

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
M I N U T E S
April 26, 2018 Regular Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, April 26, 2018 in the Ronald H. Born Auditorium at 170 Otis Street, San Francisco.

MEMBERS PRESENT	JAMES MCCRAY, JR., Vice President PABLO STEWART, M.D. RITA SEMEL GEORGE YAMASAKI, JR.
MEMBERS ABSENT	SCOTT KAHN, President (Excused)
OTHERS PRESENT	Trent Rhorer, Executive Director, Human Services Agency Elizabeth LaBarre, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director / Secretary – Human Services Commission Noelle Simmons, Deputy Director – Economic Support and Self-Sufficiency Susie Smith, Deputy Director – Policy and Planning Dan Kaplan, Deputy Director – Finance and Administration Other department staff and interested citizens
ROLL CALL	Vice-President McCray called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m., noting that four of the five Commission members were present. President Kahn had been excused.
AGENDA	On motion of Commissioner Stewart, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the agenda as posted.
MINUTES	On motion of Commissioner Stewart, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission unanimously approved the minutes of the March 22, 2018 Regular Meeting as circulated.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	Executive Director Trent Rhorer furnished an update regarding federal, state, and local activities.
	FEDERAL UPDATES
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Farm Bill, released earlier this month by the Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, includes changes to SNAP that directly affect California's CalFresh program. The goal of the bill is to restrict eligibility and thus lower the number of SNAP participants by expanding time limits and work requirements (beyond current ABAWD requirements) and adding harsher penalties—from 12 to 36 months—for those who aren't compliant while providing insufficient funding for [us] to administer employment programs to help our clients remain compliant. ABAWDs in San Francisco will already be subject to a work requirement in September 2018. This bill affects nearly 4 million SNAP recipients in California. SFHSA is working with our lobbyists and Mayor Farrell to write a letter to the Agriculture Committee and other members of Congress in opposition of the Farm Bill. [Trent] will provide progress updates [to the Commission].2. Another SNAP update relates to an Advanced Notice of Public Rulemaking from the USDA on proposed changes to work requirements for ABAWDs. SFHSA provided commentary alongside CWDA, WCLP and others requesting more flexibility on the type of work/options we can offer recipients of CalFresh, restating that CalFresh benefits are a safety net and an entitlement, and urging that CalFresh not be linked to a work requirement.3. An Executive Order called 'Reducing Poverty in America by Promoting Opportunity and Economic Mobility' was issued a few weeks ago. This order directs the relevant cabinet departments to provide, within 90 days, a list of potential regulatory or policy changes to the way benefits or services are provided to families and individuals. The departments will then have 90 days to take administrative action to make those changes. This is a way for federal agencies to restrict benefits without making changes to [existing] laws. The language in this order is troubling, reminiscent of decades-old, erroneous thinking that public assistance promotes dependency; no data supports this theory. The order asserts that 'many of the programs designed to help families have instead delayed economic independence, perpetuated poverty and weakened family bonds.' The order claims to focus on strengthening, enforcing and, when legally permissible, adding new work requirements already in law. It requires federal agencies to 'review all regulations and guidance...relating to waivers, exemptions, or exceptions for public assistance program eligibility.'4. Lastly, the [leaked by the Washington Post] public charge rule change expands the scope of the kinds of public benefits and services that can be considered by ICE when reviewing an immigrant's LPR application or change of visa status application, including SNAP, Medi-Cal, CHIP, Covered CA subsidies, Section 8/HCV, child care subsidies, and WIC. No actual changes have been made yet, but it seems imminent that the way non-citizens interact with public benefits will change, so SFHSA is partnering with the City's Office of Immigrant Affairs to convene impacted city departments, the City Attorney, Mayor's Office, legal advocates and CBOs to discuss advocacy at the federal level and messaging strategies. These changes can have a chilling effect on legal noncitizens who are eligible for our programs but don't apply or withdraw from receiving benefits due to fear and misinformation. We are concerned and we are working with other cities to mitigate the harm these changes can cause.
	STATE UPDATES
	State Budget: Awaiting May Revise (to be issued the 2 nd week of May); we are hoping for increased funding for CalWORKs as well as several other administrative programs.

AGENCY

May is both CalFresh Awareness and Action month and Foster Care month. For CalFresh awareness month, we are partnering with the food bank to pitch local reporters on hunger awareness and ease of applying for CalFresh.

As part of Foster Care month, Family & Children's Services (FCS) organizes an annual caregiver appreciation event scheduled for Friday, May 18th from 6:30-10:00 pm at the South San Francisco Conference Center.

FCS and Braid Mission will co-present at the Interfaith Council's monthly breakfast on May 10, covering the importance of resource families in San Francisco and opportunities to mentor foster youth. Some of the key messages include San Francisco foster youth need [your] help—60% of our foster youth are placed out of county, and 25% out of the Bay Area. We try to keep children close to their friends, families, and familiar communities. We have set a goal that every foster child who is not with a relative would be able to live in San Francisco. This means we need over 100 new homes. We are embarking upon several partnerships to make this happen, including an effort with the housing authority. We will be discussing with the Interfaith Council how their congregations can help recruit resource families.

CALWORKS

The number of families housed in the Housing Support Program (HSP) is 305. 125 families are currently receiving services and 180 have exited the program. With the subsidy, 36 families found housing in San Francisco; 253 families (88%) found housing outside the City, an indication of the extremely high rents in San Francisco. We are not telling families to leave San Francisco. We are giving them a rental subsidy and, unfortunately, they often find affordable housing options outside of San Francisco in Contra Costa and Alameda counties.

PROJECT 500

Project 500 is the initiative to move 500 families permanently out of poverty in the city of San Francisco. The program is now at 90% capacity, with 105 children enrolled. The initial data results reveal we are on track, progressing toward self-sufficiency. Project 500 was designed as a learning lab for families experiencing poverty generation after generation—what is working, what is not. As results are compiled at the start of 2019, we hope this will be THE strategy for addressing poverty in San Francisco. For example, families currently participating in CalWORKs would move to this new framework.

SF BENEFITS NET (CALFRESH & MEDI-CAL)

SFBN has hired new Site Directors for 1235 Mission Street and 1440 Harrison Street, Cynthia Martinez and Susie Lau. With these two new hires, we are close to completing the management reorganization of our new SFBN structure. When the Affordable Care Act was enacted, it increased the overlap of the two programs, CalFresh and Medi-Cal, so we integrated the two separate programs into SF Benefits Net. At both locations, 1235 Mission and 1440 Harrison, clients can receive both benefits. The CalFresh program continues to prepare for the implementation of the ABAWD work requirement beginning in September that affects about 4,000 San Franciscans. New forms and business processes are being piloted; SFHSA is confident we will be prepared when the work requirement officially begins. We are meeting with stakeholders, including CBOs and other city departments, so that they are informed about the upcoming policy changes and can support our efforts to ensure that clients maintain benefits.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

- FCS continues to actively and aggressively recruit resource families to support the implementation of CCR. CCR will not work if we do not have enough resource families. The reform is based on the premise that group homes are temporary and therapeutic in nature, however individual homes are the long-term solution. We recently partnered with a local foster family agency (FFA), Alternative Family Services, on a grant through the Walter S. Johnson Foundation to focus recruitment efforts specifically for Latino/Spanish speaking foster homes. In addition, we are finalizing contracts with several Bay Area foster family agencies to assist in approving our out-of-county relative caregivers within the 90-day time limit. These contracts allow our staff to focus on the relative care givers in San Francisco and help alleviate the backlog of caregivers awaiting approval.
- We continue to review all youth currently in group home care to determine whether they meet the criteria for placement in a short-term residential therapeutic program (STRTP) or if they need family-based care; our behavioral health partners are actively working with two foster family agencies to develop homes that can provide Intensive and Therapeutic Services foster care.

FOSTER CARE MONTH

May is Foster Care Month. Executive Director Rhorer thanked the social workers and foster parents in the room for their dedication and hard work, and noted that their commitment to children enables the Agency to fulfill its mission and the mission of CCR.

This concluded Executive Director Rhorer's overview.

Commissioner Stewart asked if Executive Director Rhorer anticipates any relief/knows when will the Feds will stop undermining [our] progress to which Executive Director Rhorer responded that this current Administration realizes that none of their measures will get Congressional approval so they are going about change administratively. He anticipates that their actions will lead to many lawsuits over time. Hopefully the courts are tied up long enough to outrun the current administration. He is, however, concerned. Everything about this Administration is about restricting vital benefits.

Commissioner Semel asked if the Agency is involved with moving families into schools. Executive Director Rhorer requested clarification, deducing that Commissioner Semel was referring to a Chronicle article to which Commissioner Semel affirmed. SFHSA would at some point be involved if/when the plan moves from the idea phase.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH	<p>Vice-President McCray announced Judith Ferretti, Desktop Supervisor, Information Technology, as the April 2018 Employee of the Month. The Commission recognized Judy for her hard work and computer skills. Commissioner Stewart was especially impressed with Judy's de-escalation skills. Ms. Ferretti was awarded an engraved desk clock, which she graciously accepted with thanks to all. Guests present in support of Judy included her husband and colleagues.</p>
CONSENT CALENDAR	<p>On motion of Commissioner Stewart, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission ratified actions taken by the Executive Director since the March 22, 2018 Regular Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of April 26, 2018:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submission of requests to encumber funds in the total amount of \$25,000 for purchase of services or supplies and contingency amounts; 2. Submission of 0 temporary positions for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis; 3. Submission of report of 58 temporary appointments made during the period of 3.13.18 thru 4.13.18.
PROCLAIMING MAY 2018 AS FOSTER CARE MONTH	<p>On behalf of Deputy Director of Family and Children's Services (FCS) Sylvia Deporto, FCS Program Director Sophia Isom requested that the Commission adopt the resolution proclaiming May 2018 as Foster Care Month.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the resolution proclaiming May 2018 as Foster Care Month as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, the family is the foundation of a strong and healthy community; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, in San Francisco there are 612 children and youth in foster care; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, in San Francisco there are 177 foster young adults in Non-Minor Dependent Status; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, foster parents, including related and non-related extended family members, provide an essential service to the community in caring for children and youth in foster care; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, the importance of the family structure is best served in foster homes that model family living, as opposed to group care; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, the stability and permanency for children and foster children is of the utmost importance; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, permanency is defined as both a process and result that includes the active involvement of the child or youth;</p> <p>and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, permanency is defined as a permanent connection with at least one committed adult, which may include the biological parents through reunification, or with another adult family member, fictive kin, adult siblings, or other important individuals in the child or youth's life who commit to the child through adoption or guardianship; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the entire community to make sure that each youth who leaves the foster care system in California has a permanent, lifelong connection with a caring adult; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, San Francisco is in need of dedicated care providers who will strive in partnership with the Human Services Agency to identify and connect children and youth in foster care to permanent lifelong relationships; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, dedicated care providers model strength-based and solution-focused engagement with the children and youth in their care and with the community-based and government entities providing services and support; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, community-based organizations within San Francisco partner with the Human Services Agency to provide accessible and culturally relevant family-centered services that meet the unique needs of the families and children we serve; now, therefore, be it</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Human Services Commission proclaims May 2018 FOSTER CARE MONTH and urges all community members to volunteer their talents and energies to honor children and youth in foster care and those who have exited the foster care system during this month.</p>
PROCLAIMING MAY 2018 AS CAL-FRESH AWARENESS AND ACTION MONTH	<p>On behalf of Director of SF Benefits Net, Mary Adrian, Program Director Tiana Wertheim requested that the Commission adopt the resolution proclaiming May 2018 as Cal-Fresh Awareness and Action Month.</p> <p>On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the resolution proclaiming May 2018 as Cal-Fresh Awareness and Action Month as follows:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, access to safe, nutritious and culturally acceptable food is a basic human right and is essential to human health;</p> <p>and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, food security is a state in which all persons obtain a nutritionally adequate, culturally acceptable diet at all times through local non-emergency sources; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, food security is the foundation of a strong and healthy community; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, one in four San Franciscans, especially low income residents, seniors, families with children, immigrants, young adults, and people who are homeless suffer disproportionately from hunger and food insecurity; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, food insecurity results in poor nutritional intake, unhealthy eating behaviors that persist sometimes for decades after the food insecurity experience, and is associated with poor health outcomes in all populations and higher health care costs; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, a robust CalFresh program (known nationally as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and formerly known as Food Stamps) is critical to providing financial resources for food to thousands of San Franciscans; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, the average household on CalFresh in San Francisco receives approximately \$272 per month for groceries; CalFresh is provided on an electronic benefits card that can be used in grocery stores, supermarkets and at all San Francisco Farmer's Markets; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, CalFresh spurs the local economy because each CalFresh benefits dollar generates \$1.79 as economic multiplier; and the City of San Francisco pays for only 15% of the total cost of administering the program, and zero of the benefit dollars; which means that for \$3.6 million of local investment, CalFresh brings in \$173 million in benefits and associated economic activity; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, approximately 53,000 individuals in San Francisco receive CalFresh yet an estimated 28,000 additional individuals may be eligible but are not enrolled in CalFresh; and</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">WHEREAS, a key opportunity for increasing participation is conducting targeted outreach to people who are likely eligible, such as young adults, seniors, infants, and women with young children; and</p>

WHEREAS, another key opportunity for increasing participation includes reducing “churn”- people who are discontinued from the program and then reapply within three months; it is estimated that approximately 20% of CalFresh participants in San Francisco experience “churn”; and

WHEREAS, another key opportunity for increasing participation is to debunk myths and fears about participating, especially fears and misconceptions related to immigration status; and

WHEREAS, community partners, city agencies and local leaders all have a role to play in furthering awareness about CalFresh and promoting this critical program; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco Human Services Commission stands opposed to the Federal government’s draconian efforts to reduce the CalFresh caseload by intimidating legal immigrants from applying or retaining benefits, and by proposing to broadly expand work requirements without funding workforce development training or providing opportunities to prepare clients for permanent and gainful employment”; and therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Human Services Commission proclaims May 2018 to be CalFresh Awareness and Action Month, and urges all community members to support efforts to increase awareness of and participation in the CalFresh program.

**At the request of Commissioner Stewart, this additional line was added to the proclamation to reflect Executive Director Rhorer’s Agency overview and the Commissioners’ sentiments.*

EXEMPLAR HUMAN SERVICES

Eva Iraheta with Workforce Development presented the request to modify the existing contract agreement with EXEMPLAR HUMAN SERVICES.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the contract with EXEMPLAR HUMAN SERVICES to provide consulting reporting services; during the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021; in an amount of \$630,000, plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$1,309,000.

SENECA FAMILY OF AGENCIES

Liz Crudo with Family & Children’s Services presented the request to renew a grant with SENECA FAMILY OF AGENCIES.

On motion of Commissioner Stewart, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to renew the grant with SENECA FAMILY OF AGENCIES to provide wraparound services; during the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020; in the amount of \$9,100,000, plus a 5% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$9,555,000.

ALLIED UNIVERSAL

Elizabeth Léone with Contracts presented the request to enter into a new contract with ALLIED UNIVERSAL.

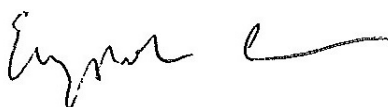
On motion by Commissioner Stewart, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request for a new contract with ALLIED UNIVERSAL for the provision of Security Services; during the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2021; in the amount of \$12,704,160 plus a 10% contingency for a total contract amount not to exceed \$13,974,576.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-President McCray adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.



Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Human Services Commission