

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

December 15, 2022 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, December 15, 2022 in person at the Born auditorium at 170 Otis Street, virtually via Zoom and telephonically pursuant to California Government Code Section 54953(e) and Mayor London Breed's 45th Supplement to the Mayoral Proclamation Declaring the Existence of a Local Emergency dated February 25, 2020.

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PERSON JAMES MCCRAY, JR., Vice President
RITA SEMEL
SALLY COGHLAN MCDONALD

MEMBERS PRESENT REMOTELY (VIA ZOOM) DARSHAN SINGH

MEMBERS PRESENT REMOTELY (VIA PHONE) SCOTT KAHN, President

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON Trent Rhorer, Executive Director
Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Dan Kaplan, Deputy Director – Finance & Administration
Susie Smith, Deputy Director – Policy, Planning & Public Affairs

ROLL CALL Vice President McCray called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. Commission Secretary Elizabeth LaBarre took roll, noting the presence of all commissioners (Commissioners McCray, Coghlan McDonald and Semel in person in the Born auditorium with Commissioner Singh attending virtually via Zoom and President Kahn attending via phone).

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

NOVEMBER 16, 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the minutes of the November 16, 2022 Regular Meeting as circulated.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT Executive Director Rhorer furnished an update regarding federal, state and local activities.

FEDERAL

Title 42, a COVID-related public health order enacted under the Trump Administration, will end soon. There are currently tens of thousands of refugees and asylees from predominantly Central and South America waiting at the border. The lifting of Title 42 would mean the border opens up again as is consistent with federal law. The Biden Administration initially supported the lifting of Title 42 but then flipped due to pressure from governors. The Biden Administration's position has again shifted, so Title 42 is due to be lifted on December 20 absent any court decision. The current district court assigned to the case is due to rule tomorrow. Should

it be lifted, the implications—certainly for Southern California and border states—are huge. Estimates range from 15,000 to 17,000 refugees seeking asylum per day. San Francisco will undoubtedly experience its effects, whether due to natural migration north, which is already happening, or buses sent by border-state governors. Executive Director Rhorer is part of a team of several department heads and the Mayor’s Office planning for the influx of refugees and asylees. The team discussed contingency plans for a massive shelter if there are too many arrivals to integrate into the existing system of support. The shelter would serve as a three to five day way station to provide services such as application assistance for legal refugee or asylee status, along with food and assistance connecting asylees to family/friends. Recent data from counties in Southern California shows that over 90% of refugees/asylees have family and/or friends in the US. If there is a “trickle” of about six families per day, the City will utilize the existing system of nonprofits, which are primarily located in the Mission and Outer Mission. They provide bilingual support for legal services and case management to assist their clients with navigating public benefits such as CalWORKs’ refugee cash assistance for families or CAAP for single adults, CalFresh, etc. Arriba Juntos, for example, is contracted through SFHSA for this case management work. The Mayor plans to convene this network of nonprofits to formalize the system and assign a lead agency.

Commissioner Semel recommended Catholic Charities, Episcopal Community Services and Jewish Family Services for coordination. Executive Director Rhorer noted that they are engaged with the City’s Office of Immigrant Affairs. Additionally, the faith community has been stepping up informally.

The lifting of Title 42 will most likely have a significant impact on the City’s social services and health systems.

Commissioner Coghlan McDonald asked where the mass shelter will be located, to which Executive Director Rhorer responded that the location has not been confirmed.

Vice President McCray asked about the nonprofit contracts and budget implications. Executive Director Rhorer noted that the aforementioned Arriba Juntos grant is not large (~\$50,000). The Mayor’s Office of Housing and Community Development (MOHCD) also funds contracts. The coalition of immigrant service providers has asked for increased resources, not for shelter but for more funding for staff: they need additional staff to do translation, low-level case management and legal support. The City is equipped financially to handle these one-time requests.

Commissioner Semel asked if the plan is to work with nonprofits that have existing City department relationships, to which Executive Director Rhorer replied in the affirmative. It is a matter of using the existing system with better coordination (there are a dozen nonprofits in the Mission serving this population) and providing a very clear path for a potentially large number of families and single adults. The plan is to be able to activate a shelter

within 12 hours. The City has done this before, for example during Hurricane Katrina when St. Mary's was converted into a shelter. The City very successfully collaborated with local nonprofits.

STATE

After two years of a robust state economy and record surpluses, the state is facing a projected \$25 billion deficit. The shortfall may be one time. The state Legislative Analyst's Office is not saying this is a recession; they view it as more of a blip and are recommending that the state not dip into reserve funds as those are set up for longer-term help. Instead, the state should look at potential one time, one- or two-year fixes rather than dipping into a reserve.

Commissioner Coghlan-McDonald asked if there will be any cuts. Executive Director Rhorer replied that the state has not mentioned the plan to cut programs though it may delay the implementation of certain initiatives such as the expansion of Medi-Cal for undocumented immigrants. This is a huge budget item—hundreds of millions of dollars—with all state money as the federal government will not participate. There are many programs in the state budget that have not rolled out yet that could be paused. The budget will be released in January.

The County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) finalized their agenda in December. A few highlights include: (1) a package of bills around meeting the needs of complex care for youth who are served in foster care. This is for foster youth who struggle with significant trauma in their lives, significant behavioral and mental health issues, and are often very difficult to place; they are sometimes ejected from placements due to behavior that cannot be controlled. CWDA is looking at different placement options with child-specific flexible funding that allows counties to do placements with significant wrap-around services. (2) Disaster response support that recognizes that county human services agencies throughout the state are the lead agencies for disaster response, particularly around sheltering, and that [we] do not get any state money for this role. Counties use eligibility workers, social workers and other existing staff to do the shelters and fund the operations, as was the case during COVID. Legislation would require the state to provide counties with funding for five full-time employees to do this work with ongoing, dedicated funding. Disaster response includes fires, refugee issues, etc., not just a health crisis like COVID. (3) State funding to increase diversity and workforce support in county human services programs. County human services agencies are struggling, like many other service sectors, to recruit and retain staff. SFHSA is at a 17% vacancy rate; other counties are at 23%. CWDA is working on establishing a career pathway for social services staff that would be a high school to college track, including perhaps apprenticeships. (4) Additional funding for counties' administration of CalFresh and Medi-Cal. CalFresh caseloads locally increased over 50% in the last two years. Medi-Cal administration needs more funding, particularly around the lifting of the public health emergency (PHE), which will require counties to resume annual recertifications. It is anticipated that the PHE will be lifted around June.

LOCAL

SFHSA was one of just seven organizations across the state, and one of two government agencies, to be selected to take part in the State Guaranteed Income (GI) Pilot Program. Our pilot program is for foster youth. SFHSA received \$3.3 million from the state and over \$1 million in philanthropic matches to provide 150 former foster youth with \$1,200 per month for 18 months with no strings attached. The evaluation is to determine the impact of a guaranteed income stream and how is it used: are there improvements in quality of life, housing stability, and educational outcomes?

Commissioner Coghlan McDonald asked if the qualifying age is 18. Executive Director Rhorer clarified that the starting age is 21, as foster youth are eligible for extended foster care until age 21. After age 21, they receive some case management support through the Agency's Independent Living Skills program. Executive Director Rhorer added a kudos to the team who put together the grant proposal. "It was really well done."

Vice President McCray asked if the project is connected with an educational entity for data analysis. Executive Director Rhorer responded that the Agency is partnering with an evaluator, Chapin Hall. In fact, the lead project investigator for the evaluation is a former Planning colleague. He then added benchmark figures for San Francisco: in February 2020 (pre-COVID), there were about 540 youth in foster care; 10 years ago there were about 1,620 and 20 years ago there were 2,526. [Family and Children's Services] continues to do great work to keep families intact through successful reunification efforts, adoption and guardianship. Keeping kids safe at home is the best outcome.

AGENCY

A recent press release from Mayor Breed's Office announced the launch of the City's Labor Apprenticeship program. It is the first of its kind, a state-certified initiative to provide skilled workers at multiple City agencies. Apprentices enrolled in the program will provide an array of services, such as Public Works park maintenance, while earning credentials to become state certified. The program is administered by the Department of Human Resources (DHR). SFHSA's Public Service Trainee Program under JobsNOW! will be a pathway to this program. This is one way to get individuals who are on public assistance into supported employment through SFHSA, and then into a permanent job through the Apprenticeship program.

COMMUNICATIONS

The communications team is promoting the Museums For All program over the next 4 weeks to coincide with winter break for children in school and their families. Museums For All is a program SFHSA started, in partnership with local museums, to provide free admission for families who are on public benefits. Most San Francisco museums participate. Museumgoers

show their EBT card or Medi-Cal card to get the free admission. This is one way the Agency can provide cultural richness to families that otherwise might not be able to access it simply due to income.

ADMIN/FINANCE

Finance

Celia Pedroza has been appointed as the Agency's new Budget Director, replacing Emily Gibbs. Celia has been acting since Emily left. Before that, Celia worked for five years as the Agency's fiscal forecasting manager, leading the work needed to assess the Agency's financial position and forecast revenues. Earlier in her career, Celia worked as both a senior and principal analyst on the budget team, and, in the latter role, managed the process of developing the Agency's annual budget. Executive Director Rhorer expressed how grateful and happy he is that Celia accepted the appointment to this very important role.

ESSS

Medi-Cal

As mentioned last month, Senate Bill 184, which extends the suspension of Medi-Cal benefits for adult inmates for the duration of their incarceration, goes into effect January 1, 2023. Medi-Cal benefits resume once incarcerated individuals are released from jail/prison so they do not have to reapply. This is a way to ensure continuity of healthcare benefits/insurance upon release.

CalFresh

The state received a three-month extension from the federal government to continue waiving interviews and telephonic signatures for CalFresh eligibility. The waivers, which will continue as long as the PHE remains in place, allow for easier access to CalFresh benefits. This is one reason why our caseload has increased so much.

The state visited the CalFresh team for the CalFresh management evaluation. The state reviews the Agency's processes and requires a program improvement plan for any shortcomings. One part of their report noted that, "As of the April to June 2022 quarter, the county's timeliness for application processing for three days was 97%, and thirty days was 93.5%. Despite a caseload increase of 50%, San Francisco County continues to maintain their timeliness above 90%." This means we are meeting the state-mandated timeframes. Given the huge increase in caseload and no proportional increase in staffing, this report speaks to the great work by the SFBN team. Kudos, team!

Two SFBN outstations have recently reopened: (1) the adult probation facility, CASC, on 6th Street that serves ex-offenders and justice-involved individuals, and (2) the Chinese Newcomers Service Center in Chinatown primarily serving Chinese immigrants. These outstations are a way for the Agency to reach populations that may not access benefits if this convenient option is not available.

CAAP

The combined functions launch date in CAAP was December 12. This means that staff are now trained in both the intake & case carrying functions. This allows for better coverage and more equity. The intake function concerns the front-end application process and the case carrying function manages ongoing CAAP recipients. Combining the functions improves customer service. Clients calling CAAP receive more immediate assistance without having to go through multiple prompts. More staff are available in person at the service counter. Concrete roles have been established for supervisors including more structured and consistent supervision of the phone system and service counter. CAAP created a central email for all electronic communication for questions and document submissions. CAAP is now aligned with SFBN.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES (FCS)

As a result of years of collaboration with BIPOC community providers and to increase transparency in the child welfare system, FCS developed a public-facing dashboard as a way for the public and community providers to track what is going on in foster care. The dashboard will also help staff determine areas of focus and track progress. The dashboard includes the number of children in foster care, where they are placed, their age, how long they have been in care, the ethnic makeup of the children, etc. Advocacy groups and community agencies can hold FCS accountable to goals and objectives based on their review of the dashboard. For example, the dashboard reveals the disproportionate number of African American youth in foster care: about 45% of San Francisco children in foster care are African American. While the figure has dropped 20% from five years ago, it is still too high and disproportionate compared to the number of African American kids in the city. The data helps FCS determine where to focus efforts. The dashboard will be posted on the SFHSA website.

MANAGER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Vice President McCray announced Cindy Lin, Food Access Manager, as the 2022 Manager of the Year. She was awarded an engraved desk clock, which she graciously accepted with thanks to the Commissioners, Executive Director Rhorer, her husband on Zoom and her colleagues on the Food Access Team.

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 November 16, 2022 Regular Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of December 15, 2022:

1. Submission of request to encumber funds in the total amount of \$6,341,593 for purchase of services or supplies and contingency amounts.
2. Submission of 2 temporary positions for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 11/11/22 to 12/9/22.
3. Submission of 30 temporary appointments for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 11/11/22 to 12/9/22.

COMMISSION
TELECONFERENCED
MEETINGS
RESOLUTION

Vice President McCray presented the request to approve the resolution making findings to allow teleconferenced meetings with some members possibly appearing remotely under California government code section 54953(e).

RESOLUTION MAKING FINDINGS TO ALLOW TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS UNDER CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54953(e)
WHEREAS, California Government Code Section 54953(e) empowers local policy bodies to convene by teleconferencing technology during a proclaimed state of emergency under the State Emergency Services Act so long as certain conditions are met; and
WHEREAS, In March, 2020, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a state of emergency in California in connection with the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19”) pandemic, and that state of emergency remains in effect; and
WHEREAS, In February 25, 2020, the Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco (the “City”) declared a local emergency, and on March 6, 2020 the City’s Health Officer declared a local health emergency, and both those declarations also remain in effect; and
WHEREAS, On March 11 and March 23, 2020, the Mayor issued emergency orders suspending select provisions of local law, including sections of the City Charter, that restrict teleconferencing by members of policy bodies; and
WHEREAS, On September 16, 2021, the Governor signed AB 361, a bill that amends the Brown Act to allow local policy bodies to continue to meet by teleconferencing during a state of emergency without complying with restrictions in State law that would otherwise apply, provided that the policy bodies make certain findings at least once every 30 days; and
WHEREAS, While federal, State, and local health officials emphasize the critical importance of vaccination and consistent mask-wearing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the City’s Health Officer has issued at least one order (Health Officer Order No. C19-07y, available online at www.sfdph.org/healthorders) and one directive (Health Officer Directive No. 2020-33i, available online at www.sfdph.org/directives) that continue to recommend measures to promote physical distancing and other social distancing measures, such as masking, in certain contexts; and
WHEREAS, The California Department of Industrial Relations Division of Occupational Safety and Health (“Cal/OSHA”) has promulgated Section 3205 of Title 8 of the California Code of Regulations, which requires most employers in California, including in the City, to train and instruct employees about measures that can decrease the spread of COVID-19, including physical distancing and other social distancing measures; and
WHEREAS, Without limiting any requirements under applicable federal, state, or local pandemic-related rules, orders, or directives, the City’s Department of Public Health, in coordination with the City’s Health Officer, has advised that for group gatherings indoors, such as meetings of boards and commissions, people can increase safety and greatly reduce risks to the health and safety of attendees from COVID-19 by maximizing

ventilation, wearing well-fitting masks (as required by Health Officer Order No. C19-07), using physical distancing where the vaccination status of attendees is not known, and considering holding the meeting remotely if feasible, especially for long meetings, with any attendees with unknown vaccination status and where ventilation may not be optimal; and WHEREAS, Consistent with the Mayor's orders and State law, the Human Services Commission met remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic through March 6, 2022; and WHEREAS, On February 10, 2022, the Mayor issued an emergency order that (1) requires decision-making boards and commissions established in the Charter (with the exception of the Board of Supervisors) to hold meetings in person at a physical location where members of the public may attend and provide comment, (2) allows members of those boards and commissions to participate remotely in the in-person meetings for COVID-related health reasons, (3) allows but does not require subcommittees of those boards and commissions to meet in person at a physical location where members of the public may attend and provide comment, and (4) prohibits all other policy bodies (with the exception of the Board of Supervisors and its committees) from meeting in person under any circumstances, with limited exceptions; and WHEREAS, the Human Services Commission began meeting in person consistent with the Mayor's February 10, 2022 order, allowing members to participate by video from a separate location for COVID-related health reasons and providing members of the public an opportunity to observe and provide public comment either in person or remotely; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Human Services Commission finds as follows:

1. As described above, the State of California and the City remain in a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At this meeting, the Human Services Commission has considered the circumstances of the state of emergency.
2. As described above, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, conducting meetings of this body in person without allowing certain members of this body to attend remotely would present imminent risks to the health or safety of certain attendees due to COVID-19, and the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of those members to meet safely in person; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That for at least the next 30 days the Human Services Commission will hold in-person meetings, with some members possibly appearing remotely. All meetings of the Human Services Commission will provide an opportunity for members of the public to address this body and will otherwise occur in a manner that protects the statutory and constitutional rights of parties and the members of the public attending the meeting via teleconferencing; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Commission Secretary of the Human Services Commission is directed to place a resolution substantially similar to this resolution on the agenda of a future meeting of the Human Services Commission within the next 30 days. If the Human Services Commission does not meet within the next 30 days, the Commission Secretary is

directed to place such a resolution on the agenda of the next meeting of the Human Services Commission.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the resolution making findings to allow teleconferenced meetings with some members possibly appearing remotely under California government code section 54953(e).

ARRIBA JUNTOS

Marlén Sánchez, Community Services Program Specialist, presented the request for authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with ARRIBA JUNTOS.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with ARRIBA JUNTOS for the provision of Digital Services Program (DSP) services; during the period of January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$1,091,200 plus a 10% contingency for a total revised grant amount not to exceed \$1,617,715.

SAN FRANCISCO-MARIN FOOD BANK (SFMFB)

Cindy Lin, Food Access Manager, presented the request for authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with SAN FRANCISCO-MARIN FOOD BANK (SFMFB).

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with SAN FRANCISCO-MARIN FOOD BANK (SFMFB) for the provision of grocery distribution to San Franciscans throughout the City, focusing on high-need neighborhoods; for the period of February 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023; in the additional amount of \$4,090,000 plus a 10% contingency for a total revised grant amount not to exceed \$11,228,328.

GLIDE FOUNDATION (GLIDE)

Cindy Lin, Food Access Manager, presented the request for authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with GLIDE FOUNDATION (GLIDE).

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with GLIDE FOUNDATION (GLIDE) for the provision of food and supplies to provide meals; for the period of January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$3,949,232 plus a 10% contingency for a total revised grant amount not to exceed \$12,055,383.

FARMING HOPE, HOMEY, LA RAZA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER, TENDERLOIN NEIGHBORHOOD

Cindy Lin, Food Access Manager, presented the request for authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with MULTIPLE PROVIDERS (FARMING HOPE, HOMEY, LA RAZA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER, TENDERLOIN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO/EATSF).

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO/EATSF

Grantee	Current	Modification	Revised Total	10% Contingency	Total Not to Exceed
Farming Hope	\$387,000	\$130,000	\$517,000	\$51,700	\$568,700
HOMEY	\$2,835,714	\$890,000	\$3,725,714	\$372,571	\$4,098,285
La Raza Community Resource Center	\$954,143	\$300,000	\$1,254,143	\$125,414	\$1,379,557
Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation	\$567,143	\$192,000	\$759,143	\$75,914	\$835,057
University of California, San Francisco/EatSF	\$2,942,514	\$1,500,000	\$4,442,514	\$444,251	\$4,886,765
Total	\$7,686,514	\$3,012,000	\$10,698,514	\$1,069,850	\$11,768,364

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 Community Grocery Access program; for the period of February 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023; in the additional amount of \$130,000 plus a 10% contingency for a total revised grant amount not to exceed \$568,700.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with HOMEY for the Community Grocery Access program; for the period of February 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023; in the additional amount of \$890,000 plus a 10% contingency for a total revised grant amount not to exceed \$4,098,285.

Vice President McCray’s request for public comment related to the grant modification for LA RAZA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER for the Community Grocery Access program resulted in 12 in-person commentators:

1. Olivia Glowacki, representing The Women’s Building, introduced herself to the Commissioners, “I am Olivia Glowacki and I work at the Women’s Building. For the past couple of months I've been helping out at our food pantry and I've seen the hundreds of people who enter our doors weekly, most of them are immigrants from the Latino community, single moms, and all of them are struggling with hunger. We respectfully ask you to approve the increase in funding as our community would be devastated to lose our distribution at the women’s center. Many of our food pantry clients benefit from our abundant, in-house services as well, be that job search calls, filling out housing applications on DALIA, or getting help with technology as the digital divide is still very real in our community. Our food pantry is a crucial service. We provide fresh produce as well as culturally appropriate food. Please help us continue to put food on the table for our community. Thank you.”
2. Kristen Acoste, representing The Women’s Building, “Good morning, Commissioners. I would like to thank you for your time today, I'd also like to thank Cindy Lin for all her work she's been doing for

food access. I am here on behalf of The Women's Building community and a partnership with both the SF-Marin Food Bank and La Raza CRC. As an organization that serves and works alongside those who identify as women, many who are immigrants, mothers, and domestic and service workers, that were most impacted by the pandemic, we've been able to see firsthand the impact that our food distributions, and those in the area, have had. The effects of the pandemic, rising cost of food, housing insecurity, and the long-standing inequities in the City make food distribution like ours a crucial resource for our communities to provide for themselves and their families. We thank HSA for the current investment, and we also ask that the safety net programs around necessities, such as food, continue to be prioritized and increase in the upcoming budget. Thank you again, for your time."

3. Mercedes Martinez representing The Women's Building, with a translator from Spanish to English. "Thank you for the program, it is very important to me. It is important for my home to be receiving this support. A big thank you for everything."
4. Gabriel Medina, CEO of La Raza Community Resource Center, "I'm Gabriel, La Raza Community Resource Center Executive Director. We are 2 blocks from this office. So you'll see many of our staff here that are grateful to be here and thankful for your service. I want to thank Cindy, Jennifer who we work with, and also Tommy our grant manager for working with us, and their patience and perseverance, we really appreciate that. La Raza Community Resource Center is a 52-year-old institution, and we've had a food pantry in the Mission for more than 30 years. Longer than we ever actually know right now [sic]. We started with 150 people, connecting them with our family resource center and services and case management and during the pandemic we've tripled to 450 families each week. Together, working with The Women's Building, 18 Reasons, Mission Graduates, we basically have served, thanks to this grant, 50,000 families and this extension will allow us to get that extra 8,000 [sic]. So it has also allowed us to hire full-time staff because this is real work and this work has been really essential. Inflation skyrocketed 15% and the immigrant families that we serve have been most affected by COVID and so really grateful for this grant and please extend it, and also want to thank the SF-Marin Food Bank for their partnership. This has allowed us to give quality bags that can help families endure the struggle through the pandemic. And you are going to hear from our pantry leaders, our pantry coordinator. [We are] very proud we've hired from the community and you're going to see that we are proud of our staff, and thank you, all."
5. Bahlam J. Vigil, representing La Raza CRC. "I am the program assistant for La Raza CRC. Thank you for having this meeting today. I'm just here to ask for support for the extension of the grant and the modifications. You know, I handle our numbers. I work very closely with our partners, and with Tommy and reporting our reports. I've really seen firsthand the increasing need throughout

this year, especially with inflation as we get out of the pandemic, that has really exacerbated a lot of the inequalities that our vulnerable communities already face day in and day out before this pandemic became a lot more exacerbated and there's a heightened need for food access. And so I'm here to support that. We've been getting families, elders, we've been getting people from all over the City who really are in dire need of access to food. Increasing this modification, extending it would really enable us to continue to serve them, and to continue providing them some level of food security and stability for them and their families, and so they can continue living in such a beautiful city. It's a very expensive city for us to live in, which really can worsen the issue for a lot of them. To be able to stay in the city and work in the city and contribute to the beautiful life that we're all able to experience here in the City of San Francisco. I was born and raised here. My family has volunteered for years at food pantries and I have seen throughout the years that there is an increasing need for access to this food pantry so thank you. I hope that you're able to support the modifications. Thank you."

6. Carmen Callejas, representing La Raza CRC with Zabrina Olivares translating from Spanish to English. "My name is Carmen Callejas, the Food Pantry Coordinator. Thank you for taking the time to listen to us. Thank you to Cindy, and congratulations on her award, and thank you to Tommy for everything you do. We are here to [let you] know that this is a very needed source. It breaks our hearts when families come to the food pantry after we have run out and we can't help them. Currently we are able to pay [sic] 450 families. It breaks my heart when families come back for food and we can't help them. This is why we're here, to please increase our grant. It is very disheartening when families come to our door and we have to tell them we have no more food. Thank you."

Vice President McCray thanked Carmen for coming and sharing her needs.

7. Eustaquia Cavich representing La Raza CRC with Zabrina translating from Spanish to English. "I am here today to ask for your assistance with the food pantry. A lot of families we serve are people who just came to the US, single mothers, and mothers escaping domestic violence and/or surviving domestic violence. So it is very important that you help us with this food pantry, it is providing food for a lot of families. It has been very difficult for a lot of these women to get stabilized income. It would really help us a lot. We look forward to you assisting us with this and thank you for having me."
8. Magalp(sp?) Duerevalu, representing La Raza CRC, with Bahlam translating from Spanish to English. "I also work at the food pantry and help Carmen. I share the sentiment and sadness with Carmen. I help manage the line and sign people in and I see families wait for hours on end and then I have to tell them that we have run out of food and I have to turn them away, so I share that sentiment. I am

very grateful for all the support and the funds we've received. Please continue giving us an increase in our funding.”

9. Eve Ramos representing La Raza CRC with Bahlam translating from Spanish to English. “I volunteer at the food pantry. My husband lost his job. Not only am I helping families get food but I was also able to take food for my family during COVID. Unfortunately, a lot of families who helped at the food pantry lost their jobs. It was sad to see that occurring in our community. It is sad that we don't have enough food for all of the families. This [grant modification] will help not only the parents but the kids. Thank you.”
10. Cristina Ortiz representing La Raza CRC with Zabrina translating from Spanish to English. “My name is Christina, I am also a volunteer at the food pantry. It is sad to turn to a family, not giving them meals and having to turn them away. It's been really hard emotionally to deal with that. We're asking you to please listen to your hearts when deciding on this decision. We are reaching out to a lot of the families who don't really have any other resources, and we're a really trusted meeting center in our community. They come to us for help, and it's really hard for us to turn them away because we have nothing left to give. Thank you.”
11. Carolina Mironda representing La Raza CRC with Zabrina translating from Spanish to English. “Hello, I am a volunteer at the food pantry and a recipient of the food. I am a mom with two daughters and I am very grateful. I am very grateful for this period that the food pantry has been able to provide me food. Because of the help that I have received from the food pantry, my children have been able to get ahead and one is currently a social worker and the other daughter is in university. My reason for continuing volunteering even though I am doing all right, I've been there 16 years, is that I see so much need. I see other women like me, other single moms. What I have received has made it possible for me to advance my kids to go to school and this help has been really beneficial. I see all these women are, in a sense, stuck in these jobs and the salaries that they're being paid are not enough for them to cover for their expenses, especially with the school, and everything's just getting more expensive. So all this is just really helping a lot of these families and getting that benefit and moving them ahead and helping their families. And this is helping because it's also letting us give that time back to our families. Having this extra food we don't have to work that much harder or more time. We can actually spend that time with our families and have that extra food support. So that's why I'm asking for more help to continue helping in this community.”
12. Zabrina Olivares representing La Raza CRC. “I am new to La Raza but I have seen, definitely, not only are a lot of these women here [working at La Raza] but they've also volunteered in the past and have been recipients and they want to give back. We see the need and we see the desire to help and the heartbreak to turn so many families away rather than, you know, having to cut our list to, say, 450, we want to increase more and to help more of the community.”

We see the need. I just want to keep reiterating the importance of increasing the funds. Thank you.”

Vice President McCray thanked the staff and leadership of La Raza CRC, and all of those who came to speak today. He noted to the public comment presenters that their comments are on the record permanently so, “... it keeps echoing beyond your just coming down here.”

Commissioner Coghlan McDonald added that, as commissioners, they are insulated from the realities of these programs, and they rely on staff to keep them informed, and they do a wonderful job, but it is very moving and satisfying to hear from you on the front lines, both working in and benefiting from these programs. Commissioner Semel concurred.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with LA RAZA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER for the Community Grocery Access program; for the period of February 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023; in the additional amount of \$300,000 plus a 10% contingency for a total revised grant amount not to exceed \$1,379,557.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with TENDERLOIN NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION for the Community Grocery Access program; for the period of February 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023; in the additional amount of \$192,000 plus a 10% contingency for a total revised grant amount not to exceed \$835,057.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO/EATSF for the Community Grocery Access program; for the period of February 1, 2023 through June 30, 2023; in the additional amount of \$1,500,000 plus a 10% contingency for a total revised grant amount not to exceed \$4,886,765.

PUBLIC
CONSULTING
GROUP, LLC

Christine Chen, Program Specialist, presented the request for authorization to enter into a new contract agreement with PUBLIC CONSULTING GROUP, LLC (PCG).

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new contract agreement with PUBLIC CONSULTING GROUP, LLC for the provision of consulting services for CalWORKs Outcomes and Accountability Review; for the period of January 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the amount of \$177,177 plus a 10% contingency for a total contract amount not to exceed \$194,895.

CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES
(CDSS)

Craig Lahti, Acting Administrative Manager, requested authorization to enter into a (no cost) agreement with CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS).

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a (no cost) agreement with CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS) to provide confidential EDD data for the purposes of program evaluation.

GENERAL PUBLIC
COMMENT

Vice President McCray's call for public comment yielded no responses.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President McCray adjourned the meeting at 11:16 am.



Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Human Services Commission

Posted: