

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

May 23, 2024 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, May 23, 2024 in person at the Born auditorium at 170 Otis Street. Meeting attendees also joined virtually via Webex and telephonically as a disability accommodation.

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON SCOTT KAHN, President
SALLY COGHLAN MCDONALD
RITA SEMEL

MEMBERS PRESENT VIA WEBEX DARSHAN SINGH

MEMBERS ABSENT-EXCUSED JAMES MCCRAY, JR., Vice President

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON Trent Rhorer, Executive Director
Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Dan Kaplan, Deputy Director – Finance and Administration
Anna Pineda, Deputy Director – Economic Support and Self Sufficiency
Joan Miller, Deputy Director – Family & Children’s Services
Susie Smith, Deputy Director – Policy, Planning & Public Affairs

CALL MEETING TO ORDER President Kahn called the meeting to order at 9:40am.

ROLL CALL Commission Secretary Elizabeth LaBarre took roll, noting the presence of Commissioners Kahn, Semel and Coghlan McDonald in person in the Born auditorium and Commissioner Singh via Webex from his home. Vice President McCray had an excused absence.

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

APRIL 25, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the adoption of the April 25, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes.

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.

As the Commissioners will remember from the January and February budget presentations, the City has a \$790 million two-year deficit. Mayor Breed directed agencies to propose 10% discretionary general fund reductions and 5% contingency reductions in an attempt to close the budget gap. For the Agency, 10% of discretionary general funds amounts to \$6.5 million a year across the Department of Benefits and Family Support (BFS) and Department of Disability & Aging Services (DAS) budgets. The SFHSA budget team has proposed achieving this reduction through a combination of increased salary attrition, not moving forward on

a few Board addbacks, reductions in contract budgets to align budgets with actual spending, recognizing revenue increase at the state and local level, and reducing the number of slots in the student work experience program to bring the budget in line with current participation rates. To achieve the 5% contingency reductions, the team identified additional reductions in CBO programming and reductions in the Working Families Credit. That was the budget package the Commission approved in February and sent to the Mayor's Office. Executive Director Rhorer and his budget team have since been negotiating with the Mayor's Office and tracking the nine-month report and with working with the Controller's Office to obtain better estimates. Not a lot has changed since February, so the budget that the Human Services Commission approved in February is largely what goes to the Board of Supervisors. The few changes are positive: almost no contingency reductions will be utilized, meaning no reductions in the employment services CBO contracts at this point and no changes in the Working Families Credit program.

STATE

On May 10, the Governor released his May budget revision, which is a revision of the numbers from January based on better revenue forecasts and actual revenue receipts coming in because taxes were due in April. The state budget deficit is higher than it was in January, which did not come as a surprise to Executive Director Rhorer and his team. The state budget deficit, according to the Governor's analysis, is now estimated to be about \$45 billion. The State Legislative Analyst Office estimates the deficit to be even greater.

The Governor and the Legislature acted early, in April to reduce some of that gap, so the current number is \$28 billion. The Governor proposed reductions across all of state agencies. The cuts to County Human Services total about \$1.3 billion statewide. In addition to keeping all of the reductions that he proposed in January, including the elimination of subsidized employment programs (in SF, JobsNOW!) and FURS (the Family Urgent Response System in child welfare), the Governor is proposing reductions to the CalWORKs program "single allocation", which will result in the program budget being reduced by one third, leaving counties ill-equipped financially to continue to meet families' needs. The single allocation is the block grant of funding counties receive to support core services for eligibility and employment.

SFHSA has been advocating at the legislative level to reverse these proposed cuts, including communicating with local leaders in Sacramento (Senator Weiner, from San Francisco, who happens to be the Senate Budget Committee Chair, and Assembly Members Ting and Haney) and getting them to understand the impact of the cuts on San Francisco as well as statewide. Additionally, the Agency is working with the Mayor's Budget Office and, ultimately, the Board to set aside some local general funds to establish a state budget reserve, though the reserve funds will not be enough to completely cover the cuts.

If the Governor's proposed cuts are finalized, then the next step in the state process is to figure out how those reductions are allocated to individual counties. The state legislature appropriates funds and then San Francisco works with its colleagues and other counties determine what percent each county should take. Historically, counties who spend their full allocation bear less of the cut, and San Francisco always spends more than 100% of its CalWORKs allocation.

Based on recent meetings in Sacramento, Executive Director Rhorer believes the family stabilization funding (for SF, \$2.5 million) and subsidized employment funding (\$8 million for SF) will likely be restored by the Legislature. There have been hearings with a lot of compelling testimony to which the Legislature has been receptive.

At this point, Executive Director Rhorer and the budget team must assume the worst-case scenario, and roll back programs and dollars as they are retained in the state budget.

By the June Commission meeting, the local budget will be clear. The Agency presents its budget to the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee the 2nd & 3rd weeks of June, working with the Board's Budget Analyst to ensure that whatever additional reductions they're proposing are ones that we can sustain without any, any cuts to services and staff and programs. Executive Director Rhorer noted that the budget situation is not going to be so dire that he would need to lay off staff. No layoffs are projected.

AGENCY

Food Support – on June 4, Executive Director Rhorer is participating in the grand opening ceremony of the District 10 Community Market in the Bayview, formerly known as the Food Empowerment Market. SFHSA received \$5 million in funding from the Board of Supervisors a couple years ago for the market to provide food insecure residents a shopping experience at a supermarket for free. The Market represents a shift in the Agency's food support programs from a pantry model where residents receive bags or boxes of food, often containing items the recipient does not necessarily want or need. A market model introduces more choice for the recipients.

The annual Chinatown Food Distribution event is on June 7. The event gives away culturally specific groceries to thousands of residents in Chinatown. It is historically very well-received and attended, and is a great way for the Agency to connect with the Chinatown community.

In anticipation of summertime with lots of kids home for the summer with school out, the Communications team is launching a seasonal campaign promoting the Museums for All program to Agency clients, reminding them of free or reduced-fee entrance to SF museums and other cultural institutions with an EBT card. The campaign is pushed out on social media, newsletters, SFHSA's website, the Mayor's press announcement, etc. and in return, we usually get some press coverage.

The Agency's 2nd annual Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebration was a success on Tuesday. It took place here at 170 Otis St. in the courtyard and Born Auditorium. There were several cultural dance performances, a poet, and guest speakers Fanny Lapitan from DAS and City Attorney David Chu.

ESSS

SFBN

CalFresh clients are getting scammed through skimmers at stores and through fake robo calls where they unwittingly give up their passwords. The state is moving to a chip technology in June to help prevent these types of thefts and stop millions of dollars per month in lost benefits. The transition includes attempting to convince retailers to upgrade their point-of-sale devices to allow chip technology on the EBT cards. These include really big retailers like Target and Walmart.

The most recent CalFresh audit on SFHSA's timeliness in issuing benefits resulted in a corrective action plan for the Agency because for two consecutive quarters, we did not meet our 30-day processing window for CalFresh for 90% of clients. In response to the state's letter of inquiry, SFBN leadership acknowledged that many staff were offline due to CalSAWS training and there was some ramping up time getting used to the new system; they anticipate coming back into timeliness very soon.

WDD

On June 14, the CalWORKs team will be hosting a Career Resource Fair. Unlike a lot of career resources fairs that are open to the public, this event is exclusively for CalWORKs clients. Employers are invited, along with training and service providers. CalWORKs recipients will learn about different career options and job listings, connect with employers to hear about available positions, get information about job training programs, and hear from former CalWORKs participants who will share how they were successful and where they are now.

CAAP

As has been noted in past meetings, Prop F passed and will be implemented starting January 1, 2025. As part of the planning process, the CAAP and Planning teams are developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Prop F substance abuse screening and support for clients. The plan is for a nonprofit to work with CAAP clients for the case management portion of the program to connect them to treatment and ensure they are participating. This plan will be presented to a stakeholder committee, comprised of representatives from community-based organizations, people in recovery and City partners. The first Committee meeting is next week.

FCS

The Guaranteed Income program for former foster youth is fully enrolled with 150 participants. The program provides a cash stipend each month for 18 months.

The Independent Living Skills program graduation ceremony is on June 6. 29 youth are on track to graduate from high school.

On Friday, May 17, FCS in partnership with AFS hosted the annual Foster Parent Appreciation Event at the South San Francisco Conference Center for 40 caregivers. It is an important event where we thank resource parents for all that they do for San Francisco's foster youth.

President Kahn asked Executive Director Rhorer to go over the Museums for All program, to which he responded it is a program that started about five years ago in partnership with the Treasurer's Office and SF cultural institutions (e.g., the de Young Museum, the California Academy of Sciences) to provide free entry for low-income families or individuals who receive CalFresh and/or Medi-Cal benefits. The Agency wanted to ensure easy access for free to these institutions, so we took on promotion and advertising of the program. Medi-Cal and CalFresh recipients should be able to go to a participating museum, show their EBT or Medi-Cal card, and get free admission on the spot.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

President Kahn presented LILY YEE, Protective Services Worker (PSW), Family & Children's Services with the June 2024 Employee of the Month award—an engraved desk clock, which she graciously accepted with thanks to all. The Born auditorium was filled with supporters, including her twin sons.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved and ratified actions taken by the Executive Director since the April 25, 2024 Regular Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of May 23, 2024:

1. Submission of request to encumber funds in the total amount of \$2,124,000 for purchase of services or supplies and contingency amounts.
2. Submission of 3 temporary positions for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 4/20/24 to 5/13/24.
3. Submission of 31 temporary appointments for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 4/20/24 to 5/13/24.

COMMISSION BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

59th COUNTY LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS)

Joseph Huang, Finance Director, requested approval of the 59th COUNTY LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS).

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the 59th COUNTY LETTER OF AGREEMENT WITH THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS); in accordance with Government Code section 30029.8, the City and County of San Francisco is the designated county to establish

a Contract Special Account within the Protective Services Subaccount of the County Local Revenue Fund 2011 for the purpose of reimbursing CDSS for services performed on behalf of the 58 counties; for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

URBAN ALCHEMY

Joe Villatoro, Welfare Fraud Investigator, presented the request to modify the existing grant agreement with URBAN ALCHEMY.

Executive Director Rhorer added that the Department of Public Health work-orders money to SFHSA for this contract.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with URBAN ALCHEMY for the provision of street safety monitors; for the period of May 16, 2024 through June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$1,612,629, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$4,139,235.

LA CASA DE LAS MADRES

Vladlena Gulchin, Program Support Analyst, presented the request to modify the existing grant agreement with LA CASA DE LAS MADRES.

President Kahn asked that the representatives of La Casa de las Madres stand and then thanked them for attending the meeting.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with LA CASA DE LAS MADRES for the provision of domestic violence intervention services; for the period of May 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026; in the additional amount of \$1,257,157, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$3,294,673.

BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT FOUNDATION (BVHPF)

Vladlena Gulchin, Program Support Analyst, presented the request to enter into a new contract agreement with BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT FOUNDATION (BVHPF).

Representatives from BVHPF rose to introduce themselves.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new contract agreement with BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT FOUNDATION (BVHPF) for the provision of property management and residential services at 538 Holloway; for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2028; in the amount of \$2,225,652, plus a 10% contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$2,448,217.

ALTERNATIVE FAMILY SERVICES (AFS)

Karina Zhang, Program Support Analyst, presented the request to enter into a new contract agreement with ALTERNATIVE FAMILY SERVICES (AFS).

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new contract agreement with ALTERNATIVE FAMILY SERVICES (AFS) for the provision of training for potential and current resource families; for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028; in the amount of \$3,447,345, plus a 10% contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$3,792,080.

MAXIMUS HUMAN SERVICES, INC. (MAXIMUS)

Brenda Williams, Program Specialist, presented the request to enter into a new contract agreement with MAXIMUS HUMAN SERVICES, INC. (MAXIMUS).

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new contract agreement with MAXIMUS HUMAN SERVICES, INC. (MAXIMUS) for the provision of SSA/SSI benefit advocacy, screening, maintenance administration and management assistance for children and youth within the San Francisco foster care system; for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028; in the amount of \$ 692,204, plus a 10% contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$761,424.

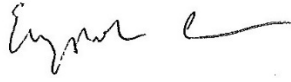
GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

President Kahn's call for public comment yielded one response:

"Good morning, Human Services Commission. My name is Christopher Kline, and I've spoken here a few times. Good morning, Human Services commission. I just wanted to read over a draft proposal that we will be submitting to the City Attorney and the intent is to have all politicians, commissioners, public health and safety departments that are using AI and surveillance type equipment to sign offline. So let me just read it, "Will you ensure providing information in collaboration with SFPD, the Sheriff, and the Department of Justice in recommending indictments on anyone giving access to or using improperly public health safety systems such as One System/Sherlock and others to alter a person's mental health, their normal situation or awareness, their PTSD, and/or using associated ultrasound to cause pain, swelling, false injuries, false illnesses, and death for forced compliance to illegally influence votes, donations, illegal pay to play schemes, alter social outcomes and to alter for other personal, political or religious reasons? Now over the past six to eight weeks, we have been presenting this to over twelve commissions, and it's a huge issue in San Francisco and we're not pointing the finger at Public Health or Human Services. There are systems that are being used that are influencing healthy decisions that are being done by Public Health and public or human services. The 2nd page is our overdoses since 2020. So once we have compliance with this, we project a 40 % reduction in overdoses. Thank you." The documents referenced in Mr. Kline's public comment are included in these minutes as an attachment.

ADJOURNMENT

President Kahn adjourned the meeting at 10:48am.



Elizabeth LaBarre
Commission Secretary
Human Services Commission

Posted: 5/31/24