

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

June 24, 2021 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, June 24, 2021 virtually & telephonically pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 and the Twelfth Supplement to Mayoral Proclamation Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency dated February 25, 2020.

MEMBERS PRESENT REMOTELY (VIA ZOOM)	SCOTT KAHN, President JAMES MCCRAY, JR., Vice President RITA SEMEL DARSHAN SINGH GEORGE YAMASAKI, JR.
OTHERS PRESENT REMOTELY (VIA ZOOM)	Trent Rhorer, Executive Director Elizabeth LaBarre, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director / Secretary – Human Services Commission Dan Kaplan, Deputy Director – Finance and Administration Joan Miller, Deputy Director – Family & Children's Services Susie Smith, Deputy Director – Policy & Planning Other department staff and interested citizens
ROLL CALL	President Kahn called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m., noting that four out of five commissioners were present. Commissioner Semel was en route and successfully accessed the Zoom commission meeting at 9:50am.
AGENDA	On motion of Commissioner McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the agenda as posted.
MINUTES	On motion of Commissioner McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the minutes of the May 27, 2021 Regular Meeting as circulated.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	Executive Director Trent Rhorer furnished an update regarding federal, state and local activities.

FEDERAL

Child care tax credits will go out to recipients, including many of our clients, in July.

STATE

There is a lot of state activity with budget negotiations. The legislature has finalized their version of the budget, so now the governor is negotiating with the legislature on the final budget. We are tracking two items in particular. The first is expanded housing support programs administered by HSA: the CalWORKs housing support program, the Bringing Families Home program for homeless parents engaged in the child welfare system, HDAP (Housing and Disability Advocacy Program) housing support and subsidies for disabled adults applying for SSI, and the Home Safe program for adult protective services clients. Current negotiations concern program details—how we as an agency can use the funds—and the actual budget amount. We are asking for more flexibility and we take issue with the governor's 25% county match plan. The legislature and CWDA are pushing for no match required of counties. Executive Director Rhorer spoke to the governor's office yesterday and was informed a deal will be struck by the end of the week. The other issue HSA is tracking is Medi-Cal expansion. In the May revise, the governor proposed expanding Medi-Cal to undocumented immigrants age 60 and older, whereas the legislature is supporting age 50 and older.

LOCAL

Local budget hearings have been ongoing since last week. HSA had its second hearing yesterday. Overall, citywide, the Mayor has been able to balance the budget with the additional federal support from the stimulus package. The budget also includes expanded support in the hundreds of millions of dollars due to the end of litigation around Prop C for homeless housing and early care and education. The Mayor included a significant \$42 million investment in continued food support that was provided during the pandemic and will continue through 2022. Our Agency, specifically DAS, will be administering the program. The Mayor also included a 3% cost-of-doing business increase for community-based organizations in addition to a 3% increase in the current year. The budget reflects the Mayor's support for the creation of a new Department of Early Childhood. The Office of Early Care and Education, currently one of three departments within our Agency, would separate and merge with First 5 for FY 22-23. We will be planning for that transition over the next year.

Our budget is still with the Budget & Appropriations Committee. The hearings went well. We do not have any additional reductions other than the initial \$1.6 million. Out of an Agency budget of \$1.3 billion we can certainly handle this reduction. The Board votes for passage in early July.

The San Francisco Museums for All program initially launched by HSA as a summer program is now year round. 225,000 San Franciscans on public benefits have reduced or free admission to museums around the City. When we launched the program in 2019, more than 25,000 free or reduced admissions were redeemed. There was an event at the Children's Creativity Museum with our Agency, the Mayor and Treasurer Cisneros to celebrate this expansion.

Mayor Breed and Treasurer Cisneros are proposing the elimination or reduction of numerous municipal fines and fees that have an adverse, disproportionate impact on people with low incomes and communities of color. The Mayor's Budget Office and the Office of the Treasurer & Tax Collector's Financial Justice Project developed these recommendations. The loss of revenue is being accounted for and included in the Mayor's budget for FY 2021-2022. Our role in this endeavor is to help identify populations who may be eligible.

Mayor Breed announced a new initiative to support women and families with children in San Francisco. The Women and Families First Initiative will provide targeted job training for 300 women in industries that are expected to grow during San Francisco's economic recovery and will support approximately 800 children with childcare tuition credits. This initiative is part of Mayor Breed's efforts to promote an equitable economic recovery and advances the City's long-term goals to ensure quality early childhood education is accessible for families of all income levels.

HSA is partnering with the Department of Public Health to set up a number of vaccine clinics at our service centers to vaccinate employees and clients. The HSA communications team is developing outreach materials to promote the clinics, which will be held in July and August at 1235 Mission. These clinics are free, open to the public and walk-in.

COVID-19

The COVID Command Center (CCC) at Moscone Center, once the hub for the City's emergency COVID response, is closing and the centralized response will devolve back to each department. HSA was responsible for care and shelter during the pandemic, which meant emergency housing support along with food support across the City. All of the housing work will shift to the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing. HSA will retain the food coordination and support in the post-COVID Command Center model. Since we are transitioning out of the CCC, Executive Director Rhorer took the opportunity to provide a recap of the Human Services Agency's

significant work during the pandemic. Led by Dan Kaplan, Noelle Simmons, Doris Barone and others, we developed a massive and complex housing system in response to the pandemic that included hotels for homeless individuals and people who needed to quarantine, trailers at the port site, safe sleeping sites and first responder hotels. The alternative housing program ended up being comprised of 30 hotels, 8 congregate shelters, 1 trailer site, and 7 safe sleeping sites. The Alternative Shelter Program served almost 10,000 individuals: over 4,300 people were housed in Isolation & Quarantine hotels and congregate sites, over 3,800 homeless individuals stayed in a hotel room or trailer, and over 1,800 homeless individuals were housed at congregate sites. 668 City disaster service workers representing 35 City departments were deployed since March 2020, of which half came from HSA. 18 HSA staff will continue to support the system for an additional three to six months. This was an unbelievable accomplishment set up in a short amount of time that literally saved thousands of lives—not only the lives of the homeless population but also lives that could have been lost if we had not successfully prevented community spread. Executive Director Rhorer thanked Doris Barone for her leadership, Dan Kaplan and Noelle Simmons for their role in developing the emergency housing system and bringing it online, and the dozens of HSA staff deployed as disaster service workers stepping into completely new roles to get the job done.

The Department of Human Resources and the Mayor's Office are working on return to work plans. There are currently two big areas of concern for City employees: masking and vaccinations. CalOSHA just released a masking policy that goes into effect July 6. Generally employees are not required to wear masks when working outdoors. For employees who have submitted proof of vaccination, they do not need to wear a mask indoors. Employees who have not submitted documentation of their vaccination status must wear a mask indoors. On the cover of today's paper is an announcement from the Mayor's Office that effective Monday, June 28, employees must submit proof of vaccination within 30 days and all City employees will be required to be fully vaccinated 10 weeks after the FDA gives final approval for at least one vaccine. Currently all vaccines have been approved on an emergency basis. There will be exceptions for medical and religious reasons. Employees seeking an exemption will need to go through the reasonable accommodation process and the City makes the final decision. This is big news. As far as Executive Director Rhorer is aware, San Francisco is the first city/county in the country to require City employees be vaccinated.

ADMIN

HSA's Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) released an Employee Resource Group ("ERG") policy to give support and formally recognize staff employee resource groups, also known as affinity groups. The Office of DEIB will review applications for groups to receive formal recognition and help to facilitate ERG activities as groups form. Diversity recruitment efforts continue through increased community outreach. The Office of DEIB participated in a department spotlight hosted by the Department of Human Resources for members of the public interested in City employment. The event was attended by over 100 participants. The Office of DEIB continues to complete recruitment plans for all recruitments to advertise job openings to a diverse group of community based organizations and reach populations that may not have access to the job postings.

ESSS

The Agency is gearing up for a massive technology shift. A team of HSA staff is embarking upon a two year transition from the existing CalWIN system, an information system that drives and supports all of our benefits programs, to the new statewide system called CalSAWs. The transition includes mapping business processes, planning the training curriculum, communicating changes and updates to staff and evaluating what other systems we may need to support the CalSAWs system. This is a single

eligibility system for all 58 counties, the first of its kind in the history of the state. The current CalWIN program is a Welfare Client Data System Consortium that makes it difficult to track across counties. With CalSAWs, all of the counties will be in the same information system.

CAAP

To make it easier for clients to obtain benefits and for staff to administer benefits, CAAP is simplifying the intake process starting in August. The Triage process, which evaluates a client's ability to work, will occur after the intake eligibility screening. In the past, the Triage appointment was between the "initial" and "final" intake sessions. Now, there will only be one intake session for clients to attend before they receive aid. Also commencing in August, CAAP requirements, which have been suspended through the pandemic, will be reinstated. This includes Workfare, Light Duty Workfare, counseling, and SSI case management services. As the City "reopens," Workfare sites are once again ready to accommodate CAAP clients.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES (FCS)

In the Independent Livings Skills Program, 37 youth and non-minor dependents were honored at the virtual graduation celebration earlier this month. Approximately 70 people attended. Most of the high school graduates have been accepted into various colleges. HSA will continue to support these students through college. Staff did a great job planning the event and it was well received. The Independent Livings Skills Program team is in the process of coordinating summer events and activities for foster youth, recognizing the important of continuity of activities during the summer.

50 foster youth under the age of 18 and 105 non-minor dependents have been vaccinated. These numbers will increase over the next few months as we continue to get the word out.

Executive Director Rhorer reiterated his goal to keep all San Francisco foster children in San Francisco instead of finding them homes outside of the county (unless of course they have relatives outside of SF. Therefore, the recruitment and retention of caregivers continue to be a priority for the Agency. We need 100 new families/homes. As part of the robust recruitment efforts for the Resource Family Approval program (RFA), the Agency has created a new full-time position, a Recruitment and Retention Support Worker. Interviews for this position will be held at the end of June. The recruitment & retention support worker will work closely with the primary Recruiter and Caregiver Liaison, Arlene Hylton, to expand the ability of HSA to solicit support and interest among community partners and local businesses.

Even under COVID the Agency successfully finalized more adoptions than the previous year, which is quite a feat. The adoptions annual cycle runs from July 1 thru June 30. As of June 30, 2020, a total of 65 adoptions were processed. As of June 21, 2021, 79 adoptions were finalized through the court. To be able to finalize this many adoptions in a virtual court and work environment demonstrates the flexibility and great work of the adoption team.

Commissioner Semel asked if the Agency is succeeding in finding San Francisco families to take in children. Executive Director Rhorer replied that it has been slow. Unfortunately, the pandemic stalled the recruiting campaign but it is now back on track. Mr. Rhorer did not have the numbers in front of him but stated that he would share them with the Commissioners at the next meeting. Commissioner Semel then mentioned the advertisements she has seen for Casa. Executive Director Rhorer thanked her for bringing that up, stating that Casa is one of the Agency's key partners in the recruiting process. Commissioner McCray shared that he is familiar with the Casa ads. Commissioner McCray also shared that he would like to celebrate the herculean effort undertaken by Agency staff during the pandemic. Perhaps we could set up a tent in the plaza and offer punch & coffee to thank staff for their

commitment and hard work to which Executive Director Rhorer exclaimed, “Yes! What a great idea.”

EMPLOYEE OF
THE MONTH
AWARD

President Kahn announced GISELLE ALMENDAREZ, CalWORKs Supervisor, as the June 2021 Employee of the Month. The Commission recognized Giselle for her subject matter expertise, going above and beyond the call of duty and her generosity with her time and knowledge. Giselle was awarded an engraved desk clock.

CONSENT
CALENDAR

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved and ratified actions taken by the Executive Director since the May 27, 2021 Regular Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of June 24, 2021:

1. Submission of request to encumber funds in the total amount of \$7,778,474 for purchase of services or supplies and contingency amounts.
2. Submission of 1 temporary position for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 5/12/21 to 6/18/21.
3. Submission of 51 temporary appointments for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 5/12/21 to 6/18/21.

ARRIBA JUNTOS

Marlén Sánchez, Community Services Program Specialist, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with ARRIBA JUNTOS.

On motion of Commissioner McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with ARRIBA JUNTOS for the provision of the Community Jobs Program – CalWORKs; for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024; in the amount of \$6,963,372, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$7,659,709.

YOUNG
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPERS

Marlén Sánchez, Community Services Program Specialist, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with YOUNG COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with YOUNG COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS for the provision of the Community Jobs Program – Non CalWORKs; for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024; in the amount of \$6,963,372, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$7,659,709.

ARRIBA JUNTOS

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

Commissioner Semel wanted to know what the relationship is to the police department, is it a positive relationship. Mr. Beetley-Hagler responded in the affirmative. The Adult Probation Department is very involved in the program. Some participants may have had negative experiences in the past with the police but this program aims to change that narrative.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with ARRIBA JUNTOS for the provision of the Community Jobs Program - The Interrupt, Predict and Organize (IPO) Program; for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024; in the amount of \$2,653,860, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$2,919,246.

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On motion of Commissioner McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with YOUNG COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS for the provision of the Community Jobs Program - The Interrupt, Predict and Organize (IPO) Program; for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024; in the amount of \$2,653,860, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$2,919,246.

HUNTERS POINT FAMILY

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

Commissioner Yamasaki asked if the program is for monitoring only, meaning no corrective action is expected of the program participants, to which Mr. Beetley-Hagler replied program participants clean the restrooms and are a positive presence in the parks. Their presence is a reminder that this is not a place to be if one wants to engage in disruptive behavior. One of the employees found an unresponsive person in the restroom and saved the individual's life. They wear a lot of hats. Tony Lugo, Director of Workforce Development & CaWORKs Services at HSA, added that program participants do not perform law enforcement duties. They monitor the use of the bathrooms and facilitate in and out activity. For needs beyond that they rely on other levels of support that may include law enforcement or park rangers. Commissioner Semel then asked if there is cooperation between San Francisco Recreation & Parks to which LaMonte' Bishop with Recreation & Parks Community Affairs responded in the affirmative. There is cooperation between Recreation & Parks, the monitors, rangers and police department.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with HUNTERS POINT FAMILY for the provision of the Community Jobs Program - Park Stop Program; for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024; in the amount of \$4,569,343, plus a 10% contingency; for a total amount not to exceed \$5,026,277.

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 Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with ARRIBA JUNTOS for the provision of the Transitional Employment Support Services (TESS) program; for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024; in the amount of \$750,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$825,000.

YOUNG COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS

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On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with YOUNG COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS for the provision of the Transitional Employment Support Services (TESS) program; for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024; in the amount of \$750,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$825,000.

HELP A MOTHER OUT

Peri Weisberg, Senior Policy Analyst, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with HELP A MOTHER OUT.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with HELP A MOTHER OUT for the provision of Diaper Bank Services; for the period of July 1, 2021

to June 30, 2025; in the amount of \$1,452,596, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$1,597,856.

UNITY CARE
GROUP

Geoff Nayage, Program Support Analyst, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with UNITY CARE GROUP.

Commissioner Semel asked if the age served goes beyond 18, to which Mr. Nayage replied in the affirmative. Extended foster care goes up to age 21 and there is an extension by the state for non-minor dependents to receive services from the county over the age of 21.

Commissioner McCray asked how many transitional sites are in the City. Mr. Nayage did not have the number. Commissioner McCray then added that he recalled working with Booker T. Washington Community Service Center to get their transitional housing, so is this an extension of that work? Robin Love, Program Manager for Family and Children's Services (FCS), replied that this is a brand new program. This grant agreement is making it possible for FCS to offer 80 housing options to 21-22 year old non-minor dependents outside of the traditional Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing offerings for the first time ever.

On motion of Commissioner McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with UNITY CARE GROUP for the provision of housing navigation, case management and housing stabilization services for transitional aged youth; for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023; in the amount of \$1,065,421, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$1,171,963.

FAMILY BUILDERS
BY ADOPTION

Geoff Nayage, Program Support Analyst, presented the request to modify the existing grant agreement with FAMILY BUILDERS BY ADOPTION.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with FAMILY BUILDERS BY ADOPTION for the provision of adoption and permanency services; for the time period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2022; for an additional amount of \$696,106, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total amount not to exceed \$4,439,313.

AMERICAN RED
CROSS BAY AREA
CHAPTER

Doris Barone, Disaster Manager, presented the request to enter into a new contract agreement with AMERICAN RED CROSS BAY AREA CHAPTER.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new contract agreement with AMERICAN RED CROSS BAY AREA CHAPTER for the provision of fiscal intermediary services as a part of the emergency hotel extension program; for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2026; in the amount of \$490,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$539,000.

BAY AREA LEGAL
AID

Christina Iwasaki, Community Services Manager, Welfare-to-Work Services, presented the request to renew the existing grant agreement with BAY AREA LEGAL AID. The agenda listed Adriana Duran as the presenter.

On motion of Commissioner McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to renew the grant agreement with BAY AREA LEGAL AID for the provision of Individualized Legal Support Services and SSI Advocacy; for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023; in the amount of \$1,593,760, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$1,753,136.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES Jason Holte, Senior Fiscal Strategies Analyst, Office of Early Care & Education, presented the request to modify an existing grant agreement with FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.

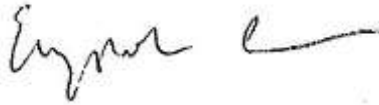
On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES for the provision of emergency backup and mildly ill childcare; for the period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2022; for an additional amount of \$668,649, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total amount not to exceed \$4,426,484.

SUBVERTICAL, LLC Wei-min Wang, Data, Policy, and Impact Manager for OECE, presented the request to renew the contract agreement with SUBVERTICAL, LLC.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to renew the contract agreement with SUBVERTICAL, LLC for the provision of OECE Enrollment Database Services; for the period of July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023; for a total amount not to exceed \$982,500.

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

ADJOURNMENT President Kahn adjourned the Human Services Commission June 24, 2021 Regular Meeting at 10:55 a.m.



Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Human Services Commission

Posted: July 13, 2021