

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
M I N U T E S  
May 23, 2019 Regular Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, May 23, 2019 in the Ronald H. Born Auditorium at 170 Otis Street, San Francisco.

MEMBERS PRESENT     SCOTT KAHN, President  
                                 RITA SEMEL  
                                 DARSHAN SINGH  
                                 GEORGE YAMASAKI, JR.

OTHERS PRESENT       Trent Rhorer, Executive Director, Human Services Agency  
                                 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 9:41 a.m., noting that four of the five Commission members were present. Vice President McCray had been excused.

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

MINUTES                  On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the minutes of the April 25, 2019 Regular Meeting as circulated.

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

**FEDERAL UPDATES**

Executive Director Rhorer began his report with updates at the Federal level. Several matters have come to fruition over the last few weeks that could negatively affect our programs and clients. The first is a notice of public rule from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which seeks comments on the differences among various consumer price indexes produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) as well as the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) to determine how these differences might influence the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). We have heard that the Administration's goal is to use a lower measure of inflation when adjusting the poverty level each year, which would lower the income threshold that would define 100% FPL. Most of our benefit programs use the FPL to determine eligibility. Particularly in high cost states/regions like the Bay Area where fewer people can survive on incomes below the FPL, a lowered FPL would be especially detrimental. SNAP (CalFresh), TANF and Medicaid would be cut for many of our clients. Along with community partners, we will be submitting comments in opposition. The second proposed rule change comes from HUD. The Administration wants to prohibit "mixed status families" from living in public housing and participating in Section 8 programs. The rule seeks to narrow the eligibility for some immigrant households for public housing & Section 8. Citizen children living with undocumented parents would be impacted. We will work with our city partners to submit public comments in opposition. The third area is around the Public Charge rule. The updated rule will be released soon, as early as the next few weeks. As Mr. Rhorer mentioned in many previous reports, some of our clients will be affected by this rule change. Of equal concern is the chilling effect this rule could have on the immigrant community in San Francisco should the word get out that receiving benefits could count against immigrants attempting to gain citizenship. If the rule is released, it will not go into effect for 60 days so we should have plenty of time to inform our immigrant households and community partners of the impact. The fourth item is the census. In addition to participating in committees and making recommendations, to ensure all residents are counted, our Agency is partnering with the Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs to get the word out. Our role is to fund 30-40 JobsNOW! positions placed in community organizations to help with outreach, particularly in immigrant communities who appear to be intentionally excluded from the count.

**STATE UPDATES**

The May Revise was released the second Thursday of May. In the Governor's May Revision (funding in addition to the January budget) and the legislature's response there is \$40M for continuous eligibility and stage 1 childcare for CalWORKs families. A family will now receive childcare for 12 months irrespective of the parents' participation levels. This is something that San Francisco has done under Project 500 and Families Rising by using general fund dollars to bridge the gap. Now there are state dollars for continuous eligibility, which is great for our families. Other additions in the May Revise include \$24M for CalWORKs housing support, which means between \$800,000 - \$1M additional funds for San Francisco; \$15M in state funds (combined with \$15M in federal dollars for a total of \$30M) for county administration of the CalFresh expansion to SSI recipients; \$18M for resource family approval work under CCR and another \$22M to continue with foster care recruitment efforts. The legislature added a few dollars for Human Services including Assembly Bill ("AB") 1436, the CalWORKs earned income disregard, which makes it possible for families to stay on benefits when their wages increase, recognizing the higher minimum wage and high cost of living in the Bay Area/California. FURS, the Family Urgent Response System through AB 1005, provides funding for a statewide, 24-hour crisis response system to help stabilize foster families and preserve placements. Lastly, Bringing Families Home (BFH) received funding. BFH is a housing subsidy program for homeless parents who are engaged in the child welfare system and for whom the lack of housing can be a barrier to reunification.

## LOCAL

In addition to the budget you (the Commission) approved in February, we have additional items that are currently awaiting approval by the Mayor's Office. We have had very encouraging conversations with the Mayor and her budget team so we are optimistic that the additional items could be approved.

The biggest news within the Agency as of late is the CalFresh expansion for SSI recipients. Noelle Simmons will go into more detail about this expansion later during our meeting. May 1 kicked-off CalFresh awareness month so we used this opportunity to inform community partners and clients about the benefits expansion. We had a feature article on the front page of the Bay Area section of the SF Chronicle, and Deputy Director Simmons did an interview with KCBS Radio. DHS is offering educational "forums" in partnership with DAAS and San Francisco-Marin Food Bank to share with community partners tips on how to enroll new clients, explain the new rule with a tool kit, provide support and answer questions. The forums are booked to capacity (about 200 attendees). We started taking applications for the SSI expansion on May 1, however, benefits are not issued until June 1. As of yesterday, almost 6,600 SSI customers applied for CalFresh. This represents nearly 16% of SSI recipients in San Francisco and is a greater number of people than anticipated so we are very pleased with the success of communication efforts. Kudos to the HSA Communications and CalFresh teams for getting the word out and simplifying the application process.

Executive Director Rhorer referenced a newspaper article from yesterday's paper that highlighted a new program with which we are involved called Museums-for-All. The idea is that anyone with an EBT or Medi-Cal card is entitled to free admission (plus 3) to select museums and other institutions (such as the Exploratorium, the deYoung, the California Academy of Sciences, SFMOMA, etc.). San Francisco is the first city in the nation to extend free museum admission to people with limited income who receive cash and food assistance, and Medi-Cal health care coverage. This opportunity builds upon the Mayor's commitment to equitable access for all San Franciscans. Our client base is not a small group. We are talking about potentially 200,000 San Franciscans having access to this program, nearly one in four San Franciscans. We plan to track participation. Kudos to Dan Kelly with the Planning team who spearheaded this initiative several years ago with the Treasurer's Office.

## PROGRAMS

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

Thank you to Commissioner Yamasaki, as well as the many resource families, for attending the biannual Resource Family Appreciation Event on Friday, May 10 at the South San Francisco Convention Center. The next event is the annual holiday party in December. Hopefully you all can attend.

As Executive Director Rhorer wrapped up his report, President Kahn inquired about the annual softball game fundraiser. Dan Kelly, Director of Planning, came up to the podium to provide the important details. Yes, indeed, the annual Foster Care Fund softball tournament will be held on June 15 at Moscone Field. Commissioner Semel then joked that President Kahn asks about softball, so she'll ask about museums, "How are we publicizing the 'Museums-for-All' program?" Mr. Kelly responded that the initial communication method is through postcards in the mail to all of our clients.

### EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

President Kahn announced MARCUS FALLS, THOMAS HEATH AND DAVID VALDEOLIVAR, Social Work Supervisors, Family & Children's Services, as the May 2019 Employees of the Month. The Commission recognized Marcus, Thomas and David for their many achievements, and cited the good work and dedication of the 27 technicians on their teams. All three employees were awarded an engraved desk clock. David was not able to leave his post to attend the Commission meeting so Marcus and Thomas accepted on his behalf. Guests present in support of the trio included many of the 27 techs and their supervisor, Maggie Donahue.

### HONORING MAGGIE DONAHUE

Barry Johnson, Program Director for Family & Children's Services, took this opportunity to honor Maggie Donahue for her hard work and commitment to her staff, colleagues and clients in advance of her retirement at the end of June. Mr. Johnson presented Maggie with several certificates and thanked her for over 30 years of service with the Department of Human Services, wishing her a wonderful, well-deserved retirement. Ms. Donahue then received a standing ovation. Commissioner Semel shared a story about Maggie from 30 years ago, when she was working with then Mayor Art Agnos. Following the 1989 earthquake, Mayor Agnos reached out to the faith community to open a winter shelter. Commissioner Semel took the lead, and she and Maggie 'got on it'. So began the first Interfaith Winter Shelter Program. Executive Director Trent Rhorer reflected on Maggie's work with the Homelessness Department under Jim Buick. Maggie eventually became the Director for the expanded Homelessness and Supportive Housing Program – today, there are almost 9000 units of supportive housing. Maggie had a vision for how to serve homeless people and families and she brought passion, intelligence and zeal to everything she worked on. She brought the same vigor in her role as Senior Program Manager with Family and Children's Services. Ms. Donahue was very grateful for the honor, and equally grateful and proud to be a Civil Servant for the City and County of San Francisco for 31 years, "We are the safety net in a market-based economy. Every single person in this Agency makes a difference in people's lives EVERY DAY." Along with many others, she thanked her staff and the nonprofit partners on the front lines.

### PRESENTATION: CALFRESH EXPANSION TO SSI RECIPIENTS

Deputy Director Noelle Simmons presented an update to the CalFresh program: SSI recipients will qualify for CalFresh benefits starting June 1, 2019. This policy change will most likely double [DHS] caseload. Highlights from her presentation included:

- Historical data: California was the only state that did not allow SSI recipients to receive CalFresh, instead allowing for a \$10 cash out. Assembly Bill 1811 reversed this cash out policy.

- Who is eligible: any household or individual in San Francisco with low or no income who is within the income eligibility limits, SSI/SSP recipients starting June 1, 2019, and legal permanent residents and qualified immigrants.
- CalFresh benefit amount: any amount between \$15 - \$192 depending on household size, income and expenses.
- Who receives SSI benefits in San Francisco: 40,735 residents who are over 65, blind or disabled.
- Existing CalFresh households with SSI recipients may see their household benefits decrease, however, the state will supplement the reduction.
- Ways to apply: click ([www.getcalfresh.org](http://www.getcalfresh.org)), call (415-558-4700) or come in (HSA centers & community partner locations).
- DHS hired 33 CalFresh positions/employees to help with the additional caseload (almost double!).
- 16% of all San Francisco SSI recipients applied for CalFresh benefits in the first three weeks.

CONSENT CALENDAR On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved and ratified actions taken by the Executive Director since the April 25, 2019 Regular Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of May 23, 2019:

1. Submission of requests to encumber funds in the total amount of \$5,273,083 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 of 4/10/19 to 5/10/19.
3. Submission of 35 temporary appointments made during the period of 4/10/19 to 5/10/19.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES Dan Kelly, Director of Planning, presented the request to modify the existing contract agreement with COMMUNITY INITIATIVES.

President Kahn requested that the executive director and program director of Help a Mother Out please stand so that they could be acknowledged for their good work. Commissioner Yamasaki then requested an opportunity to recognize Dan Kelly for his foresight—Dan saw a need in the community so he started a program to address this need. He deserves kudos. Fellow Commissioners and audience members concurred.

On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing contract agreement with COMMUNITY INITIATIVES to provide Diaper Bank Services; for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020; for an additional amount of \$352,572, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total amount not to exceed \$2,494,625.

RICHMOND AREA MULTI-SERVICES Jiro Arase, Community Services Program Specialist, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with RICHMOND AREA MULTI-SERVICES.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with RICHMOND AREA MULTI-SERVICES to provide CalWORKs Behavioral Health and Prevocational Services; for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022; in the amount of \$4,011,828, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$4,413,011.

FIVE KEYS SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS Christina Iwasaki, Community Services Manager, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with FIVE KEYS SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS.

On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with FIVE KEYS SCHOOLS & PROGRAMS to provide Academic Assessment Services for Welfare-to-Work Participants and Cal-Learn Educational Support Services; for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022; in the amount of \$298,584, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$328,442.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES Vanetta Dunlap, Program Support Analyst, Family & Children's Services, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.

Commissioner Semel asked why this contract comes before the Human Services Commission and not Public Health. Executive Director Rhorer clarified that the contract provides the tool for in-home training of parents to prevent abuse and neglect; child neglect prevention training to keep children safely at home with their parents.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES for Safecare® Training to the Department of Public Health; for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022; in the amount of \$177,639, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$195,403.

FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES Vanetta Dunlap, Program Support Analyst, Family & Children's Services, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES for SafeCare® Parenting Education; for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022; in the amount of \$1,963,743, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$2,160,117.

MT. ST. JOSEPHS-ST. ELIZABETH/THE EPIPHANY CENTER Vanetta Dunlap, Program Support Analyst, Family & Children's Services, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with MT. ST. JOSEPHS-ST. ELIZABETH/THE EPIPHANY CENTER.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new grant agreement with MT. ST. JOSEPHS-ST. ELIZABETH/THE EPIPHANY CENTER for SafeCare® Parenting Education; for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022; in the amount of \$1,199,757, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$1,319,713.

MAXIMUS HUMAN SERVICES Juliet Halverson, FCS-FCE Program Manager, presented the request to enter into a new contract agreement with MAXIMUS HUMAN SERVICES.

Commissioner Yamasaki requested clarification as to the location of Maximus Human Services. There was some confusion as to the location of the actual business versus the location of the employee working for Maximus who would be based at 170 Otis.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new contract agreement with MAXIMUS HUMAN SERVICES to provide Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Screening, Application Assistance, SSI Benefit Maintenance/Retention and SSI Data Management; for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2022; in the amount of \$460,361, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$506,397.

CALIFORNIA STATE FRESNO/ FOUNDATION-CALIFORNIA CENTRAL TRAINING ACADEMY-BAY AREA ACADEMY Melissa Connelly, Program Manager, Family & Children's Services, presented the request to enter into a new contract agreement with CALIFORNIA STATE FRESNO/ FOUNDATION-CALIFORNIA CENTRAL TRAINING ACADEMY-BAY AREA ACADEMY.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new contract agreement with CALIFORNIA STATE FRESNO/ FOUNDATION-CALIFORNIA CENTRAL TRAINING ACADEMY-BAY AREA ACADEMY to provide Child Welfare Training Services; for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2024; in the amount of \$2,889,560, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$3,178,516.

ARRIBA JUNTOS Marlén Sánchez, Community Services Program Specialist, Workforce Development Division, presented the request 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 to provide Transitional Employment Services under the Community Jobs Program (CJP/CJP1); for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020; for an additional amount of \$684,838, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total amount not to exceed \$9,332,325.

YOUNG COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS Marlén Sánchez, Community Services Program Specialist, Workforce Development Division, presented the request to modify the existing grant agreement with YOUNG COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS.

On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with YOUNG COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS to provide Transitional Employment Services under the Community Jobs Program (CJP/CJP1); for the period of July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020; for an additional amount of \$499,228, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total amount not to exceed \$7,619,002.

INSTITUTO FAMILIAR DE LA RAZA Maggie Donahue, Senior Program Manager, Family & Children's Services, presented the request to modify the existing grant agreement with INSTITUTO FAMILIAR DE LA RAZA.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with INSTITUTO FAMILIAR DE LA RAZA to provide Differential Response Coordination Services; for the period July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2021; for an additional amount of \$552,958, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total amount not to exceed \$1,322,663.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO Maggie Donahue, Senior Program Manager, Family & Children's Services, presented the request to modify the existing grant agreement with ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO.

On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO to provide Domestic Violence Intervention Services to Families Involved with Child Welfare; for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2020; for an additional amount of \$331,376, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total amount not to exceed \$729,027.

HOMELESS PRENATAL PROGRAM Geoffrey Nagaye, Program Support Analyst, Family & Children's Services, presented the request to modify the existing grant agreement with HOMELESS PRENATAL PROGRAM.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing grant agreement with HOMELESS PRENATAL PROGRAM to implement the Bringing Families Home Program; for the period July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019; for an additional amount of \$33,718, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total amount not to exceed \$1,239,669.

CHAPIN HALL AT THE  
UNIVERSITY OF  
CHICAGO

Bridgette Lery, Director of Research and Evaluation, presented the request to modify the existing grant agreement with CHAPIN HALL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO.

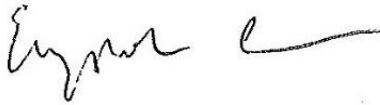
On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to modify the existing contract agreement with CHAPIN HALL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO for the Performance-Based Contracting Initiative for Foster Care Services; for the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020; for an additional amount of \$50,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total amount not to exceed \$165,000.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

ADJOURNMENT

President Kahn adjourned the meeting at 11:11 a.m.



Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary  
Human Services Commission

Posted: 6/5/2019