

City of Alameda, California
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD
THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022
DRAFT MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Sarah Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: President Sarah Lewis, Board members Dianne Yamashiro-Omi, Samantha Green, Scott Means, Michelle Buchholz, and Bernie Wolf.

President Lewis welcomed new board members Michelle Buchholz and Bernard (Bernie) Wolf.

City staff: Marcie Johnson and Eric Fonstein

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-A Review and Approve June 23, 2022 Draft Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of June 23, 2022 was made by Board member Green and seconded by Board member Scott. Ayes: President Lewis, Board members Yamashiro-Omi, Green, and Means. Nays: none. Abstained: Buchholz and Wolf as they were not present at the June 23 meeting. Motion passed 4-0-2.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5-A Accept the Status Report of Emergency Response Services for the Homeless in the City of Alameda

Marcie Johnson, City of Alameda's Social Services Development Manager, presented a status report of the Emergency Response Services for the Homeless, addressing Goal 2, Increasing Access to Homeless Emergency Response Services, of *The Road Home: A Five-Year Strategic Plan to Prevent & Respond to Homelessness in Alameda*. Ms. Johnson detailed progress made since the last bi-annual status report presented to the Board, provided updates to programs and services, thanked the Board, and answered clarifying questions.

Board member Wolf expressed interest in touring facilities mentioned in the report. Ms. Johnson offered to connect Board members with representatives from Village of Love for a tour of the Day Center, and suggested Board members visit Dine & Connect at the end of the month, where members can volunteer, and also view the public health mobile unit.

No public comment.

Board members discussed the presentation. President Lewis requested a CARES team presentation at a future Board meeting, as well as a Guaranteed Income Pilot Program presentation. Board member Green requested CARES data as available, to be used for the Community Needs Assessment. Staff members Johnson and Fonstein offered to follow up on requests.

A motion to accept the Status Report was made by Board member Yamashiro-Omi and seconded by Board member Green. Ayes: President Lewis, Board members Yamashiro-Omi, Green, Means, Buchholz, and Wolf. Nays: none. Motion passed 6-0.

5-B Continued Discussion of the Development and Implementation of the 2022 Community Needs Assessment

President Lewis provided background and context to the item for new Board members Buchholz and Wolf.

Board member Green presented a review of some of the base data and secondary source data used for indicators (called the “Data Book”) which informs what focus groups are needed. Based on this data, consultant CERES, created a suggested list of focus groups. Board member Yamashiro-Omi invited Board members to volunteer to lead and organize a group and/or provide suggestions for whom to invite for each group with the goal to finalize the Data Book at the next SSHRB meeting. Board member Green said that data collection is still needed from Alameda Family Services’ CARE program, the Point-In-Time (PIT) homeless count, and voter turnout. Ms. Johnson reported that the City received the PIT data this week and will share with Board member Green.

No public comment.

Board member Buchholz expressed the importance of diversity for the focus groups. Board member Green shared that there will \$50 gift cards for participation, and clarified that eight focus group categories were identified based on disparities in outcomes and that consultant CERES has vast experience working with bilingual and multi-cultural partners.

Board member Means offered to reach out to seniors and veterans.

Board member Yamashiro-Omi invited other Board members to take responsibility for a focus group, and offered that CERES will provide contact information for the focus groups. Mr. Fonstein offered to email (bcc) the spreadsheet to the Board members to note their suggestions and contacts, requesting a quick response. President Lewis also expressed concern about including more data, which might cloud the report’s findings.

Board member Wolf suggested reaching out through the local newspaper to gain broader participation in the focus groups.

President Lewis volunteered to draft bullet points for an executive summary, highlighting major findings. Board member Omi suggested the Board might develop a PR strategy to

publicize the report's findings. President Lewis suggested putting this on a future agenda item.

Board member Green summarized the next steps as follows:

- Finalize the Data Book—President Lewis to identify and draft key findings.
- Mr. Fonstein to circulate spreadsheet contact list for the focus groups.
- Start focus groups in late September, with CERES to prepare power point presentation of findings for the October Board meeting.

5-C Workgroup Reports

- Domestic Violence Task Force—Mr. Fonstein reported on the August 18 quarterly meeting and the creation of the Domestic Violence flyer to be posted in the women's restrooms at local bars, restaurants, taverns, and public facilities. Board member Wolf volunteered to be the Board's representative on the task force.
- Alamedans Together Against Hate—Board member Yamashiro-Omi reported that work will be rooted in the findings of the Community Needs Assessment and the focus group discussions.
- Infrastructure—No updates at this time.

There was no public comment.

President Lewis invited Board members to consider joining sub-committees in September: one position is open for the DV Task Force, one position open for Alamedans Together Against Hate, and one position is open for Community Needs Assessment (a temporary work group).

5-D Nominate and Elect Social Service Human Relations Board President and Vice President.

Board member Yamashiro-Omi nominated Sarah Lewis for a second year as Board President. There were no other nominations. President Lewis accepted the nomination.

Board member Green nominated Board member Means as the Vice President. There were no other nominations and Board member Means accepted the nomination.

President Lewis made a motion to approve the proposed slate (President Lewis to continue in her role and Board member Means to become the Board's Vice President). The motion was second by Board member Green. Ayes: President Lewis, Board members Yamashiro-Omi, Green, Means, Buchholz, and Wolf. Nays: none. Motion passed 6-0.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

6-A Status Report on Homeless Services

Staff member Johnson updated that Emergency Supportive Housing at Alameda Point is ready for occupancy. The item will be presented to City Council in September along with a

recommendation to contract with Village of Love Foundation to provide homeless outreach services 7 days per week.

Board member Green asked if the funding for outreach services increased to allow for more than 20 hours per week. Ms. Johnson answered that the contract includes for two full time equivalent (FTE) positions.

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

Board member Means reported that he attended the first meeting for the Vision Zero committee on traffic safety. He suggested that this become a regular agenda item to keep the rest of the Board informed.

President Lewis suggested adding to the agenda for the next meeting time for introductions with the new Board members Buchholz and Wolf. Mr. Fonstein added that the Board may also have its seventh seat filled with City Council approval by the next meeting.

Board member Buchholz asked if there are any guidelines on accepted demographic or socio-economic terminology used by the Board. The Board and staff were unaware of any guidelines. Board members Buchholz and Means offered to researched guidelines to be discussed at a future meeting.

President Lewis suggested agendizing a prioritization session to discuss and recommit to priorities previously identified in preparation for 2023.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Lewis adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Fonstein, Board Secretary