

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
M I N U T E S
September 27, 2018 Regular Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, September 27, 2018 in the Ronald H. Born Auditorium at 170 Otis Street, San Francisco.

MEMBERS PRESENT SCOTT KAHN, President
 JAMES MCCRAY, JR., Vice President
 RITA SEMEL
 PABLO STEWART, M.D.
 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 9:35 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 approved the minutes of the August 23, 2018 Regular Meeting as circulated.

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

FEDERAL UPDATES

1. Public Charge monthly update: In the last few days, various news organizations ran stories in anticipation of a Trump Administration announcement to greatly expand the types of programs the federal government will consider in determining approvals for legal permanent residency and admission to the US. The benefits currently considered when determining who is likely to become a "public charge" are cash assistance and government-funded long-term institutional care; the federal government would like to include health (non-emergency Medicaid, Medi-Cal and Medicare Part D Low Income Subsidy), housing assistance, HCV and public housing, and food (CalFresh) benefits under the "public charge" definition. This is the first time health and nutrition benefits will be used against applicants for Lawful Permanent Residence (LPR). Certain categories of immigrants, like refugees, asylees, and others, are excluded. Technically this expansion will impact very few of our clients, but we are concerned that the fear and confusion caused by the rule will result in immigrants choosing to disenroll in benefit programs or opting out of applying. HSA has been tracking participation in our benefit programs among households with non-citizens since Trump was elected and we are already seeing a decline in enrollment among CalFresh households with a non-citizen. We are working with community partners, the Office of Civic Engagement and Immigrant Affairs and the Mayor's Office around messaging: we are against this rule change. The 27-page rule has not been published yet. There are 60 days of public commentary allowed and another 60 days until the rule goes into effect. This means we have 4 months to inform the public and prepare.
2. The Farm Bill has been stalled. Given the House will be in session only through this Thursday before it recesses for the November elections, there is little chance that the farm bill will be completed in time. The delay does not affect SNAP. The Farm Bill funds [our] CalFresh.

STATE UPDATES

There are many bills sitting on the Governor's desk awaiting his signature (and hopefully not a veto). One such bill, Assembly Bill 2043 (Arambula), creates the California Coordinated Response System, adapted from successful response systems in other states, and includes a toll-free hotline available statewide, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to provide immediate assistance to caregivers and children and youth in the foster care system who are experiencing emotional, behavioral or other difficulties that are overwhelming to them. Another bill awaiting signature is Assembly Bill 2083 (Cooley), Trauma-Informed Services for Foster Youth. This bill would take steps at the local, state and practitioner levels to improve and coordinate services to the most highly traumatized youth in care. The bill requires a coordination of care between the county child welfare agency, behavioral health department, probation department, county office of education and the regional center serving the county and establishes a state-level group representing the Departments of Social Services, Health Care Services, and Developmental Disabilities to help counties with implementation of the required MOUs.

LOCAL

The Department of Human Services (DHS) participated in an emergency preparation activation in September called Yellow Command. The purpose of Yellow Command is to increase shelter capacity during a disaster so we opened mock shelters and an Emergency Operations Center.

There have been many articles in recent months about food insecurity within the college student population. In partnership with UCSF and SF Marin Food Bank, we are participating in a CalFresh enrolment event at UCSF tomorrow (Friday, September 28) to help students apply for CalFresh.

PROGRAMS

SFBN - CalFresh & Medi-Cal

Cal Fresh completed the annual state audit last week; we are waiting for the final report, however, we anticipate positive results. The ABAWD (Able Body Adults without Dependents) work program began September 1. We will continue to send notifications to clients regarding the requirements.

CAAP

Tipping Point (a local foundation) and two community-based legal services organizations, PRC and Bay Legal, are piloting an expansion of SSI advocacy in San Francisco to reduce poverty and homelessness. While we already have several successful SSI Advocacy programs that are funded by Human Services and Public Health, this expansion will focus on clients who do not qualify for existing programs. CAAP SSI Advocacy is currently implementing office hours on site for the legal representatives to connect with clients who need to appeal a denial of an SSI claim to an Administrative Law Judge. Providing clients an opportunity to meet with an attorney at CAAP will make it more likely that they will meet filing deadlines and prevail in their disability claim.

PROJECT 500/CalWORKs

The state is implementing a new home visiting program for CalWORKs families that is very similar to P500 (more robust than existing programs); we are submitting our funding proposal tomorrow (Friday, September 28). We hired our first male mentor.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES (FCS)

Our IV-E Waiver expires at the end of September 2019. The waiver allows us to use federal funds for child welfare initiatives with more flexibility. The Trump Administration enacted the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) which appears to have a narrow reach and does not offer us the flexibility of the IV-E waiver. We are in the process of determining the challenges and opportunities of FFPSA and how it aligns with us locally. We have about \$13M/year in flexible funding that we need to figure out how to fit into new regulations.

We are searching for a new child welfare director. We hope to have a candidate hired in the next few weeks.

Vice-President McCray had a question about the financial impact of the waiver's expiration.

Commissioner Semel asked about DHS's involvement with the census. Executive Director Rhorer said that DHS is indeed involved, but to what extent he will need to research and get back to the Commissioners; what he does know is that the Office of Civic Engagement leads the effort and they have requested that a contact be selected from each relevant agency.

HONORING DR. PABLO STEWART

President Kahn presented Commissioner Stewart with a plaque for outstanding service over 14 years in various roles—as president, vice-president, and commissioner—with the Human Services Commission. Executive Director Rhorer reminisced about the Care not Cash initiative in 2002, Proposition N, stating that this was Dr. Stewart's legacy. Dan Kelly presented Dr. Stewart with a framed photo from the annual Foster Care Fund Softball Tournament. Commissioner Yamasaki then offered a few words of appreciation for Dr. Stewart's contribution to the Commission, on behalf of his fellow Commissioners. Dr. Stewart issued a big thank you and added that he is proud of and impressed by the employees of the Department of Human Services who work hard every day to help those in need.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

President Kahn announced TAMISHA MOUTON, Placement Unit Social Worker Supervisor, Family & Children's Services, as the September 2018 Employee of the Month. The Commission recognized Tamisha for her passion, positive morale and hard work. She facilitates stable and safe environments for foster youth who have experienced so much trauma. Ms. Mouton was awarded an engraved desk clock, which she graciously accepted with thanks to all. Guests present in support of Tamisha included her mother, two daughters, and a full auditorium of colleagues. Executive Director Rhorer added that Tamisha's role as Placement Unit Social Worker Supervisor is especially critical given the importance of placement within child welfare reform (CCR).

CONSENT CALENDAR

On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved and ratified actions taken by the Executive Director since the August 23, 2018 Regular Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of September 27, 2018:

1. Submission of requests to encumber funds in the total amount of \$13,830,645 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 8/15/18 to 9/10/18.
3. Submission of 39 temporary appointments made during the period of 8/15/18 to 9/10/18.

PROCLAIMING SEPTEMBER 24, 2018 TO SEPTEMBER 28, 2018 DIAPER NEED AWARENESS WEEK.

On behalf of Help a Mother Out, President Kahn requested that the Commission adopt the resolution proclaiming the week of September 24 – 28, 2018 Diaper Need Awareness Week.

On motion of Commissioner Semel, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission adopted the resolution proclaiming September 24-28, 2018 as Diaper Need Awareness Week, as follows:

WHEREAS, the City and County of San Francisco Human Services Commission traditionally recognize important opportunities to raise awareness in an effort to increase public health in our City; and

WHEREAS, Diaper Need, the condition of not having a sufficient supply of clean diapers to ensure that infants and toddlers are clean, healthy and dry, can adversely affect the health and welfare of infants, toddlers and their families; and

WHEREAS, national surveys report that one in three mothers experience diaper need at some time while their children are less than three years of age and 48% of families delay changing a diaper to extend their supply; and

WHEREAS, the average infant or toddler requires an average of at least 50 diaper changes per week over three years; and

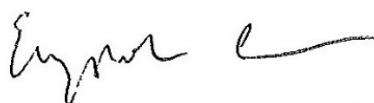
WHEREAS, for a single mother with two children receiving CalWORKs, diapers can consume as much as 28% of her household budget; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that providing diapers can improve the health and financial stability of San Francisco's lowest-income families, the City and County of San Francisco have partnered with Help a Mother Out, a nonprofit organization, to create the San Francisco Diaper Bank, the first and only publicly-funded diaper bank in the nation, providing a full supply of diapers each month to families receiving CalWORKs who have children under the age of three; and

WHEREAS, over the last three years the San Francisco Diaper Bank has distributed over two million diapers to low-income families; and, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the San Francisco Human Services Commission proclaims September 24, 2018 to September 28, 2018 Diaper Need Awareness Week in San Francisco.

- REPORT ON THE USE OF THE 10% CONTINGENCY ON HSA CONTRACTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-2018
- Contracts Director John Tsutakawa reported on the use of the 10% contingency within HSA contracts for Fiscal Year 2017-2018, as requested by President Kahn several months prior.
- CHILD AND FAMILY POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA (CFPIC)
- Noelle Simmons, Deputy Director, Economic Support and Self-Sufficiency, presented the request to modify the grant agreement with CHILD AND FAMILY POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA (CFPIC).
- On motion of Vice-President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to modify the grant agreement with CHILD AND FAMILY POLICY INSTITUTE OF CALIFORNIA (CFPIC) to provide fiscal agent services related to CalWORKs strategic initiatives; during the period November 1, 2018 to October 31, 2019; for an additional amount of \$121,800, plus a 10% contingency, for a revised total amount not to exceed \$1,961,148.
- SENECA FAMILY OF AGENCIES
- Liz Crudo, Program Manager, Family & Children's Services, presented the request to modify the grant agreement with SENECA FAMILY OF AGENCIES.
- On motion of Vice-President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to modify the grant agreement with SENECA FAMILY OF AGENCIES to provide visitation and transportation services; during the period July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020; for an additional amount of \$200,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$1,392,162.
- SENECA FAMILY OF AGENCIES
- Juliet Halverson, Program Manager, Family & Children's Services, presented the request to enter into a new grant agreement with SENECA FAMILY OF AGENCIES.
- On motion of Vice-President McCray, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to enter into a new grant agreement with SENECA FAMILY OF AGENCIES to provide secure transportation for foster children and youth; during the period October 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021; for an amount of \$275,000, plus a 10% contingency, for a total amount not to exceed \$302,500.
- PUBLIC COMMENT
- President Kahn's call for public comment yielded no responses.
- CLOSED SESSION
- Executive Director Rhorer requested that the Public Employee Performance Evaluation be postponed until the Special Meeting on October 18, 2018. On motion of Commissioner Yamasaki, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to move to the Special Meeting on October 18, 2018
- ADJOURNMENT
- President Kahn adjourned the meeting at 10:43 a.m.



Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary
Human Services Commission