

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
M I N U T E S
November 21, 2019 Regular Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, November 21, 2019 in the Ronald H. Born Auditorium at 170 Otis Street, San Francisco.

MEMBERS PRESENT	SCOTT KAHN, President JAMES MCCRAY, JR., Vice President RITA SEMEL DARSHAN SINGH 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 9:36 a.m., noting that all Commission members were present.
AGENDA	On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the agenda as posted.
MINUTES	On motion of Commissioner Singh, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the minutes of the October 31, 2019 Special Meeting as circulated.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	Executive Director Trent Rhorer was absent. In his place, Noelle Simmons, Deputy Director of Economic Support and Self-Sufficiency, furnished an update regarding federal, state, and local activities.

FEDERAL UPDATES

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) allows for the expenditure of federal funds on foster care prevention services as opposed to spending the funds only once the child has entered foster care. We mentioned a couple of months ago that there was a bi-partisan congressional agreement that made provisions to ease the transition of states and counties, like San Francisco, operating under the Title IV-E Waiver. The agreement is now a bill entitled the Family First Transition Act. This bill will help waiver jurisdictions, like us, in two key ways: it provides transition funds of \$750,000 to help us move from the waiver-funding model to the new funding model and it will extend the timeline counties must follow to provide services that are evidence-based as part of the terms of FFPSA. An update on the CalFresh ABAWD (Able-bodied Adults without Dependents) waivers: about 1 ½ years ago, SF was required by federal law to institute a requirement that able-bodied adults receiving CalFresh look for and obtain/retain employment in order to keep their nutrition benefits. We have been able to use waivers during this time that allow ABAWD CalFresh recipients to retain benefits even if they are not working because the State of California accrued a bank of these exemptions so that we could continue to assist CalFresh ABAWDs with employment services. There is a pending federal rule change to do away with the exemptions whereby ABAWDs would have to find work or lose their benefits after three months. We opposed the rule change but it will most likely be finalized next month, and will result in a smaller caseload for San Francisco's CalFresh staff in 2020. We will provide an update about this during the December or January commission meeting. Congress has not yet authorized a spending plan for the new fiscal year, which begins in October. We are hoping that there is not a repeat of the government shutdown that occurred last year.

STATE

This is the quiet period at the state level. We are in between legislative sessions. Bills from the last session have been signed or vetoed by the governor. Legislators are developing their advocacy priorities and bills to introduce in the new session in January. CWDA is developing its advocacy agenda for next year and the Board of Directors will be voting on their budget and policy priorities at their December meeting.

LOCAL

Mayor Breed and the Board of Supervisors (BOS) arrived at a consensus regarding mental health reform in San Francisco. It seemed as if there would be two competing measures on the ballot regarding mental health—one from the Mayor, and one from the BOS—however ultimately a consensus plan was put forward, which will provide all adult residents of San Francisco with mental illness and/or substance use disorders who are homeless, uninsured, or enrolled in Medi-Cal or Healthy San Francisco access to mental health services, substance use treatment, and psychiatric medications, called Mental Health SF. The BOS wanted universal access to mental health services, even for residents with private insurance. The compromise plan adopts some of the Mayor's plan to focus on low income residents, along with an Office of Private Health Insurance Accountability, which will advocate on behalf of private insurance recipients who are not receiving timely mental health care services under their private plan. The plan is subject to funding availability so this will most likely continue to be discussed through next year's budget process.

COMMUNICATIONS

The diaper bank program was expanded to CalFresh clients earlier this month. The diaper bank has been operational for three years, in partnership with Help-a-Mother-Out, for CalWORKs clients exclusively. Thanks to new state funding, we have

expanded the program to include CalFresh households with young children. We received media coverage thanks to our communication team, including SF Gate, Univision, Chinese Television, Spanish Radio and KQED.

PROGRAMS

ESSS

SFBN - CalFresh & Medi-Cal

The expansion of CalFresh benefits to older adults and persons with disabilities on SSI has reached about half of all San Francisco SSI recipients, exceeding state expectations.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Earlier this month, the JobsNOW! program participated in the 5-year anniversary of the passage of the Fair Chance Ordinance, which is a local ordinance that prohibits employers from asking about criminal backgrounds in advance of a conditional offer of employment. There was a celebration and rally at City Hall, then a job fair at the Twitter building on Market. Another JobsNow! partnership is with Downtown Streets and the Department of Public Works (DPW) to connect eligible participants to PST (Public Service Trainee) positions with DPW and help with their entry into the workforce, whether for City or private industry employment.

We are partnering with the San Francisco Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) for the 2020 Census. As previously mentioned, the census will look different than in previous years. Most of the census forms will be filled out online, which is a hurdle to participation for many of our low-income residents who experience the digital divide. OCEIA will attend our community meetings in December to explain to partners how they can help. We will also partner with census workers and takers in the Southeast community.

Commissioner Semel asked if we were helping with census jobs, to which Deputy Director Simmons replied yes, there are two types of positions for which we are assisting with recruiting. One position is for enumerators, which may not be available to all of our clients as the minimum requirements are elevated. We are also assisting with finding candidates for locally-funded community outreach positions.

Within CalWORKs, the Housing Support Program (HSP) has received additional state funding, from \$4.8M to \$6.5M, for rapid rehousing services, to newly house 110 families this year and sustain rental subsidies for the existing 100 families. With the new funding, we have reached out to a new partner to assist with the housing services. We have been working with Hamilton Family Services; Catholic Charities will be our new partner.

CAAP

CAAP's focus over the last few years has been improving business processes for a more customer-friendly program. One improvement implemented about five months ago was the ability to apply for CAAP online. All CAAP intake staff have now been trained on how to take online referrals of which we are getting 50-60/month. There is a link to the online application on the Agency website, along with a step-by-step guide. In addition, CAAP has revamped the intake process. Instead of requiring clients to complete large paper applications, we are able to import CalFresh & MediCal data into our applications so that the remaining questions are few and can be completed online. We are modernizing our processes to make access to benefits more simple and less time consuming for clients.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (FCS)

There was an article in the Chronicle this week that you may have seen about allegations of sexual abuse at the Edgewood Center for Children & Families ("Edgewood"). We have relied on Edgewood for many years to provide psychiatric and behavioral health services to many of our youth in foster care. These allegations are of a grave concern to us. Edgewood is licensed by the State Department of Social Services. In August, the state released findings on these allegations. We immediately responded to this report, to halt all referrals to Edgewood and to assign all new referrals to other service providers as did the Department of Public Health ("DPH"). There is an ongoing DA investigation. We are working closely with DPH and Edgewood to address the deficiencies uncovered by the investigation. Vice President McCray asked how many children were moved to other facilities to which Deputy Director of Family & Children's Services, Joan Miller, responded that at the time of the allegations in August, we had three children in Edgewood. It is hard to say in terms of impact moving forward. We had been only using Edgewood for short-term residential treatment placements, and it is not an automatic that a child with those needs would end up at Edgewood. Deputy Director Simmons then moved on to the November 8 National Adoption Day event and thanked Commission President Kahn for his support. President Kahn then shared that the event was quite emotional for him. As an adoptive father, it was a heartwarming event, almost overwhelming. He really appreciated all of the staff support. The last item is an update on the closure of the CPC (Child Protection Center), which happened earlier this month. We are currently piloting a new system where children coming into the foster care system are immediately placed with a family or with our partner Seneca and it is working very well.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

President Kahn announced that the 33 employees who make up the Placement and Child Protection Center (CPC) units within Family & Children's Services are the November 2019 Employees of the Month: Traci Logan, Brian Monsayac, Sandra Oriol, Shatara Winston, Kara Tuiasosopo, Nienhwa Cheng, Jessica Hooker, Tamisha Mouton, Marty Jequinto, Veronica Rostro, Melodye Aquino, Enrique Samson, Erica Perry, Kevin Lu, Arthur Lopez, Evelyn Lal, Eileen Rizzo, Karen Smith, Cheryl Chan, Armond Booth, Joycelynn Green, Keyana Henderson, Bianca Craig, Jewel Barrett, Johnny Dunn, Yuri Taylor, Viviana Maldonado, Monica Salazar, Sparkle Wilson, Monique Dobbs, Kayla Gray, Shirley Jackson and Karimah Arnold. This is a timely selection with the closure of the CPC at Edgewood, the System Improvement Plan (SIP) submission and other CCR initiatives. Guests present in support of the work group included a full auditorium of Agency colleagues.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PLAN ("SIP") PRESENTATION Liz Crudo, Acting Program Director, presented to the Commissioners the Family & Children's Services System Improvement Plan ("SIP").

CONSENT CALENDAR On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved and ratified actions taken by the Executive Director since the October 31, 2019 Special Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of November 21, 2019:

1. Submission of requests to encumber funds in the total amount of \$4,329,702 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 of 10/17/19 to 11/15/19.
3. Submission of 38 temporary appointments made during the period of 10/17/19 to 11/15/19.

CHILDREN'S COUNCIL OF SAN FRANCISCO Jason Holthe, Fiscal Strategies Senior Analyst, Office of Early Care & Education, presented the request to modify an existing grant agreement with CHILDREN'S COUNCIL OF SAN FRANCISCO.

On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with CHILDREN'S COUNCIL OF SAN FRANCISCO for the provision of Early Care & Education Integrated Services; for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2022; for an additional amount of \$162,191,575 plus contingency, for a new total grant amount not to exceed \$376,052,445.

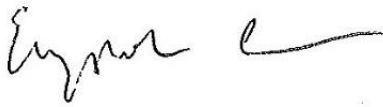
WU YEE CHILDREN'S SERVICES Jason Holthe, Fiscal Strategies Senior Analyst, Office of Early Care & Education, presented the request to modify an existing grant agreement with WU YEE CHILDREN'S SERVICES.

Vice President McCray asked how many children are currently on the waitlist to which the response was 3,000. Commissioner Semel then asked who runs the Children's Council of San Francisco to which the response was Gina Fromer.

On motion of Commissioner McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with WU YEE CHILDREN'S SERVICES for the provision of Early Care & Education Integrated Services; for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2022; for an additional amount of \$34,176,968, plus contingency, for a new total grant amount not to exceed \$75,810,088.

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

ADJOURNMENT President Kahn adjourned the meeting at 10:23 a.m.



Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Human Services Commission

Posted: 12/03/19