

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

November 21, 2024 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, November 21, 2024 at 9:30am in person in the Born auditorium at 170 Otis Street and remotely via Webex and telephone for disability accommodations.

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON SCOTT KAHN, President  
JAMES MCCRAY, JR., Vice President  
SALLY COGHLAN MCDONALD

MEMBERS PRESENT REMOTELY VIA WEBEX DARSHAN SINGH

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

CALL MEETING TO ORDER President Kahn called the meeting to order at 9:39am.

ROLL CALL Commission Secretary Elizabeth LaBarre took roll and noted the presence of Commissioners Kahn, McCray and Coghlan McDonald in person in the Born auditorium. Commissioner Singh was present remotely via Webex from his home and his wife, Olivia Singh, was sitting next to him to assist him with the Webex features.

AGENDA President Kahn’s call for public comment related to the meeting’s agenda yielded no responses.

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

October 24, 2024 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES President Kahn’s call for public comment related to the October 24, 2024 regular meeting minutes yielded no responses.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the adoption of the October 24, 2024 Regular Meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT Executive Director 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.

**FEDERAL**

With Donald J. Trump winning the election, Executive Director Rhorer discussed the implications to human services programs across the country &

in California along with potential risk mitigation strategies. Governor Newsom called for a special legislative session, December 2024 through January 2025, primarily to identify funds to hire more attorneys to protect the state's interests. During a trip to Sacramento last week, Executive Director Rhorer met with some state colleagues who shared that in 2016, the state filed ~140 lawsuits to protect state interests, 88% of which were successful. There will be a lot of work with the Attorney General's Office and local city attorneys to identify potential harms that could be mitigated through legal strategies. The Governor went to Washington, D.C. to meet with Democratic members of Congress and members of the Biden Administration to shore up the many Medicaid waivers that are either approved or pending approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services under the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The Administration will likely approve them at the last minute; this doesn't mean the Trump Administration cannot undo them. The waiver opens the door to use Medi-Cal funding in very innovative ways including housing support, food support, and different mental health approaches; SFHSA leverages a lot of those funds for partnerships with the Department of Public Health (DPH) and also for direct services across the Agency. Also pending in Washington, D.C. is California's application to be a pilot state and to be exempt from the federal TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) rules. TANF is the federal law that funds and oversees the CalWORKs program in California. Currently, TANF measures participation rates (known as the WPR). The waiver would exempt California from participation rate performance measures and instead measure program performance measures—job acquisition, wage progression, employment retention—which gauge outcomes for families, unlike the WPR.

The Trump Administration's track record from his prior presidency provides an indication of things to come like increasing work requirements on safety net programs, principally Medi-Cal and CalFresh, and particularly around single adults who are deemed employable.

Executive Rhorer does not anticipate a repeal of the Affordable Care Act, but he does anticipate a proposal to eliminate subsidies for the middle income Covered California health insurance recipients. SFHSA receives tens of millions of dollars annually for Medi-Cal administration. The new Administration might propose block grants for Medicaid funding nationally. The implication for states like California and New York would be massive—up to a billion dollars in lost federal revenue—and would force programmatic decisions around eligibility, reimbursement rates for doctors, and benefits that are funded through Medi-Cal, in addition to Medi-Cal administration.

The Farm Bill, which authorizes SNAP (CalFresh), expired on September 30. Some programs that fall under the Farm Bill temporarily have authority to continue; other programs are now in limbo. To avoid large-scale disruptions in the agricultural sector and in rural economies, Congress needs to act during the lame duck session to either extend the current Farm Bill authority or move a new bill. New farm bills have been introduced both in the House and the Senate. Negotiations are not going anywhere. There is talk of eliminating the Thrifty Food Plan. The incoming administration might

attempt to move away from CalFresh/SNAP as a purchasing program and move towards a food box program, which would be disastrous for local economies and eliminate choice for recipients; it is something that San Francisco would never want to do.

Executive Director Rhorer and his team are watching developments closely.

Trump's rhetoric on immigration may cause immigrants to not apply for or withdraw from benefits that they are legally entitled to receive. The Agency will attempt to mitigate this chilling effect through citywide collaborations on communication strategies to amplify the City's sanctuary status and policy. San Francisco and the state are ready to use whatever legal means are necessary; the Agency will assess its policy levers, look at various funding strategies, and shore up the safety net as much as possible should the Trump Administration move to erode it.

## **STATE**

The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) released their fiscal outlook for the state's budget over the next five years and it was encouraging news compared to last year. The LAO's projection is a balanced state budget through 2026 because of the revenues running ahead of assumptions, and while expenditures are up, they are not up over revenues. However, the LAO outlook suggests double digit operating deficits beyond 2026 if some changes are not made. For the January budget, Executive Director Rhorer does not anticipate a lot of proposed reductions from the Governor like last year.

## **LOCAL**

Mayor Elect Daniel Lurie will be inaugurated in January. Proposition D, which would have eliminated the Human Services Commission from the charter, failed. Proposition E passed, which sets up a task force to review the commission structure of the City.

Executive Director Rhorer anticipates that Mayor Elect Lurie's approach to SFHSA will be supportive. During his campaign, Mayor Elect Lurie focused on issues outside the human services realm such as fentanyl and homelessness. The Mayor Elect announced his transition team, comprising a number of familiar names to Executive Director Rhorer, and names that are familiar with city government, who should enable a relatively smooth transition. Lurie is already meeting with department heads; Executive Director Rhorer met with him yesterday as an introduction and to brief him on issues he chose to raise with him.

## **AGENCY**

### ADMIN

*Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging and Accessibility (DEIBA)*

On November 26, in partnership with Friendship House, the Office of DEIBA is hosting the annual Native American Heritage Month event virtually. The theme this year is, "Reclaiming our ancestral lands through storytelling, song and blessings." On December 3, the Office of DEIBA is hosting the Employee

Resource Group (ERG) Fair here in the Born auditorium to provide employees with an opportunity to learn about the Agency's ERGs, including how to join an existing group or how to start a new one.

## **ESSS**

### *CAAP*

Prop F planning for January 1 implementation continues. Prop F has been renamed internally Treatment Pathways Program. Westside Community Services is the nonprofit provider. They are currently hiring additional case managers and peer support workers. The SFHSA CAAP & Planning teams are working with Westside Community Services on CAAP policies and procedures in preparation for implementation in the new year.

## **FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES (FCS)**

Last Friday was the annual adoption event and the 25th anniversary of Court Adoption and Permanency Month in California. Nine children and their families along with SFHSA social workers, court officials, and other dignitaries including Commissioner Kahn attended a celebration and luncheon in the rotunda of the Unified Family Court. Executive Rhorer provided some relevant data points: over the last 18 years, the court has signed almost 1900 adoption orders in San Francisco. The low was during COVID in 2020 with only 45 adoptions, and the high was in 2007 with 153 children adopted. The annual average is 85. This year, there have been 72 adoptions so far.

Executive Director closed his report with the announcement that a former manager of the year, Doris Barone, the Director of the Agency's Disaster Preparedness and Response, is transitioning to the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) for a very high-level position where she will be second in command for the City's disaster response. Over her five years with the Agency, she strengthened SFHSA's ability to lead and respond to mass care and food needs. In 2020, she coordinated the Agency's COVID response beginning in February and then was promoted to lead the citywide human services response across the COVID landscape. Executive Director Rhorer wanted to thank Doris publicly and recognize her for a job well done.

President Kahn commented that the National Adoption Day event was truly heartwarming. Seeing the new families along with the many families that have adopted in the past return to celebrate... "it was really, really wonderful. Thank you for putting on the event."

President Kahn's call for public comment related to the Executive Director's Report yielded no responses.

## **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH**

President Kahn presented Miguel Campos, Senior HR Analyst, HSA Talent Acquisition, Assessments, and Classification, with the November 2024 Employee of the Month award, an engraved desk clock, which he graciously accepted with thanks to all.

CONSENT  
CALENDAR

President Kahn’s call for public comment related to the consent calendar yielded no responses.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the consent calendar, comprising actions taken by the Executive Director since the October 24, 2024 Regular Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of November 21, 2024:

1. Submission of request to encumber funds in the total amount of \$3,730,595 for purchase of services or supplies and contingency amounts.
2. Submission of 5 temporary positions for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 10/19/24 to 11/15/24.
3. Submission of 30 temporary appointments for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 10/19/24 to 11/15/24.

*COMMISSION BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS*

MISSION ACTION  
(formerly DOLORES  
STREET  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICES)

Tommy McClain, Program Analyst, presented the request to modify the existing grant agreement with MISSION ACTION (formerly DOLORES STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES).

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

After commenting that she appreciated the description of the food, Commissioner Coghlan McDonald moved for a motion, which was seconded and unanimously carried; the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with MISSION ACTION (formerly DOLORES STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES) for the provision of The Little Market; for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$781,344, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$8,215,358.

MULTIPLE  
GRANTEES  
(BAYANIHAN EQUITY  
CENTER, BOOKER T.  
WASHINGTON  
COMMUNITY  
SERVICES, CURRY  
SENIOR CENTER,  
FARMING HOPE,  
THE RICHMOND  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
CENTER)

Tommy McClain, Program Analyst, presented the request to modify the existing grant agreements with MULTIPLE GRANTEES (BAYANIHAN EQUITY CENTER, BOOKER T. WASHINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES, CURRY SENIOR CENTER, FARMING HOPE, THE RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER) in Cathy Huang’s stead.

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

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with BAYANIHAN EQUITY CENTER for the provision of community-centered grocery access; for the period of July 1, 2024 through

June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$163,030, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$992,762.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with BOOKER T. WASHINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICES for the provision of community-centered grocery access; for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$526,934, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$2,462,690.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with CURRY SENIOR CENTER for the provision of community-centered grocery access; for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$115,103, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$788,862.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with FARMING HOPE for the provision of community-centered grocery access; for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$88,377, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$529,045.

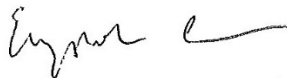
On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with THE RICHMOND NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER for the provision of community-centered grocery access; for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$78,575, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$1,003,241.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

President Kahn adjourned the meeting at 10:26am.



Elizabeth LaBarre  
Commission Secretary  
Human Services Commission

Posted: 12/5/24