

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
M I N U T E S
January 24, 2019 Regular Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, January 24, 2019 in the Ronald H. Born Auditorium at 170 Otis Street, San Francisco.

- MEMBERS PRESENT SCOTT KAHN, President
 JAMES MCCRAY, JR., Vice President
 GEORGE YAMASAKI, JR.
 RITA SEMEL
- OTHERS PRESENT Trent Rhorer, Executive Director, Human Services Agency
 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 9:35 a.m., noting that all four Commission members were present.
- AGENDA On motion of Commissioner McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the agenda as posted.
- MINUTES On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the minutes of the December 20, 2018 Regular Meeting as circulated.
- EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S REPORT Executive Director Trent Rhorer furnished an update regarding federal, state, and local activities.

FEDERAL UPDATES

Executive Director Rhorer began his update congratulating Commissioner Yamasaki for his appointment to another four-year term. Then Mr. Rhorer gave an overview of the impact of the Federal government shutdown on Department of Human Services programs. At this point, the only program impacted is CalFresh (known as SNAP at the Federal level). There are other programs funded through the USDA Budget such as WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) which we do not administer. SNAP has been funded through February. The USDA Budget has not been passed. USDA programs have been relying on Continuing Resolution for funding, but that ended January 20. Anticipating this end of funding, February CalFresh benefits were made available early. Good news is that clients will receive February CalFresh benefits. The downside is that those benefits are available early so budgeting for food for the month can be more difficult. To get a sense of the scope of this issue, 33,000 SF households receive CalFresh benefits with a cost of about \$6.6M. Statewide we are looking at \$500-\$550M in CalFresh benefits. If the shutdown continues past February, could the state cover the cost. In response to the CalFresh early issuance, HSA deployed direct notifications to clients, community partners and local media outlets including flyers at service centers, text message and social media posts. Our Social Media post alerting CalFresh clients that their February benefits were being issued early was featured in Newsweek. There is a subset of clients, about 6,000 in total, who did not receive the early issuance of CalFresh benefits because they had a renewal report due in January that had not yet been processed or they applied in January and benefits were not authorized by the early issuance date (January 16). Our hope is that all of these clients will get their February benefits in early February, but that is contingent on the availability of sufficient federal reserve funds, which has not yet been confirmed.

All of our programs are authorized by Federal legislation except for CAAP. However, currently, none of our other programs are impacted by the shutdown. TANF should not be impacted by the shutdown as costs are currently paid out through March 30. Medi-Cal, child welfare and Child Care Development Block Grant are not impacted by the shutdown.

The Mayor's Office and Supervisors Matt Haney and Vallie Brown are meeting today to look at the food situation for furloughed federal workers and determine how the City can help.

S T A T E UPDATES

Our new governor was inaugurated earlier this month. He has kept his campaign promises to child welfare and families in the January budget proposal; he proposed various initiatives that provide counties with direct funding. The largest proposal is to reverse the funding shift in IHSS during Governor Brown's tenure which, at the time, had an enormous fiscal impact on the City whereby SF's IHSS budget swelled from \$10M to ~\$30M. In fiscal year 2019-2020, we will save \$11.25M with this change. That savings will increase year over year so that in fiscal year 2020-2021 we are looking at a \$20M savings. Another initiative often mentioned by the governor is child poverty. California has the highest child poverty rate in the country at 22%. One program that directly addresses this issue is CalWORKs. Governor Newsom proposes increasing CalWORKs grant levels by 13% by October of this year. The goal is to raise all grant levels to 50% of the federal poverty level meaning all children in California will be out of deep poverty. A family of 3 currently receives \$714/month. After the grant increase, they will receive \$887/month. Because of how the local ordinance is written for our county assistance program, when there is an increase in CalWORKs grants, then there is also an increase for CAAP clients. Current CAAP benefits are \$473/month. They will increase to \$588/month. This will have a significant impact on our budget, though a large portion will probably be funded by the Mayor's Office. This is good news in terms of public assistance grants. Other proposals include expanding Medi-Cal benefits up to age 25 for undocumented residents of California and offering low- and middle-income Californians at 400-600% federal poverty level to qualify for Covered California benefits.

Other State budget proposal updates include significant increases to the Earned Income Tax Credit and Whole Person Care (WPC) homelessness programs (\$100M targeted for housing support, \$500M for shelters and navigation centers statewide, and \$1.3B for housing production) and continued funding for Continuum of Care Reform (CCR) implementation (resource family recruitment and FURS (Family Urgent Response System)). FURS provides 24-7 support (hotline and mobile response) for foster youth and caregivers.

LOCAL

ERAF: The Education Augmentation Fund is made up of \$415M of excess revenue from property taxes returned to San Francisco from the State. The Mayor wants to use this money to jumpstart Proposition C—the November ballot measure that is currently held up in the courts—which includes funding for homelessness, behavioral health services and affordable housing projects. The Board of Supervisors want to use the money for other purposes including education and reducing SF's reliance on PG&E. This money distribution will be discussed in upcoming budget meetings at City Hall.

PROGRAMS

ESSS

JobsNOW! employment pilot program will include CalFresh, MAGI Medi-Cal and Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Housing Authority clients and individuals over the age of 60. MAGI Medi-Cal clients are eligible for Medi-Cal based on their modified adjusted gross income (MAGI). Currently, only CalFresh ABAWD (Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents) clients are able to participate in JobsNOW! This is a great way to provide more assistance and support to families with children.

SFBN - CalFresh & Medi-Cal

We obtained approval to hire 20 new Eligibility Workers and 3 Supervisors to assist with the SSI Cash Out Program beginning June 1. There are approximately 43,000 SSI clients in SF who may be eligible for CalFresh.

CAAP

We introduced an ordinance to the Board amending the Administrative Code to expand eligibility for assistance under the Personal Assistance Employment Services (PAES) Program, the Cash Assistance Linked to Medi-Cal (CALM) Program, and the Supplemental Security Income Pending (SSIP) Program, to adults who are ineligible for assistance under the CalWORKs Program due to the lifetime limit on the receipt of assistance, and whose children are no longer minors, or are no longer under the care and control of the adult.

Starting next month, CAAP is launching a public facing online intake. For the first time, clients and CBOs assisting clients can apply for CAAP services online. It is the same system as applying for CalWorks, CalFresh and Medi-Cal. A client will be able to complete the majority of the CAAP application online. Once submitted, CAAP workers will call the applicant and do a phone interview to determine eligibility, finish the application, and set up an in-person appointment. This in-person appointment will include completing the employability rating screening as well as dropping off any proof of residency or income.

ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE

170 Otis Street has been one of HSA's primary locations for more than 40 years. Over those years, seismic standards for buildings have changed. To meet current standards, the Department of Public Works (DPW) has recommended seismic bracing that would require staff to be out of the building for a number of years.

Given the disruption to our operations that would result from the seismic bracing, we are using this as an opportunity to reevaluate how well 170 Otis Street is currently meeting the needs of our clients. Do we split up departments within 170 Otis based on demand in certain neighborhoods. Do we try to find another space that is the same size. We are involving managers and staff from program, Planning, Facilities, Human Resources, and Health and Safety to brainstorm next steps. Trent extends an invitation to the Commission to participate in these conversations if interested.

The process to identify the best-suited facilities and locations for our administrative and client services will take time, as will securing spaces and preparing them for our occupancy. At this point, we believe the earliest potential move date would be in 2021.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (FCS)

The new FCS Deputy Director, Joan Miller, will begin on January 28. You will be able to meet her at the next Commission meeting in February.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

President Kahn announced STAR DARK, Clerk, Supply Room, as the January 2019 Employee of the Month. The Commission recognized Star for his many achievements including his invaluable work with the Help a Mother Out ("HAMO") diaper program and helpful, friendly customer service. Mr. Dark was awarded an engraved desk clock, which he graciously accepted with thanks to all. Guests present in support of Star included his daughter and a full auditorium of colleagues.

JIM CASEY BUILDING COMMUNITIES OF HOPE AWARD

President Kahn congratulated Trent Rhorer and Family & Children's Services staff for receiving the Jim Casey Building Communities of Hope Award for their leadership and work with the San Francisco Family Resource Center Initiative. Trent replied with a "thank you" and then described in more detail the award. Mr. Rhorer accepted the award on behalf of the Agency in Seattle alongside Safe & Sound's Katie Albright, Dr. Maria Su with the Department of Children, Youth and their Families, Ingrid Mezquita with First Five, Mayor Breed, former FCS Deputy Director Sylvia Deporto and other community members. [We] received the award because of our efforts going back 10 years to join forces—government agencies, nonprofits and other community members—to improve the quality of foster care in San Francisco. One of the outcomes of this collaboration was the creation of one department for contracts. We were recognized for outcomes as a result of the Family

Resource Center including a 60% reduction in substantiation of child abuse, significant decline in out-of-home placement, and higher functioning scores for families in crisis.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES PROPOSED BUDGET Finance and Administration Deputy Director Dan Kaplan presented on the process for the development of the Department of Human Services' proposed budget for fiscal years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. No action was requested of the Commission at this time. Presentation of the final proposed budget to the Commission will occur at the February 13, 2018 Special Meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR On motion of Commissioner McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved and ratified actions taken by the Executive Director since the December 20, 2018 Regular Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of January 24, 2019:

1. Submission of requests to encumber funds in the total amount of \$210,000 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 of 12/5/18 to 1/11/19.
3. Submission of 63 temporary appointments made during the period of 12/5/18 to 1/11/19.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES Joseph Huang, Finance Director, presented the request to enter into a new contract agreement with CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS).

On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new contract agreement with CDSS to administer the 2011 Realignment Contract Special Account on behalf of the 58 counties of California.

DXC TECHNOLOGY SERVICES, LLC Bernadette Casino, IT CalWIN Manager, presented the request to modify the existing contract agreement with DXC TECHNOLOGY, LLC.


On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing contract agreement with DXC TECHNOLOGY, LLC to provide oversight and maintenance of the CalWIN System; during the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2020; for an additional amount of \$7,835,723, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$25,267,074.

HUNTER'S POINT FAMILY Andy Beetley-Hagler, Community Services Specialist, presented the request to enter into a new grant with HUNTER'S POINT FAMILY. Phil Ginsburg, General Manager, San Francisco Recreation and Parks, co-presented. The Commissioners asked what would be the SF Rec & Parks contribution, to which Mr. Ginsburg answered \$750,000. He continued that this a great example of one of the initiatives of the Mayor's Office—to encourage agencies to work together.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant with HUNTER'S POINT FAMILY to provide Park Restroom Monitor Program; during the period February 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022; in an amount of \$3,150,980, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$3,466,078.

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

ADJOURNMENT President Kahn adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.



Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Human Services Commission