

City of Alameda, California
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD (SSHRB)
THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 2019

DRAFT MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Board Vice-President Christine Chilcott called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Roll Call: Vice-President Christine Chilcott, Boardmember Kristin Furuichi-Fong, Boardmember Cheryl Harawitz, Boardmember Sarah Lewis, Boardmember Johanna Paillet-Growl, and Boardmember Pravda Wright

Excused: Boardmember Moustafa Aly

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Boardmember Harawitz moved to approve the minutes of July 18, 2019 Special Meeting. Boardmember Lewis seconded. The minutes of July 18, 2019 Special Meeting were unanimously approved as written.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

4. AGENDA ITEMS

4-A Review, Discuss, and Accept *Alameda County Homeless Count & Survey Comprehensive Report 2019*

Laura Guzman, Director of HUD Continuum of Care for EveryOne Home, presented the results of the 2019 Point-In-Time count. Ms. Guzman thanked the elected officials, service providers, staff, and volunteers from Alameda who helped with the early morning count on January 30, 2019. Over 700 volunteers and guides with lived experience participated in the count. Follow-up surveys with homeless individuals were also conducted, collecting 1,681 surveys, which was 500 more surveys than two years ago at the last Point-In-Time count. As such, Ms. Guzman expressed confidence in the strength of the data. Ms. Guzman highlighted key findings from the report, which include the following:

- Alameda County had a 43% overall increase in the homeless population.
- The City of Alameda has a count of 231 homeless people, a 13% increase from 2017.
- Apart from Albany and Piedmont, all incorporated cities in Alameda County show an increase in the homeless population, especially in Oakland, which has experienced a 47% increase and now has the highest homeless population per capita in the state, surpassing San Francisco and Los Angeles.

- For every one homeless person that gets housed in Alameda County, two more become newly homeless.
- The highest percentage increase in the homeless population in Alameda County was among people living in vehicles, comprising 55% of the unhoused population.
- People living in tents doubled from two years ago.
- The homeless youth count saw a slight decrease, though data is less reliable for this population, as they often “couch surf” with friends. This is also true for homeless families.
- Homelessness among seniors is on the rise. Their fixed income cannot support the Bay Area cost of living, resulting in their homelessness for the first time.

Boardmember Paillet-Growl moved to accept the 2019 Alameda County Homeless Count and Survey Comprehensive Report. Boardmember Harawitz seconded. The Board unanimously accepted the report.

4-B Review and Revise SSHRB’s Draft Work Plan for 2020 and Workgroup Assignments

- Eric Fonstein reminded the Board that one of the requirements of SSHRB, as delineated in the ordinance, is to develop an annual plan that will be presented to City Council for approval. Fonstein presented and reviewed the draft SSHRB Work Plan for calendar 2020 with the Board. For the next two meetings, staff will work with the Board on refining the plan and developing metrics to evaluate its projects and efforts. The Board will approve a final plan at its November 2019 meeting and will recommend that the plan move forward to the City Council for adoption in December.
- Vice-President Chilcott thanked the Board for responding to the poll sent by staff to determine Workgroup assignments. She confirmed the following assignments:
 - Census 2020: Boardmembers Aly and Furuichi Fong
 - Homeless Action Plan: Boardmembers Harawitz, Lewis, and Wright
 - Youth Mental Health: Boardmembers Chilcott and Paillet-Growl

4-C Workgroup Reports

The following Workgroup reports were provided by Boardmembers and staff:

- **Census 2020 Workgroup:** Ana Bagtas reported that the Alameda Complete Count Committee continues to conduct outreach and is working on developing several census campaigns. Staff have presented to several community groups, sometimes in partnership with the County, and have sponsored booths at events. A student from Alameda High School interned for the City this summer and developed the Alameda Complete Count Committee website and promotional materials for its census campaigns that include collecting photos of Alameda residents to showcase the city’s diversity, a pledge to be counted online and postcard campaign, and outreach to hard-to-count communities. Alameda has received a \$15,000 grant from the East Bay Community Foundation to support its census outreach efforts.

- **Homeless Action Plan Workgroup:** Bagtas reported that at its July 16, 2019 meeting, the City Council approved signing a contract with Alameda County for the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP). Staff is now working on contracting with community-based service providers and locating sites to implement the projects recommended by the HEAP Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee will resume its meetings in September.
- **Youth Mental Health:** Boardmembers Paillet-Growl and Chilcott, as well as staff, have been participating in the “Let’s Talk Alameda” meetings to develop a mental health campaign targeting youth and their families. Media campaigns, trainings, and education strategies are currently being developed. The campaign’s focus will be on identifying the signs, accessing resources, and engaging in a dialogue about mental health.

4-D Election of Officers

Vice-President Chilcott reviewed the nominations approved by the Board at its July 18, 2019 Special meeting as follows:

- President: Christine Chilcott
- Vice-President: Pravda Wright

Boardmember Harawitz moved to approve the candidates as nominated. Lewis seconded. The nominations were approved unanimously.

5. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

5-A Discussion of SSHRB’s Involvement in the CDBG Process in FY 2020-21

Fonstein reported that staff will be meeting with Lisa Fitts from the Housing Authority to discuss the needs assessment process for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and the role of the Board. Staff will provide a report at the next Board meeting.

5-B Discussion and Planning of 2019 Community Service Awards

Bagtas announced that the Community Service Awards will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at the Elks Lodge ballroom. Nomination packets will be released soon. At least two Board members typically serve on the judges’ panel. Boardmembers Lewis and Paillet-Growl volunteered to be judges. Vice-President Chilcott asked that Boardmembers be available to help on the day of the event.

6. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

None.

7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Boardmember Lewis moved to adjourn the meeting. Boardmember Harawitz seconded. The Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.