

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
M I N U T E S  
December 19, 2019 Regular Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, December 19, 2019 in the Ronald H. Born Auditorium at 170 Otis Street, San Francisco.

- MEMBERS PRESENT     SCOTT KAHN, President  
                                 JAMES MCCRAY, JR., Vice President  
                                 RITA SEMEL  
                                 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 9:40 a.m., noting that all Commission members were present.
- AGENDA                On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the agenda as posted.
- MINUTES                On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the minutes of the November 21, 2019 Regular Meeting as circulated.
- EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S REPORT     Executive Director Trent Rhorer furnished an update regarding federal, state and local activities.

**FEDERAL UPDATES**

When the public charge rule was to be implemented, there were several filings for injunctions from around the country. Three of the injunctions were upheld, which prevented the public charge rules from going into effect. However, earlier this month, two of the lower court injunctions—the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals from San Francisco and the Fourth Circuit—lifted the injunction allowing the Trump administration to proceed. There is a third injunction with the District Court in New York that remains. We are waiting for the ruling on this third injunction; currently, the public charge rule is not in effect. The Agency's most important role currently is communicating changes and updates to our clients and partners.

The CalFresh ABAWD requirement has received a lot of press recently, relayed as reductions to food support, though the rule is more complicated. The rule is impacting our ability to exempt single adults without children from the work requirement in order to receive CalFresh (food) benefits. The Agency has been using exemptions to prevent anyone from losing their CalFresh benefits whether or not they were participating in their work requirements; no one has lost their benefits in San Francisco. This rule eliminates the backlog of exemptions in the state, and will reduce any flexibility that we had related to the work requirements. The rule has an effective date of April 1, 2020. We are analyzing what this means, how it will affect our caseload, keeping in mind that food is a basic human right, an entitlement, and should not be linked to a job or anything other than being low income. Legal advocates plan to sue the Administration.

One positive update for our Agency is the Family First Transition Act. Executive Director Rhorer shared details of his trip to Washington DC in September where he and other child welfare leaders from across the country lobbied for mitigation for states and counties affected by the Title IV-E waiver, which ended in September. For states & counties operating under the waiver, its expiration could have the result of a significant financial cliff. The federal dollars that we received for five years was to end on September 30. For example, Los Angeles was looking at \$220M of waiver money they would no longer receive; they participated in the lobbying efforts in DC. San Francisco was looking at a \$5M-\$7M loss of funds. Pelosi was a big supporter. The Family First Transition Act provides 90% of the funds we would have received under the Title IV-E waiver in the first year, 75% in the second year, and then phased out into the new Family First Act. California will receive around \$52.8M with San Francisco getting \$750,000. During the DC trip, Pelosi assured our team that the transition act would move forward and that it was supported on both sides of the aisle in both the Senate & House. Late last week this Family First Transition Act was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020, put in exactly as it was introduced. Due to bipartisan support, it should pass.

**STATE**

The County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA) recently hosted the annual legislative retreat to determine the budget priorities for 2020. CWDA is the lead sponsor, finds authors and provides support for these priorities. The first priority is in CalFresh, to address legislative, regulatory and technological barriers for counties in California to increase enrollment and retain clients on CalFresh. Assemblyman Ting agreed to author this bill. Having the budget chair in the Assembly authoring a bill is always helpful. The second priority is related to CalWORKs. A bill that we supported last year and passed with a concession increased the amount of money a CalWORKs family could earn and still qualify for benefits— an increase to the earned income disregard (EID). The purpose of the bill was to make up for the higher cost of living and increase in minimum wage. Existing CalWORKs families qualified for the increase; new applicants did not. We are hopeful that new applicants will be included this year. The third priority is for Family & Children's Services foster care funding. When AB 12 passed about seven years ago, foster care services were updated to age 21 instead of 18 to assist young people transition into adulthood.

When this bill was passed, the funding structure held county costs at a fixed amount so that we did not have to bear the increased cost of foster care in future years for an increase in population, which was capped. When the funding structure was realigned to counties with CCR, the cap was lifted and counties had to bear the cost of additional foster care. It is between \$4M-\$5M for San Francisco per year. Larger counties stopped providing extended foster care altogether because it became prohibitively expensive. CWDA is asking for a funding shift.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

The expanded diaper bank program to CalFresh recipients with children under age three was featured on the front page of the San Francisco Chronicle. Our diaper bank partner, Help a Mother Out, reported that they doubled the number of diapers they are distributing each month. In October and November, they distributed 150,000 diapers to CalFresh recipients. A community partner, Family Resource Centers, experienced significant increase in diapers distributed in the Visitacion Valley and OMI neighborhood centers. Our service center at 1235 Mission Street, which predominately serves single adults, distributed 40,000 diapers between October and November to families. We hope that our model gains traction in other communities in California and across the country.

### **FINANCE/ADMIN**

We received our budget instructions for the next two fiscal years at a department head meeting this week. The Mayor's Office and Controller's Office are projecting a budget deficit of \$195M in FY 20/21 and \$224M in FY 21/22, for a combined deficit of over \$400M. This is due to slowing revenue growth and increased expenses. Even though we have had enormous business expansion, a large portion of revenue has come from property transfer tax, which is a one-time payment and difficult to rely on year over year. The City has also relied on large fund balances, which is again one-time dollars. Cost growth is driven by salary increases in labor agreements, rising health and retirement costs, and a few departmental programs that are growing significantly, most noticeably IHSS. IHSS is an entitlement program that receives funding from the state but SF also must contribute. Given the deficit, our instructions are to reduce need for adjusted general fund support by 3.5% in FY 20/21 and 7% in FY 20/22. The monetary target from the Mayor's Office is \$2.2M—Agency budget cut is based on discretionary fund only. It should be quite manageable to meet the target without reducing services. The Mayor's top budget priorities are providing shelter and services to unhoused San Franciscans and clean streets for everyone.

### **PROGRAMS**

#### **ESSS**

SFBN - CalFresh & Medi-Cal

The Young Adult Expansion to Full Scope Medi-Cal begins January 1, 2020, meaning full scope Medi-Cal will be granted to new applicants ages 19 - 25, inclusive, who do not have satisfactory immigration status, are unable to establish satisfactory immigration status or unable to verify US citizenship.

#### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

The Housing Support Program (HSP) has been very successful providing housing for CalWORKs families—437 families housed since the beginning of the program. HSP is now one of the Rapid Rehousing options in the universal intake system for families in the Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing's Coordinated Entry System.

Our annual Working Family Credit program provides local dollars to low-income households to encourage taking advantage of the federal tax credit and state earned income tax credit when they file their taxes. This is the first year that households can receive the Working Family Credit of \$250 annually as opposed to a one-time incentive. It is a free tax program that begins January 21, 2020 and will be offered at four HSA sites: 1235 Mission, 170 Otis, 1800 Oakdale and 3120 Mission. We will utilize a Virtual Tax Assistance model, which saves time and allows clients to sign their completed return digitally rather than in-person.

The Agency has been awarded a state grant totaling nearly \$1M (\$983,000) to conduct Medi-Cal outreach and application assistance. Our grant proposal incorporated three strategies: partnering with the Department of Public Health to conduct application assistance at behavioral health clinics, partnering with UCSF and the Pre-Term Birth Initiative to pilot the Pregnancy Villages Program, which will send mobile clinics into specific neighborhoods to provide Medi-Cal enrollment assistance and pre-natal services to low-income pregnant women who are disproportionately likely to have pre-term births, and expanding our existing partnership with Navigation Centers and shelters to provide onsite benefit enrollment assistance to homeless individuals.

Commissioner Semel asked if this will impact IHSS to which Trent responded since IHSS recipients are already on Medi-Cal, there will be no impact. However, if we do enroll clients into Medi-Cal who qualify for SSI (and therefore IHSS) then it could have an impact.

#### **FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (FCS)**

The annual Resource Family Holiday Event on Saturday, December 14 was a big success and a lot of fun. There were approximately 350 attendees. All of the children in attendance received gifts donated by many generous organizations and community partners. It was a nice way to honor our resource families and children.

We concluded the annual Resource Family Approval (RFA) state review on December 5. Under CCR (AB 403), enrollment and certification of resource families shifted. Every relative caregiver had to go through this process along with prospective resource families. This was a huge lift. Counties across the state had significant backlogs of cases. It was supposed to be

completed within 90 days. Due to technological improvements and FCS leadership, we eliminated our backlog. The state was very impressed with our progress. There were two small issues due to paperwork. Kudos to Joan Miller and Sophia Isom for getting everyone certified under RFA. We are collaborating with the Department of Public Health, First Five, Child Abuse Prevention Center and many nonprofits to look at the system of child abuse prevention in San Francisco. Part of this initiative included requesting a child abuse prevention "asset map" from the Controller's Office, which is a comprehensive list of contracted and direct City services that help prevent child abuse in San Francisco. They identified 375 distinct programs that could be characterized as child abuse prevention. The next step is to attempt to synergize and coordinate services, look for duplication or missing services, look at what exactly is being offered, what are the primary and secondary interventions and come up with a more seamless, better child abuse prevention system. This initiative is led by Katie Albright with Child Abuse Prevention Center and our Agency.

Vice President McCray asked Executive Director Rhorer about his trip to Seoul, South Korea last month. In response, Mr. Rhorer shared that human services directors from all over the world including London, Madrid, Sydney and Stockholm were invited to Seoul's first international care conference. Seoul is trying to improve its system of care for children and seniors so they invited relevant subject-matter experts from around the globe. Mr. Rhorer presented on San Francisco's early childhood system. He learned a lot and was very honored to be invited to attend. The Mayor of Seoul attended all of the events. In fact, he will be visiting San Francisco in January. Seoul is a sister city to SF.

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

President Kahn announced DAN KELLY, Planning Director, as the 2019 Manager of the Year. The Commission highlighted many of Dan's contributions to the Agency and clients during his 20-year career. More recent contributions include the Museums for All initiative in partnership with the Mayor's Office & Controller's Office and the diaper bank in partnership with Help a Mother Out. Mr. Kelly was awarded an engraved desk clock, which he graciously accepted with a caveat that the award should go to his entire planning team. Guests present in support of Dan included his planning team along with a full auditorium of 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 November 21, 2019 Regular Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of December 19, 2019:

1. Submission of requests to encumber funds in the total amount of \$2,179,875 for purchase of services or supplies and contingency amounts.
2. Submission of 3 temporary position for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period of 11/16/19 to 12/06/19.
3. Submission of 18 temporary appointments made during the period of 11/16/19 to 12/06/19.

MINIMUM COMPENSATION ORDINANCE (MCO) FUNDING INCREASES

John Tsutakawa, Director of Contracts, presented the request to modify multiple grant agreements with non-profit service providers to apply MINIMUM COMPENSATION ORDINANCE (MCO) FUNDING INCREASES.

Vice President McCray wanted to know the number of applications to which Mr. Tsutakawa replied there were 181 applications in total for the City. For our Agency, there were 15 agency applications for DHS-related programs, and for DAS there were 40. Commissioner Yamasaki requested an explanation of compaction. Mr. Tsutakawa gave the example of an employee earning \$16.50/hr. His supervisor earns \$17.50/hr. With a \$1 raise, the employee is now earning the same as his supervisor. Compaction attempts to account for fairness with levels in wages.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreements with non-profit service providers to apply MINIMUM COMPENSATION ORDINANCE (MCO) FUNDING increases; for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020; in the additional amount of \$252,800.

NALLS FOUNDATION

Robin Love, Program Manager, Family & Children's Services, presented the request to modify the new grant agreement with NALLS FOUNDATION.

Vice President McCray asked how frequently clients need the full 90 days. Ms. Love replied that it is not often, but it does happen that clients stay for 90 days. A 14-day turnaround time is more representative.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with NALLS FOUNDATION for the provision of a pilot emergency placement program for non-minor dependents; for the period of January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021; in the not to exceed amount of \$118,800.

COMMUNITY WORKS WEST

Irina Kadantseva, Senior Administrative Analyst, presented the request to modify the existing grant agreement with COMMUNITY WORKS WEST.

On motion of Commissioner Singh, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with COMMUNITY WORKS WEST for the provision of visitation and support services for incarcerated parents; for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022; in the additional amount of \$371,431, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$793,593.

AVANTPAGE TRANSLATION

Brenden Lim, Principal Human Resources Analyst, presented the request to modify the existing contract agreement with AVANTPAGE TRANSLATION.

On motion of Vice President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing contract agreement with AVANTPAGE TRANSLATION for the provision of Written Translation Services; for the period of January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021; for an additional amount of \$30,000, plus contingency, for a new total amount not to exceed \$82,500.

TRUSTFORTE  
LANGUAGE  
SERVICES

Brenden Lim, Prin. Human Resources Analyst, presented the request to modify the existing contract agreement with TRUSTFORTE LANGUAGE SERVICES.

On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing contract agreement with TRUSTFORTE LANGUAGE SERVICES for the provision of Written Translation Services; for the period of January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021; for an additional amount of \$30,000, plus contingency, for a new total amount not to exceed \$82,500.

INTERNATIONAL  
EFFECTIVENESS  
CENTER (IEC)

Brenden Lim, Prin. Human Resources Analyst, presented the request to modify the existing contract agreement with INTERNATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS CENTER (IEC).

On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing contract agreement with INTERNATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS CENTER (IEC) for the provision of Oral Interpretation Translation Services; for the period of January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021; for an additional amount of \$170,000, plus contingency, for a new total amount not to exceed \$1,342,000.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

President Kahn adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.



Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary  
Human Services Commission

Posted: 12/31/19