

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

MINUTES

November 15, 2023 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 in person at the Born auditorium at 170 Otis Street, virtually via Webex and telephonically.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT DARSHAN SINGH

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON Dan Kaplan, Deputy Director – Finance and Administration
Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Anna Pineda, Deputy Director – Economic Support and Self Sufficiency

ROLL CALL President Kahn called the meeting to order at 10:04am.

Commission Secretary Elizabeth LaBarre took roll, noting the presence of Commissioners Kahn, McCray, Semel and Coghlan McDonald in person in the Born auditorium. Commissioner Singh was absent.

AGENDA On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the agenda as posted.

President Kahn then went “off script” to wish Commissioner Semel a happy 102nd birthday. He lit a candle on a muffin and sang “Happy Birthday to you” with the assistance of his fellow commissioners & audience members. Commissioner Semel raised her hand in thanks to all.

OCTOBER 26, 2023
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES There were no minutes for approval.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT Dan Kaplan, Deputy Director, Finance & Administration, stepped in for Executive Director Trent Rhorer and presented the executive director’s report. He provided updates on Human Services Agency (“SFHSA” or the “Agency”) programs and state and local policy and activities as they relate to the Agency.

FEDERAL

Both the House and Senate are expected to continue appropriations work between now and November 17, when the first continuing resolution for fiscal year 2024 expires. The Senate passed a three-bill "minibus" appropriations package on November 1, and the House has restarted debate on full-year appropriations bills following the election of a new Speaker of the House. If Congress is unable to pass another continuing resolution to avoid an appropriation lapse, SFHSA programs will have enough funding in the short term.

STATE

This is the time of year when counties are working on next year's legislative agenda and legislative activity in partnership with CWDA (the County Welfare Directors Association). An area of focus next year will be high-needs youth. This has been a theme of the last several years and some progress has been made. Another area of focus will be allowing undocumented clients in the IHHS program to make use of undocumented providers. SFHSA sponsored similar legislation last session. There is a provider shortage in the IHSS program in San Francisco. The local program serves about 20,000 San Franciscans. It is the largest social services program both from the point of view of money and people served. The program is designed to help people who need personal assistance services to be as independent as possible in their own homes. Additionally, it serves as a family income program. San Francisco providers make about \$20/hour. Over the next several years, wages will increase to \$25.50/hour. Many providers live with their "clients." It is an important poverty program and personal assistance services program.

LOCAL

The annual turkey giveaway event is part of SFHSA's programming. This year, the Mayor will be distributing turkeys at Hunters Point West, Oakdale Avenue in the Bayview and 700 Alemany in OMI (Oceanview, Merced, Ingleside).

Ben Rosenfield, the City's Controller, announced that he will be leaving the job in February. Ben has been a great stabilizing force during his time as the City's Controller and he will be missed. It is not known at this time who the Mayor plans to appoint in his place. Her appointment requires Board confirmation.

The current APEC conference in San Francisco has created some challenges for food delivery to some of the Agency's elderly clients in the cordoned off APEC zone. SFHSA has a team that is leading the mass care part of the City's response. The team is very involved in mitigating disruptions to this population and working with community-based organizations to ensure they can continue to live comfortably and well.

AGENCY

Communications

The Agency's Communications team was made aware of misinformation printed in two media outlets claiming the CalFresh program would be ending in November. The Communications team issued corrections to those media outlets and informed CDSS (the California Department of Social Services) and CWDA. The CalFresh program is funded into the next year and services continue to be available.

The Communications team is finalizing the Agency Annual Report. Copies will be made available to the Commission soon.

ADMIN/FINANCE

The Mayor requested mid-year reductions from City departments. This is part of preparing for what is anticipated to be a significant shortfall in city revenue next fiscal year and an effort to get through this fiscal year and then start off from a lower place of spending next fiscal year. For SFHSA, the reduction target is \$1.6 million of general funds. To reach this target, the SFHSA budget team proposed holding off on implementing a few new programs. Additionally, the Agency's IHSS revenue was a little over \$1 million better than anticipated and so that made up two thirds of the reduction submission. Moving forward, with more City revenue losses anticipated, City departments are working together to figure out how to collectively, and individually as agencies, manage reductions. The Mayor will issue official budget instructions during the second week of December and then SFHSA submits a budget proposal by February 21, 2024. Between December and February, the Budget team will present to the Commission.

Office of DEIB

The Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging is working on a new set of eligibility worker recruitment events. Eligibility workers are the Agency's largest single classification so the way we recruit for that classification is very important. The DEIB team is coordinating several events in the community to encourage more San Franciscans to apply for these jobs.

To support and appreciate diversity within the Agency, the Office of DEIB will be hosting a Native American Heritage Month event.

ESSS

CWDA and the state continue to work on ways to simplify the eligibility process for Medi-Cal benefits. The center for Medicare and Medicaid Services has approved one more federal waiver. This waiver allows self-attestation of income for renewals, which makes the renewal process easier for both clients and staff.

FCS

Observance of Adoption Day is this Friday at the Courthouse (400 McAllister) from 12:15pm to 1:30pm.

The FCS guaranteed income project has kicked off. The team continues to work with applicants to get them enrolled in the program. Community-based organizations are working with enrolled clients on case management, financial literacy, and benefits counseling.

CalSAWS

The big event over the last month was the implementation of CalSAWS (California State Automated Welfare System) in San Francisco. It is the core system for processing welfare benefits within the Agency. About 1,200 SFHSA workers use CalSAWS; it is a central tool within the Agency and in California. Quick history: the state used to have four computer systems statewide, which then moved to three systems, and then over the last five

years transitioned to one system at the behest of the federal government, which didn't want to be paying for four or three state automated welfare systems. All California counties are now on CalSAWS. San Francisco was part of the last wave of counties that implemented the system on October 30 (with San Louis Obispo and Sacramento counties). The implementation has gone quite well. With computer systems of this size and breadth, there are always snags. The team that is leading the local implementation, comprised of IT and ESSS staff, is currently working through a large list of small issues. There were reports of long lines and issues some of the service lobbies. There is a new set of kiosks, which everyone says are going to be great once they are fully up and running. On the plus side, all workers have been trained and are making use of the system: eligibility is being determined and benefits are being issued to clients. For staff who have been involved in the CalSAWS prep and implementation process for the last several years, with Mr. Kaplan being one of those staff members, the consensus is that it has gone very smoothly and better than expected.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH AWARD

President Kahn announced that MARNISHA CONNEY, SFBN Eligibility Worker Supervisor, ESSS, is the November 2023 Employee of the Month. President Kahn presented Marnisha with an engraved desk clock, which she graciously accepted with thanks to all.

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Commissioner McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved actions taken by the Executive Director since the October 26, 2023 Regular Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of November 15, 2023:

1. Submission of request to encumber funds in the total amount of \$12,198,303 for purchase of services or supplies and contingency amounts.
2. Submission of 4 temporary positions for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 10/21/23 to 11/9/23.
3. Submission of 20 temporary appointments for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 10/21/23 to 11/9/23.

DISCUSSION

On the topic of terminating remote public comment, the Commission agreed that remote public comment will be provided to the public as a disability accommodation. Otherwise, the public should provide comment in person by completing a public comment card and speaking up to three minutes as is allotted by Commission Rules.

COMMISSION BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

SENECA FAMILY OF AGENCIES

Vanetta Dunlap, Program Support Analyst, requested authorization to enter into a sole source waiver and new grant agreement with SENECA FAMILY OF AGENCIES for the provision of the Children's Crisis Continuum Pilot Program (CCCPP).

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request for a sole source waiver and new grant agreement with the SENECA FAMILY OF AGENCIES for the provision of the Children's Crisis Continuum Pilot Program (CCCPP); for the period of January 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028; in the amount of \$7,285,487, plus a 10% contingency, for a total grant amount not to exceed \$8,014,036.

CELL-ED

Rosalyn Tillery, Program Specialist, requested authorization to enter into a new contract agreement with CELL-ED for the provision of a Mobile Distance Learning Platform.


On motion of Commissioner McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request for a new contract agreement with CELL-ED for the provision of a Mobile Distance Learning Platform; for the period of December 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025; in the amount of \$49,500, plus a 10% contingency, for a total contract amount not to exceed \$54,450.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

President Kahn adjourned the meeting at 10:48am.



Elizabeth LaBarre,
Commission Secretary
Human Services Commission

Posted: 12/1/23