

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
M I N U T E S
October 31, 2019 Special Meeting

The special monthly meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, October 31, 2019 in the Ronald H. Born Auditorium at 170 Otis Street, San Francisco.

- MEMBERS PRESENT SCOTT KAHN, President
 JAMES MCCRAY, JR., Vice President
 DARSHAN SINGH
 GEORGE YAMASAKI, JR.
- OTHERS PRESENT Trent Rhorer, Executive Director
 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 9:38 a.m., noting that three Commission members were present. Commissioner Semel's absence was excused. Commissioner Yamasaki was expected to arrive momentarily.
- AGENDA On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the agenda as posted.
- MINUTES On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the minutes of the September 26, 2019 Regular Meeting as circulated.
- EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR'S REPORT Executive Director Trent Rhorer furnished an update regarding federal, state and local activities.

FEDERAL UPDATES

A nationwide injunction was issued on the Public Charge rule. Federal courts blocked the implementation of the Department of Homeland Security's public charge rules. A decision in the joint suit filed by San Francisco and Santa Clara County was among multiple nationwide court rulings that stopped the new rules from going into effect on October 15. This is a big victory for our City. These rules were a barrier to obtaining and retaining benefits. Public charge is a term used in immigration law to describe someone who is likely to rely on government benefits for support. It is used when an immigrant applies to enter the country or become a legal permanent resident. The rule would have added Medi-Cal, CalFresh and federal housing subsidies to the current list of programs, which includes cash assistance. The injunction will continue into next year while the various federal judges hear the merits of the lawsuits. Within the Agency, we updated our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) documents and website, and sent a memo to staff and community partners.

STATE

We are in the process of submitting proposals for the 2020 legislative season. Proposals are developed internally, soliciting input from staff, community partners and other public agencies. We have four proposals to be considered by the County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA): three relating to CalFresh and one regarding undocumented non-minor dependents who are in our foster care system. The governor concluded all action on his desk, and one bill he signed that we actively supported was Assembly Bill (AB) 1377, which requires the State Department of Education, the State Department of Health Care Services, and the State Department of Social Services to work together to develop a proposed statewide process for using data collected for purposes of CalFresh, Medi-Cal, free and reduced-price school meals programs, and the electronic benefits transfer system to increase enrollment in the CalFresh program. If a child is eligible for school meals or is on MediCal, can his/her family be automatically enrolled in CalFresh to avoid the current application process. These departments are required to submit recommendations on that process and related issues to the relevant policy committees of the Legislature by August 2020. One bill that did not pass but was held over as a 2-year bill is AB 1436, the CalWORKs Earned Income Disregard bill. We got half of this bill in the budget process. This bill increases the amount of income a family can earn and still be eligible for CalWORKs. This is a way to recognize the increase in the minimum wage and cost of living in California. In the budget, we got an expansion for current families on CalWORKs but not for families currently applying for benefits. We are working with our partners to try to move the bill for next year.

LOCAL

This past weekend has been dominated by the Kincadee fire in Sonoma County. The Mayor directed the Agency to create a shelter over the weekend that opened Monday for evacuees from Sonoma County. HSA is the City's lead for emergency shelters. We worked with the Red Cross, the Department of Emergency Management, the Department of Human Resources and other city departments to stand up the shelter at St Mary's Cathedral. It has the capacity to hold up to 200 people and pets. The shelter is staffed mainly by HSA volunteers and Red Cross. There are currently 40 adults and children in the shelter. Evacuation orders have now been lifted in Sonoma County and there is room in local shelters so we will close Friday. Our Communications team has worked incredibly hard to respond to a number of media requests and get the word out during the fire, and Doris Barone, our Disaster Manager, coordinated efforts along with 30 shelter volunteers on a 24-hour basis.

COMMUNICATIONS

Over the summer, we coordinated free entry for HSA clients at various museums throughout the city, a pilot program called Museums-for-All. The pre-Labor Day participant count was 21,000, though we estimate the total number to be closer to 25,000. The pilot was such a success that many of the museums want this to be a year-round program. Museums-for-All was spearheaded by Dan Kelly. Dan and Trent will present this topic at the Mayor's Department Head Meeting in November to thank other departments for their partnership and to show that it is possible to stretch beyond our mandates to help low-income residents and think outside the box. The Diaper Bank program is going to be expanded to CalFresh families in November. In addition to CalWORKs families, CalFresh families with children under the age of 3 are eligible to receive up to 2 cases of diapers per child per month.

FINANCE

We have received all of our major allocations from the state. At this point they were either as good or better than expected. We are now in the early phases of preparing the budgets for the next two years. One of the major issues that Noelle mentioned last month in her report is the end of the IV-E waiver in Family & Children's Services (FCS). We are waiting on congressional movement on the Family First Transition Act, an attempt by the federal government to provide fiscal relief over the next two years to waiver states and counties. We anticipate our share to be \$3M-\$4M. FCS and our budget team are involved in a more comprehensive-than-usual review of staffing and contracting needs so that we can build a budget going forward given the absence of the waiver revenue that continues to support high quality child welfare services. We are planning for a "worst case scenario" in the event our revenue drops significantly and cannot be filled with general funds. A reminder of important budget dates: the first commission presentation is on January 23, 2020, then the second commission meeting for adoption is on February 13, 2020.

PROGRAMS

ESSS

ESSS is partnering with the Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs and Self-Help for the Elderly to host a Naturalization Workshop on November 24. HSA has historically supported these events, which assist immigrants through the naturalization process. Specifically, we have provided aid verification letters to low-income immigrants, which waives the \$725 fee associated with becoming a naturalized citizen. Due a recent federal rule change slated to go into effect in early December, receipt of public assistance will no longer qualify someone for a fee waiver. We are pushing this event as the last one where public benefits letters will be accepted. It is being widely advertised and we expect a large turnout.

SFBN - CalFresh & Medi-Cal

It has been about six months since the state of California extended CalFresh eligibility to SSI recipients. To date we have processed CalFresh applications from approximately half of all SSI recipients in San Francisco, over 20,000. This number is much larger than was anticipated by the state, which means dollars allocated to us by the state, for administrative costs associated with the eligibility change, fall short. We anticipate the Department of Finance and legislature will do a mid-year adjustment to increase the administrative allocation. In our MediCal program, we are working with Healthy San Francisco, the City's health coverage program for individuals who are uninsured and don't qualify for MediCal, to move no-cost MediCal funding for undocumented adults ages 19-26 currently covered by the city to state and federal government funds in January. This year's state budget made \$60M available for MediCal outreach and application assistance. We submitted a funding request focused on MediCal outreach to three populations: Department of Public Health behavioral health clients, homeless in shelters and Navigation Centers and low-income pregnant women in the southeast and low-income neighborhoods. We are working with the Department of Public Health to move funding for these populations from the city to the state.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The JobsNOW! program continues to place nearly 200 clients per month in employment. As Executive Director Rhorer mentioned previously, we extended JobsNOW! services to CalFresh and MediCal clients, in addition to our traditional client base of CalWORKs and CAAP cash aid recipients. To date, we have 766 CalFresh and MediCal clients engaged in job search or job readiness activities through JobsNOW!.

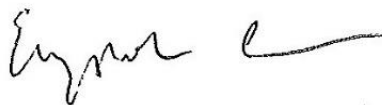
FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (FCS)

November 8 is National Adoption Day. Our event to honor National Adoption Day will take place at the court at 400 McAllister St. The ceremony with food begins at 12:30pm and court adoption finalizations are at 1:30pm. With the closure of the congregate care shelter at Edgewood, children now go to emergency foster care homes operated by AFS (Alternative Family Services) until a permanent placement is found. This pilot is going well. We are working on a regional mobile response program as a way to preserve existing placements by offering 24-hour mobile response provided by mental health specialists and social workers to help kids and foster families in crisis. Rather than a child losing his/her foster placement, the mobile response will provide support to the foster parent(s) to help preserve the placement. The state is moving toward this approach, though it wasn't funded at the state level. Until FURS (Family Urgent Response System) is rolled out, the state is looking to us as a model, and we will assist with implementation. We submitted our System Improvement Plan (SIP). We are waiting for a response from CDSS. This is a part of AB 636, the Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act of 2001, and is essential to the success of child welfare reform. Liz Crudo will present the SIP at the next commission meeting.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

President Kahn announced the CQI Unit as the October 2019 Employees of the Month. Tommy Pazhempallil, Protective Services Supervisor, and social work specialists Sandra Avella, Arturo Galarza, Cynthia Oneto, Nina Nikolaeva, Wade Ichimura and Courtney Mieko Yeh received the award for the innovative and consistent work they did for the Peer Review component of the County Self-Assessment within the California-Child & Family Service Review. Guests present in support of the work group included a full auditorium of Agency colleagues.

- CONSENT CALENDAR On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved and ratified actions taken by the Executive Director since the September 26, 2019 Regular Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of October 31, 2019:
1. Submission of requests to encumber funds in the total amount of \$8,775,467 for purchase of services or supplies and contingency amounts.
 2. Submission of 1 temporary position for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period of 9/12/19 to 10/16/19.
 3. Submission of 50 temporary appointments made during the period of 9/12/19 to 10/16/19.
- SELF HELP FOR THE ELDERLY Jiro Arase, Community Services Program Specialist, Welfare-to-Work Services Division, presented the request to modify an existing grant agreement with SELF HELP FOR THE ELDERLY.
- On motion of Commissioner Singh, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with SELF HELP FOR THE ELDERLY for the provision of Light Duty Community Services; for the period of February 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022; for an additional amount of \$761,704, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$1,852,831.
- COST OF DOING BUSINESS (CODB) John Tsutakawa, Contracts Manager, presented the request to modify the existing grant agreements with multiple providers to apply the COST OF DOING BUSINESS (CODB) increase.
- Vice President McCray wanted to know what cost of doing business increase percentage was applied last year, to which John answered 2.5%, but to note that the CODB increase is determined every two years, so for FY17/18 it was 2.5% and FY 18/19 was 2.5%.
- On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreements with multiple providers to apply the COST OF DOING BUSINESS (CODB) increase; for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2023; for an additional amount of \$2,561,276.
- CHILD AND FAMILY POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA Noelle Simmons, Deputy Director of Economic Support and Self-Sufficiency, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with CHILD AND FAMILY POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA ("CFPIC").
- Commissioner Yamasaki asked if Mathematica is a nonprofit, clarifying that he asks because it relates to the ongoing question: when is a contract a grant versus a contract. John Tsutakawa, Contracts Manager, responded that we are not contracting with Mathematica, we are contracting directly CFPIC, which is a nonprofit, and which is why this particular agreement is a grant. Mr. Rhorer added that CFPIC is working with Mathematica on the County's behalf. Commissioner Kahn then asked if it is common for a grant agreement to be with a middle operator, to which Mr. Rhorer replied that this is a unique situation. Deputy Director Kaplan added that this is an effort of counties within the state of California to rework the CalWORKs program. The state is paying for this service through an allocation and for this to work, one of the California counties has to receive that allocation, and that county is San Francisco.
- On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with CHILD AND FAMILY POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA acting as fiscal agent to the lead consultant for the CalWORKs Strategic Initiative; for the period of November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020; for an amount of \$383,388, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$421,726.
- PUBLIC COMMENT President Kahn's call for public comment yielded no responses.
- ADJOURNMENT President Kahn adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.



Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Human Services Commission

Posted: 11/8/19