

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

November 16, 2022 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Wednesday, November 16, 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 SCOTT KAHN, President
JAMES MCCRAY, JR., Vice President
SALLY COGHLAN MCDONALD

MEMBERS PRESENT REMOTELY (VIA ZOOM) DARSHAN SINGH

MEMBERS ABSENT RITA SEMEL (Excused)

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON Trent Rhorer, Executive Director
Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Dan Kaplan, Deputy Director – Finance & Administration
Anna Pineda, Deputy Director – Economic Support & Self-Sufficiency

ROLL CALL President Kahn called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.
Commission Secretary Elizabeth LaBarre took roll, noting the presence of Commissioners Kahn, McCray and Coghlan McDonald in person in the Born auditorium with Commissioner Singh attending virtually via Zoom.
Commissioner Semel had an excused absence.

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

OCTOBER 27, 2022 MEETING MINUTES On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the minutes of the October 27, 2022 Regular Meeting as circulated.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT Executive Director Rhorer began his report by thanking staff and the Commissioners for accommodating the change in meeting days and wishing Commissioner Semel a happy 101st birthday, joking that her absence must be related to too much celebrating. He then furnished an update regarding federal, state and local activities.

FEDERAL

Though not officially announced, the public health emergency (PHE) will be extended beyond January 11, 2023 to spring. The winter COVID surge, the flu and RSV are contributing to the need for an extension. The implications for SFHSA are the continuation of Medi-Cal and CalFresh waivers, and in particular the Medi-Cal redeterminations, which will be required once the PHE ends.

STATE

The County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) is in the process of finalizing its legislative and budget agenda for 2023. Executive Director Rhorer will present the agenda to the Commission during the January meeting.

The state and local fiscal outlook is not great based on revenue projections for this year. The state general fund revenue collections in current year are down 11%, largely due to lower personal income tax. Sales tax growth is flat. The implications for SFHSA are two of our state funding streams, the 1991 and 2011 Realignment allocations, come from sales taxes so the increases we received in past years are not likely to materialize in the coming year. Later today, the Governor's Budget Office is going to release updated numbers and announce a current year deficit. A deficit will require state legislative action in January. This is the budget that was passed in July and rolls through the end of June 2023. There is a fairly significant reserve at the state level (\$19+ billion), which will hopefully absorb the revenue deficit.

LOCAL

The Mayor will release budget instructions for departments in early December. A low occupancy rate in downtown (~40%) and tech layoffs are concerning. Executive Director Rhorer predicts that if not a flat budget, the Agency will be asked to propose reductions for next year. The Agency has a strong state and federal revenue base so it is often able to account for losses in general fund. However, given the problems at the state level this may not be as easy to do this year. The executive director will provide updates in January.

From the recent local election, Prop 8 in particular affects Executive Director Rhorer and the Commissioners as they are Mayoral appointees. Prop 8 passed, so the timing of city elections will change, including the mayoral election, to coincide with the national presidential election cycle. Therefore, instead of a November 2023 mayoral election, it will be in November 2024, meaning Mayor Breed serves an extra year in her first term.

The Mayor's annual Turkey Giveaway event is November 22 in the afternoon. President Kahn and Executive Director Rhorer will be distributing turkeys with the Mayor to two public housing sites. This event is part of the distribution of turkeys to 150 sites in the City, beginning today through November 22. As the Commissioners may recall from last month's meeting, they approved the grant for the A. Philip Randolph Institute of San Francisco (APRI) to distribute turkeys in partnership with the Mayor's Office and the Housing Authority. There are two volunteer days for anyone interested in packing food for distribution. For more information, contact the commission secretary. Neither the SFHSA communications team nor the Mayor's Office will distribute a press release because the event is an opportunity for city government to connect with the community without fanfare.

Agency

Executive Director Rhorer addressed the safety issues from the October meeting's public comment. He thanked the Commissioners for their letter to the Mayor citing their concerns. Executive Director Rhorer then listed progress updates to security and safety in the 1235 Mission lobby and the surrounding neighborhood. The Agency is in the process of negotiating a contract with Urban Alchemy to expand their current street ambassador services to include the area around 1235 Mission. Many changes to in-house security have been implemented and include: more frequent trainings, an enhanced presence at the entrance of the building (from two to three guards), reinforcing the policy that clients will not enter the lobby until the source of the beep from the metal detector is found, more frequent lobby rounds, and enforcement of a loitering policy that includes referrals to the local drop-in center. Executive Director Rhorer and the deputy directors communicate more regularly with staff and receive daily updates from the investigations team.

ESSS

Medi-Cal

The PHE extension greatly impacts Medi-Cal recipients and our team. Over 215,000 San Franciscans (over 100,000 households) are on Medi-Cal; our staff will need to redetermine their eligibility once the PHE ends, which is a huge lift.

Senate Bill 184, effective January 1, extends the suspension of Medi-Cal benefits for incarcerated adults. Adults on Medi-Cal who are incarcerated are able to suspend, instead of lose, their coverage. This helps ease re-entry barriers for low-income inmates.

Medi-Cal members can now fill prescriptions at one of Costco's 122 pharmacy locations. With the Costco agreement, there are almost 6,500 pharmacy locations available to Medi-Cal enrollees statewide. This was a huge barrier three years ago for Medi-Cal recipients attempting to fill prescriptions. Costco is a great addition to the state's pharmacy-partner contracts.

CalFresh

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) received approval from the federal government to waive ABAWD (able-bodied adults without dependents) work requirements for certain CalFresh recipients through September 2024. Executive Director Rhorer reminded the Commissioners of the ABAWD CalFresh requirements: Adults aged 18-49 and able-bodied need to work or volunteer for a certain number of hours per week in order to receive benefits. SFHSA does not believe that nutrition benefits should be tied to work requirements and the state agrees.

CAAP

CAAP has been providing unhoused clients guaranteed shelter along with a reduced grant since August 1. As of November 9, half of CAAP clients (586)

receive the full grant and the other half receive a shelter bed with a reduced grant. A full conversion to the Care not Cash package (a pathway to housing and food support instead of a full cash grant) is anticipated by the end of January.

FAMILY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES (FCS)

Due to concerns over large gatherings, the Court decided against hosting an in-person gathering this year for National Adoption Day. Instead, the adoption finalizations will happen November 18 virtually; the commission secretary can provide a link if you are interested in joining.

For similar reasons, the resource family annual holiday event will not be in person. In lieu of the in-person event, there will be a family fun virtual training for adults and youth on December 17 and each foster youth and non-minor dependent currently placed in a resource home or foster family agency will receive a \$25 Target gift card.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD

President Kahn announced Abhishek Datta, IT Operations Support Admin II with the HSA Information Technology Desktop and Infrastructure Team, as the November 2022 Employee of the Month. He was awarded an engraved desk clock, which he graciously accepted. Mr. Datta thanked his supervisor and IT colleagues for their support. Additionally, he thanked the Commissioners and Executive Director Rhorer for acknowledging a position that is behind the scenes.

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 October 27, 2022 Regular Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of November 16, 2022:

1. Submission of request to encumber funds in the total amount of \$9,985,118 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 10/7/22 to 11/10/22.
3. Submission of 32 temporary appointments for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 10/7/22 to 11/10/22.

COMMISSION TELECONFERENCED MEETINGS RESOLUTION

President Kahn 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 Vice President McCray, 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).

BYLAW AMENDMENT

President Kahn presented the parental leave amendment to the Commission Bylaws for approval.

On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the parental policy amendment to the Bylaws.

FELTON INSTITUTE Mieko Yeh, Program Specialist, presented the request for authorization to enter into a new grant agreement with the FELTON INSTITUTE.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with FELTON INSTITUTE for the provision of Information, Referral & Assistance for ESSS Programs; for the period of November 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025; in the amount of \$1,250,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$1,375,000.

LA COCINA Cindy Lin, Food Access Manager, presented the request for authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with LA COCINA.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with LA COCINA to increase accessibility to the community kitchen and add additional EBT terminals; for the period of May 1, 2022 through April 30, 2023; for an additional amount of \$25,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$170,738.

SF NEW DEAL Thomas McClain, Analyst with the citywide food access team, presented the request for authorization to modify the existing grant agreement with SF NEW DEAL.

Commissioner Coghlan McDonald noted some confusion with the grant term dates. Mr. McClain clarified that the original grant covers November 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022 and the grant modification covers January 1, 2023-June 30, 2023. Executive Director Rhorer and the Commissioner noted there was an error in the contract document on page 1. Correction: the current grant term should be 11/01/2021-12/31/2022, not the listed 11/01/2021-12/31/2023.

Vice President McCray noted his concern with such a short extension (only six-months) and asked if there is a longer-term plan. Executive Director Rhorer thanked him for his astute question and stated that the funding for this and other food initiatives were one-time COVID food programs approved by the Mayor, with approval for an extension through FY22-23. This and other food programs will be in the SFHSA budget in some form for commission review in January, but the Agency cannot commit in this contract to a longer term without guaranteed funding. Mr. McClain added that SF New Deal has been very flexible with the stop and start nature of these program extensions. Vice President McCray shared that he is sensitive to these stop and start points.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with SF NEW DEAL to continue operation of the Prepared Meal Support Services to Families; for the period of January 1,

2023 through June 30, 2023; for an additional amount of \$1,450,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$4,805,428.

MULTIPLE PROVIDERS - BAYANIHAN EQUITY CENTER, BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT COMMUNITY ADVOCATES, BOOKER T. WASHINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICE, CURRY SENIOR CENTER, DOLORES STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES, FRESH APPROACH, GLIDE FOUNDATION, HOMEY, SF NEW DEAL

Cathy Huang, Program Analyst, presented the request to modify the existing grant agreements with MULTIPLE PROVIDERS (BAYANIHAN EQUITY CENTER, BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT COMMUNITY ADVOCATES, BOOKER T. WASHINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICE, CURRY SENIOR CENTER, DOLORES STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES, FRESH APPROACH, GLIDE FOUNDATION, HOMEY, SF NEW DEAL) for the provision of Innovative Neighborhood Food Support.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreements for MULTIPLE PROVIDERS for the provision of Innovative Neighborhood Food Support; for the period of November 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; in the additional amount of \$1,444,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$6,697,350.

Executive Director Rhorer noted that the Commission needs to approve each grant recipient's modification individually. He asked the Deputy City Attorney, Valerie Lopez, for her opinion and she agreed. Therefore, Commissioner Coghlan McDonald motioned to withdraw the blanket approval for "MULTIPLE PROVIDERS" and moved to vote on each individual grant modification recipient.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement for BAYANIHAN EQUITY CENTER for the provision of Innovative Neighborhood Food Support; for the period of November 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; in the additional amount of \$160,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$715,472.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement for BAYVIEW HUNTERS POINT COMMUNITY ADVOCATES for the provision of Innovative Neighborhood Food Support; for the period of November 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; in the additional amount of \$130,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$651,200.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement for BOOKER T. WASHINGTON COMMUNITY SERVICE for the provision of Innovative Neighborhood Food Support; for the period of November 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; in the additional amount of \$250,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$928,243.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement for CURRY SENIOR CENTER for the provision of Innovative Neighborhood Food Support; for the period of November 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; in the additional amount of \$124,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$519,515.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement for DOLORES STREET COMMUNITY SERVICES for the provision of Innovative Neighborhood Food Support; for the period of November 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; in the additional amount of \$110,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$572,315.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement for FRESH APPROACH for the provision of Innovative Neighborhood Food Support; for the period of November 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; in the additional amount of \$180,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$821,857.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement for GLIDE FOUNDATION for the provision of Innovative Neighborhood Food Support; for the period of November 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; in the additional amount of \$140,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$691,585.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement for HOMEY for the provision of Innovative Neighborhood Food Support; for the period of November 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; in the additional amount of \$140,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$842,835.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement for SF NEW DEAL for the provision of Innovative Neighborhood Food Support; for the period of November 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; in the additional amount of \$210,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$968,628.

ALTERNATIVE
FAMILY SERVICES
(AFS)

Vanetta Dunlap, Program Support Analyst, presented the request for authorization to modify the sole source waiver and existing grant agreement with ALTERNATIVE FAMILY SERVICES (AFS).

Executive Rhorer requested the opportunity to publicly thank AFS for their partnership. The provision of emergency foster homes replaces the child shelter (the Edgewood campus) that was previously used by Family &

Children's Services when a child was removed from the home. In order to place children in a family context in a home, the AFS emergency placement program is a much better solution. AFS took a leap of faith with FCS; it is not easy to set up a program to place children immediately with families. It is a model for the state. Executive Director Rhorer frequently receives questions about the program from colleagues across the state.

On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the sole source waiver and existing grant agreement with ALTERNATIVE FAMILY SERVICES (AFS); for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025; in the additional amount of \$2,289,420, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$8,436,344.

GENERAL PUBLIC
COMMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

President Kahn adjourned the meeting at 10:20 am.



Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Human Services Commission

Posted: December 9, 2022