

**City of Alameda, California**  
**SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD**  
**THURSDAY, January 28, 2021**  
**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Christine Chilcott called the meeting to order at approximately 7:08pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Attendance: President Christine Chilcott, Board members Moustafa Aly, Kristin Furuichi Fong, Priya Jagannathan, Sarah Lewis, Tony Lewis, and Joanna Paillet-Growl.

City staff: Ana Bagtas, Lois Butler, and Eric Fonstein

Absent: none

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of December 3, 2020 was made by Board member S. Lewis and seconded by Board member Paillet-Growl. Ayes: President Chilcott, Board members Aly, Furuichi Fong, Jagannathan, S. Lewis, T. Lewis, and Paillet-Growl. Nays: none. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**5. AGENDA ITEMS**

**5-A 2021-625 Recommendation to Provide Feedback on Draft Recommendations from the Community-Led Committee on Police Reform & Racial Justice**

President Chilcott introduced representatives from the Police Reform and Racial Justice Steering Committee and its subcommittee examining strategies and developing recommendations towards police reform. Steering Committee members Al Manse and Jolene Wright presented an overview of the effort and highlighted their recommendations, which include the following:

- Creation of Police Accountability Department and Citizens Police Oversight Committee, which would have independent oversight and reporting structure outside of the police department.
- Creation of a Police Oversight Board that is written into the City Charter.
- Creation of a Policy and Procedure Review Board, overseen by the Police Accountability Department, reporting to the City Police Oversight Committee.
- Recommendation that APD require mental health and de-escalation training on an annual or semi-annual basis.
- Creation of a full-time "Crime Analyst" position and expansion of the APD's statistical expertise.
- Hiring of a Police Chief committed to reform.

- Advancement of a dynamic and robust annual assessment of community needs by individuals outside of APD.
- Enhancing citizen a feedback mechanism, an “anti-racism reporting/feedback tool.”

Manse reviewed the next steps. President Chilcott invited questions and discussions. Feedback included: disaggregating race/gender data, developing community healing story-telling programs, exploring community policing, creating a Board/Committee that integrates the current subcommittees, ensuring diverse voices in the process, establishing implicit bias training for officers, and supporting unbundling that diverts mental health calls to mental health professionals.

Subcommittee members present included: Jono Soglin, Amy Gong Liu, Serena Chen, Danielle Motley-Lewis, Heather Reed, Basse Obot, Andrea Carlise, Hannah Groce, Gavin Maxwell, Raquel Williams, Madlen Saddik, and Lisa Foster (City staff to the Steering Committee).

### **5-B 2021-619 Community Needs for Community Development Block Grant FY 2021-22**

Lisa Fitts, Community Development Program Manager for the City of Alameda, reviewed the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Five Year Strategic Plan, and invited community members to provide input on developing a Needs Statement for presentation at the February 16, 2021 City Council meeting that will propose goals for the fiscal year 2021-22. Previously identified priorities include affordable housing, fair housing, and housing support to food security, homeless services, mental health services, safety and crime prevention, and transportation and pedestrian safety.

Input from service providers, members of the public, and Board members determined that these priorities continue to be relevant. The Board heard comments from: Erin Scott (Family Violence Law Center), Sabrina Thomas (Building Futures), Kale Jenks (Alameda Family Services), and Rasheed Shabazz (Alameda resident).

The following discussion points provide additional context to the issues at hand:

- Domestic violence and gender equity
  - Domestic violence results in the economic insecurity, which often leads to increased risk for homelessness and legal problems.
  - Homelessness increases women’s exposure to sexual violence.
  - Gender-based lens should be considered in all facets of planning, developing, funding, and evaluating of housing, homeless services, and other initiatives.
  - COVID-19 aggravates the issues of domestic violence and gender and racial inequities.
- Mental health
  - Isolation, uncertainty, and loss caused by the pandemic have exacerbated mental health concerns, especially for adolescents with pre-existing mental health conditions.
- Shelter program
  - Shelters have had to operate at a reduced rate to maintain safe distancing due to COVID-19. Midway Shelter is at 60% capacity.

- Support for shelters are integral to the continued operation of the program, particularly given the increase in maintenance costs due to the aging of facilities.
- Housing security and homelessness prevention
  - The pandemic has led to an eviction crisis, debt accumulation, domestic violence, mental health issues, and food insecurity. These factors have led to housing insecurity and increased risk for homelessness.
  - Focus the assessment of needs on protective and advocacy services that prevent people from becoming unhoused.
  - There is a strong need to include those that have been disproportionately impacted, such as black and brown residents and other people of color, as well as low-income individuals and families.
  - Rent relief and eviction moratoriums prevent homelessness and should be extended.
- Food insecurity
  - Food insecurity has dramatically increased as a result of the pandemic.
  - The Alameda Food Bank currently serve 1,600-1,800 families per week, compared to around 50-80 families prior to the pandemic. The Food Bank has had 63,000 food pickups since March 2020.
  - The Food Bank provides a critical lifeline for individuals and families who would otherwise go hungry during this unprecedented crisis.

#### **5-C Presentation Homeless Strategic Plan**

Staff member Amanda Gehrke provided an update on the Homelessness Strategic Plan, a project that is collaborating with a consultant to develop a five-year strategic plan aimed at developing a robust plan to combat homelessness in Alameda.

#### **5-D 2021-621 Update on the Transitional Housing Project**

Staff member Ana Bagtas provided an update on the status of the transitional housing project.

#### **5-E Election of Officers**

A motion to reelect Chillcott as President and to elect Board member S. Lewis as Vice-President was made by Board member Aly and seconded by Board member Furuichi Fong. Ayes: President Chilcott, Board members Aly, Furuichi Fong, Jagannathan, S. Lewis, T. Lewis, and Paillet-Growl. Nays: none. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **5-F Workgroup Reports**

- Homeless Action Plan Workgroup (S. Lewis) – discussed earlier during the Needs Assessment dialogue.
- Youth Mental Health (Chilcott/Paillet-Growl) – President Chilcott and Staff member Bagtas reported that AUSD received grant funding for training for nurses on youth mental health.
- Domestic Violence Task Force (Aly/Chilcott/Furuichi Fong) – Board member Furuichi Fong shared that the next quarterly meeting will be in March 2021.

## **6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

## **6-A Homelessness Updates and Initiatives**

- Feed Alameda – Staff member Bagtas reported that the City-community sponsored local meals for unhoused individuals weekly program is underway and well-received, with funds raised to support the program through August 2021.
- Showers at Christ Church – Staff member Bagtas reported that showers are almost complete and the shower program is expected to start in the next few weeks.
- Warming Shelter - Staff member Bagtas reported that the warming shelter could not operate due to COVID restrictions, however the most vulnerable unhoused individuals are temporarily housed in a motel through March, with Building Futures providing services onsite.
- Point in Time Count - Staff member Bagtas reported that the waiver to delay point-in-time count has been approved until it is safer to perform the count.

## **6-B Season for Nonviolence**

Staff member Bagtas reported that the City is collaborating with AUSD to host the Speech Contest in April, and Staff member Fonstein invited Board members to support the event as judges or staff.

## **7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA**

Board members Aly and T. Lewis expressed concern for unhoused individuals getting access to vaccines in a timely manner. Staff member Bagtas offered to update the Board on vaccinating Alameda's unhoused.

## **8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

President Chilcott adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Fonstein, Board Secretary