

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

August 24, 2023 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, August 24, 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 ABSENT (EXCUSED) DARSHAN SINGH

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON Trent Rhorer, Executive Director
Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Dan Kaplan, Deputy Director – Finance & Admin

ROLL CALL President Kahn called the meeting to order at 9:35am.

Commission Secretary Elizabeth LaBarre took roll, noting the presence of Commissioners Kahn, McCray, Semel and Coghlan McDonald in person in the Born auditorium. Commissioner Singh was not in attendance; he had an excused absence.

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

August 1, 2023 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the minutes of the August 1, 2023 Regular Meeting as circulated.

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.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD President Kahn announced that JUAN CORTEZ, CalWORKs Employment Specialist is the August 2023 employee of the month. President Kahn presented Juan with an engraved desk clock, which he graciously accepted with thanks to all.

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 1, 2023 Regular Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of August 24, 2023:

1. Submission of request to encumber funds in the total amount of \$1,255,938 for purchase of services or supplies and contingency amounts.
2. Submission of 4 temporary positions for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 7/26/23 to 8/17/23.

3. Submission of 32 temporary appointments for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 7/26/23 to 8/17/23.

COMMISSION BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ANNUAL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Rose Johns, Planning Director, requested approval of the FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ANNUAL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the FISCAL YEAR 2023-2024 HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION ANNUAL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.

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

Joseph Huang, Finance Director, presented the request to modify the existing sole source waiver and contract with 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, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

HOMELESSNESS AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FUND

Justin Chan, Principal Budget Analyst, presented the HOMELESSNESS AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FUND at the annual hearing.

Commissioner Coghlan McDonald asked how this fund interfaces with the Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing (HSH), to which Mr. Chan responded that when homeless services were under SFHSA, the Agency administered both the CAAP program and homeless services and therefore generated savings for our own usage. Now that those services are under a separate department (HSH), HSH is responsible for administering these services. Since SFHSA continues to administer the CAAP program, we generate the savings and then HSH administers services using these dollars. Executive Director Rhorer added that City ordinance requires this annual report. Vice President McCray added that once the Commission adopts the findings, the report is then transmitted to the Board of Supervisors [and the Office of the Controller].

On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the adoption of the findings from the Annual Hearing of the HOMELESSNESS AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FUND to

provide an analysis of FY22-23 savings and to review estimates of revenues for FY 23-24 pursuant to Administrative Code Section 10.100-77(e).

SAFE & SOUND

Karina Zhang, Program Support Analyst, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with SAFE & SOUND.

On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to enter into a new grant agreement with SAFE & SOUND for the provision of Supportive Services for the County Self-Assessment; for the period of September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024; in the amount of \$109,415, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$120,357.

ARRIBA JUNTOS

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

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to enter into a new grant agreement with ARRIBA JUNTOS for the provision of Refugee Benefits Linkages; for the period of October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2027; in the amount of \$381,880, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$420,068.

MULTIPLE PROVIDERS (BAY AREA COMMUNITY RESOURCES, BAYANIHAN EQUITY CENTER, BOOKER T. WASHINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER, CURRY SENIOR CENTER, FARMING HOPE, FROM THE HEART, HOMEY, TENDERLOIN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, THE RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER)

Cindy Lin, Food Coordination Manager, presented the request to enter into new grant agreements with MULTIPLE PROVIDERS. During her presentation, Shakirah Simley, Executive Director of Booker T. Washington Community Service Center, spoke to the Commission about the importance of this food program and associated grant.

President Kahn's call for public comment yielded three speakers:

Public Comment #1 Haley Nielsen, Development Director with Farming Hope: ... *Farming Hope is one of the grantees for this neighborhood grocery access [program]. We work with folks in the Tenderloin, one of the most difficult neighborhoods in San Francisco for folks, and we have this beautiful community that comes in to get groceries three times a week and also access our other services. We have a community dinner on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and after that dinner if folks are able to take groceries home that are funded through this program. So we're very, very grateful for this funding, and I'm not going to say it as well as our clients, so I wanted [to share] a couple of notes from folks who heard that we were coming today for this meeting, and this is just a snippet, we had 74 responses when we asked for things to take to this meeting. So it's really a big deal for our community:*

"Thank you for the effort you guys are doing. We are happy to have a food bank that cares about us, everything is clean, organized and it has an easy access to get our groceries home."

“We are very grateful for the produce and cooked meals we get twice a week. Due to the High cost of Everything, it’s made a huge difference on the two day we don’t have to worry about dinner. Also, the produce we get... we use it the rest of the week. So appreciative and grateful for these grand blessings!”

“I am here to share my personal experience with the food program and how it has positively impacted my family.

I am a single mother raising a 3-year-old son in the beautiful city of San Francisco. As we all know, this city can be quite expensive, making it challenging to make ends meet. The high prices of food make it even more difficult to provide a healthy diet for my son. However, thanks to the food program, I have been able to afford nutritious meals and save money to pay my bills and rent.

I have been a part of this program since my son was just 6 months old, and it has been a tremendous help ever since. One of the key offerings of the program is a healthy food pantry that is available three times a week. This pantry is stocked with an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables, allowing me to provide a balanced and nourishing diet for my son. Additionally, the program provides the opportunity to enjoy a healthy dinner with the community once a week, fostering a sense of togetherness and support.

If it weren’t for this program, I would struggle to afford food for myself and my son. I would be forced to make difficult choices and prioritize cheaper, less nutritious options. The program’s range of fruits and vegetables goes beyond what I could afford, introducing me to new varieties that I may have never had the chance to try otherwise.

The impact of this program on my family is immeasurable. It has given us a sense of security and relief. In a time when many families face financial hardships, knowing that we can rely on this program for our food needs is a blessing. It alleviates the constant worry of where our next meal will come from. I often contemplate leaving San Francisco due to the high cost of living, but the incredible resources like this food program remind me of the support available in this city, making me choose to stay.

In conclusion, the food program has been a lifeline for my family, ensuring that we have access to healthy, nourishing food, despite financial constraints. It has made a significant difference in our lives, allowing us to focus on other essential expenses without compromising our nutrition. I am truly grateful for the program’s existence and the positive impact it has had on our well-being. Thank you for your time and consideration.”

Public Comment #2 From the Heart’s Founder and Executive Director Maika Pinkston: *Good morning Commission President, everyone here who is here to support. Thank you so much. My name is Maika, ...I represent From the Heart. What I will say is this, I educate our community to live a natural and healthy lifestyle by introducing our community to organic produce, to natural living, holistic healing, and things that we’ve never had. ...we’ve always been given foods that were unhealthy for us and... specifically old food. When I provide the community with these organic groceries, I also provide recipes so teaching them how to make a salad, how to make soup, how to make things without meat, how to just be healthy and something*

that again, in our culture and our community we don't have, and we have to learn and it starts now. It actually started for us... before 2018, and then when the pandemic came, I was able to just take off and educate and it's gone a really long way. It's to the points of where a lot of our ...families and elders they are looking for these groceries. They need them, they understand now how to eat them. They understand how it cook them. They understand how important it is as opposed to receiving Cup O Noodle and other microwaved and processed foods. So that's all I have to say is that in my community, [I] educate to live a healthy and natural style and your approval today will either make us or break us.

Public Comment #3 Gabriela Alemàn, Director of La Ofrenda: *I'll try to keep this brief. My name is Gabriela Alemàn, Director of La Ofrenda, a collaborative between one of the grantees, HOMEY and HOMEY subcontractor Mission Meals Coalition. HOMEY is a violence prevention program and Mission Meals Coalition is a mutual aid collective that started during the pandemic.... We, like I said, have opened this community market... The Mission district has been one of the most impacted districts overall during the pandemic and just generally, institutionally, we have a lot of marginalized communities that live in the district. We're located on 16th & Mission, also one of the more disenfranchised areas of District 9... our market and the work that we do has been such a crucial access point for our families who are also servicing a high volume of Central and South American immigrants who are coming and seeking refuge in San Francisco. We strongly believe that food is violence prevention, is a human right... We service providers, we strongly believe that we can't service people's social needs without addressing their human needs first and so the work and the support that we've received from this commission and from HSA has been incredibly crucial to continue this work. We're very proud that our subcontractors and other small mutual aid groups as well have been able to sustain their work that has been so crucial and that was needed before the pandemic, but that was a lifeline for so many families that we service. So thank you so much.*

Commissioner Coghlan McDonald thanked the speakers for their comment noting that it is helpful to hear from the community when considering and ultimately approving contracts.

1. On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the new grant agreement with BAY AREA COMMUNITY RESOURCES for the provision of Free, High-Quality, Culturally-Tailored Groceries to Low-Income San Franciscans; for the period of September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the amount of \$1,650,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$1,815,000.
2. On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the new grant agreement with BAYANIHAN EQUITY CENTER for the provision of Free, High-Quality, Culturally-Tailored Groceries to Low-Income

San Franciscans; for the period of September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the amount of \$709,500, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$780,450.

3. On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the new grant agreement with BOOKER T. WASHINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER for the provision of Free, High-Quality, Culturally-Tailored Groceries to Low-Income San Franciscans; for the period of September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the amount of \$1,650,00, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$1,815,000.
4. On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the new grant agreement with CURRY SENIOR CENTER for the provision of Free, High-Quality, Culturally-Tailored Groceries to Low-Income San Franciscans; for the period of September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the amount of \$577,500, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$635,250.
5. On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the new grant agreement with FARMING HOPE for the provision of Free, High-Quality, Culturally-Tailored Groceries to Low-Income San Franciscans; for the period of September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the amount of \$371,250, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$408,375.
6. On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the new grant agreement with FROM THE HEART for the provision of Free, High-Quality, Culturally-Tailored Groceries to Low-Income San Franciscans; for the period of September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the amount of \$990,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$1,089,000.
7. On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the new grant agreement with HOMEY for the provision of Free, High-Quality, Culturally-Tailored Groceries to Low-Income San Franciscans; for the period of September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the amount of \$1,650,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$1,815,000.
8. On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the new grant agreement with TENDERLOIN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION for the provision of Free, High-Quality, Culturally-Tailored Groceries to Low-Income San Franciscans; for the period of

September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the amount of \$948,750, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$1,043,625.

9. On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the new grant agreement with the RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER for the provision of Free, High-Quality, Culturally-Tailored Groceries to Low-Income San Franciscans; for the period of September 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the amount of \$660,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$726,000.

Cindy Lin offered to give the Commissioners a tour of any of the grantees' operations.

SAN FRANCISCO-
MARIN FOOD BANK

Cindy Lin, Food Coordination Manager, presented the request to modify the existing grant agreement with SAN FRANCISCO-MARIN FOOD BANK.

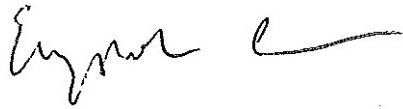
On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved modify the existing grant agreement with SAN FRANCISCO MARIN FOOD BANK for the provision of Groceries to San Franciscans Focusing on High-Need Neighborhoods; for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024; in the additional amount of \$6,000,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$17,828,328.

GENERAL PUBLIC
COMMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

President Kahn adjourned the meeting at 10:48am.



Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Human Services Commission

Posted: 9/8/23