23.
3. Submission of 54 temporary appointments for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 8/18/23 to 9/22/23.

COMMISSION BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO REFUGEE SERVICES PLAN

Andy Beetley-Hagler, Program Specialist, requested approval of the COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO REFUGEE SERVICES PLAN.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO REFUGEE SERVICES PLAN for Federal Fiscal Years 2024 - 2026, from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2026.

SAN FRANCISCO-MARIN FOOD BANK

Mieko Yeh, Social Work Specialist, Continuous Quality Improvement Unit, Family and Children's Services Division, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with SAN FRANCISCO-MARIN FOOD BANK.

On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with the SAN FRANCISCO-MARIN FOOD BANK for the provision of CalFresh and Medi-Cal promotion and application assistance; for the period of October 1, 2023 through June 30, 2027; in the amount of \$1,547,452, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$1,702,197.

SENECA FAMILY OF AGENCIES

Raena Sebay, Program Support Analyst, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with SENECA FAMILY OF AGENCIES.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with the SENECA FAMILY OF AGENCIES for the provision of FCS Relative Search Services; for the period of September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2026; in the amount of \$45,000 plus a 10% contingency for a total grant amount not to exceed \$49,500.

DOLORES STREET
COMMUNITY
SERVICES

Cathy Huang, Program Analyst, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with DOLORES STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to enter into a new grant agreement with DOLORES STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES for the provision of free, high quality, and culturally tailored groceries to low-income, LGBTQ+ San Franciscans; for the period of October 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the amount of \$742,500, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$816,750.

MULTIPLE
PROVIDERS (APA
FAMILY SUPPORT
SERVICES and
SELF-HELP FOR
THE ELDERLY)

Cathy Huang, Program Specialist, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with MULTIPLE PROVIDERS (APA FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES and SELF-HELP FOR THE ELDERLY).

Fanny Lam, Executive Director of APA Family Support Services, came up to the podium to express her gratitude for this program and thanked the Commission for their support.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to modify the existing grant agreement with APA FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES for the provision of the Food Support for Targeted Neighborhoods program; for the period of October 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$887,500, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$1,361,250.

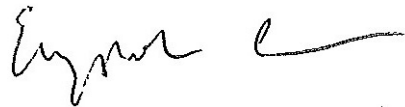
On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to modify the existing grant agreement with SELF-HELP FOR THE ELDERLY for the provision of the Food Support for Targeted Neighborhoods program; for the period of October 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$758,303, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$1,109,133.

GENERAL PUBLIC
COMMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

President Kahn adjourned the meeting at 10:17am.

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

Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Human Services Commission

Posted: 10/10/23