

**City of Alameda, California
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023
APPROVED MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Scott Means called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: Vice President Scott Means, Board members Samantha Green, Gerald Bryant, Dianne Yamashiro-Omi, Bernie Wolf, and Michelle Buchholz

Absent: President Sarah Lewis (Excused)

City staff: Marcie Johnson, Eric Fonstein, Katherine Kaldis, and CivicSpark Fellow Yasamin Obaidy

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-A Review and Approve December 1, 2022 Draft Minutes

This item will be carried over to the next SSHRB meeting. Board members Wolf, Dianne Omi, and Buchholz did not attend the December meeting and could not vote to approve the minutes. Therefore, the Board will need the four members that were present at the December meeting (President Sarah Lewis, Vice President Scott Means, and Board members Samantha Green and Gerald) in to order to vote to approve the minutes.

[**Note:** According to the Alameda Municipal Code Section 2-9.3b, "The votes of a majority of the entire membership of the Board shall be necessary to take any action thereof." Also, according to SSHRB's Rules and Procedures G.4.m (Voting): "A vote of four (4) members at a properly called meeting shall be necessary for any action of the Board."]

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5-A Approve the City of Alameda Transportation Program Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities for Fiscal Year 2023/2024

Katherine Kaldis, Paratransit Coordinator with the City of Alameda, presented the Transportation Program Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities for Fiscal Year 2023/24. The following are summary of the key segments:

- On June 30, 2022, the Alameda Loop Shuttle was discontinued due to low ridership. Staff took the following steps to inform shuttle users of the elimination:
 - In January 2022, flyers were placed inside shuttles, at the mastic senior center, in libraries, as well as on the Alameda Paratransit website;

- Met with residents of the Water's Edge Lodge (in person); and
- Contracted with a vendor to remove all shuttle signs, polls and schedules, prior to the discontinuation.
- In 2022-23, staff introduced two new, three-year pilot programs.
 - Alameda Free AC Transit Bus Pass Program.
 - The program started in June 2022 with 62 passes.
 - As of today, more than 420 passes have been issued.
 - The average ride costs, \$1.29, which is now free for pass holders.
 - In the first seven months participants have taken over 21,000 rides.
 - Riders have access to transportation 24/7, 7 days a week.
 - On a scale of 1 to 5, the program's average satisfaction rate is 3.67.
 - Currently there's an average of over 3,100 rides taken per month (the target is, 10,000 rides per month).
 - In December 2022, 199 unique users took 5,956 trips during the program.
 - Staff recommends continuing the three-year pilot program.
 - Alameda Independent Mobility (AIM).
 - Completed first year of a three-year pilot program.
 - AIM serves an especially vulnerable population.
 - Provides five subsidized, on-demand rides per month for Alameda residents who are fully enrolled in East Bay Paratransit.
 - The program currently has 90 residents enrolled, averaging 48 rides per month.
 - The average participant cost per ride is: \$4.53.
 - The average program cost per ride is: \$140 (ranging from \$68 to \$209 per month).
 - Staff recommends continuing the three-year pilot program and renegotiating the operating costs with Eden I&R.
- Recommendations:
 - Customer service and outreach.
 - Monthly presentations/orientations.
 - Monthly travel training for AC Transit – *Hop on the Bus with Us!*
 - East Bay Paratransit ticket sales.
 - Clipper Card assistance.
 - In-person and phone support and follow-up.
 - Total budget: \$16,200.
 - Capital program (improving access to/from bus stops, including sidewalk enhancements, bus benches, curb bulb-outs, and bus islands) total budget: \$350,000.
 - Group trips (to the Mastick Center, Leisure Club trips and Skilled Nursing Home annual picnic) total budget: \$25,000.
 - Program management (allocating funds for a part-time paratransit coordinator, group trip driver, and on-call experts) total budget: \$46,660.

Staff member Kaldis thanked the Board for its time and asked if there were any clarifying questions.

Board member Wolf asked if City staff has considered offering masks and disinfectant to riders. Staff member Kaldis explained that drivers are required to wear masks, however,

the passengers are not.

Board member Yamashiro-Omi asked if City staff has identified any type of, population service gaps, as she is concerned that the current outreach plan does not target the population with the highest need. Staff member Kaldis confirmed that the City has continued its effort to provide translated materials for non-English speaking residents, and is working to set up a volunteer who speaks both Mandarin and Cantonese. The City has also contacted the Village of Love to see who may qualify for the programs.

Staff member Johnson recommended that City staff also visit the Winter Warming Shelter, located at Christ Episcopal Church.

Vice President Means thanked staff member Kaldis for her presentation. He asked for public comments, which there were none. He then opened the floor for Board discussion. The following is a summary of the key segments:

- Board member Bryant recommended that City staff implement greater outreach to African-American communities when conducting surveys. He suggested that the City outreach to more places where there are the largest proportions of low income residents.
- Board member Buchholz asked for staff member Kaldis to provide the certified disability criteria (RTC ID card, DMV placard, disabled veteran, Medicare recipient or medically diagnosed by a physician)
- Board members would like to see more churches (especially ethic based) included in the outreach plan.

Vice President Means put forth a recommendation to approve the Plan with the following recommendations: City staff has all materials translated into predominantly non-English speaking languages spoken in Alameda. Prioritize the funding of classes for the least advantaged seniors and people with disabilities, such as Dignity Village and the homeless day center.

A motion to approve the City of Alameda Transportation Program Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities for Fiscal Year 2023/2024 was made by Board member Yamashiro-Omi and seconded by Board member Bryant. Ayes: Vice President Means, Board members Green, Bryant, Wolf, Yamashiro-Omi, and Buchholz. Nays: none. Motion passed 6-0.

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

Marcie Johnson, Social Services Manager with the City of Alameda, presented the Status Report of Emergency Response Services for the Homeless in the City of Alameda. The following are summary of the key segments:

- According to the 2022 Alameda County, Everyone Counts, Point in Time count, the number of homeless individuals in the City has increased by 14%, since the last count in 2019
- The City has four developments that contribute units to the Inclusionary Housing Program; Bay 37(39 units), The Launch, Alameda Marina Phase (1-49 units), Alta Star Harbor (24 rental units), and, The Starling (69 rental units plus 1 manager's unit).

- Dignity Village will provide interim supportive housing (47 units, up to 61 beds).
- City staff visited the OS Factory in Vallejo, where they viewed prototypes of the modular units for Dignity Village.
- Emergency Supportive Housing at Alameda Point (14-19 beds) is three City-owned homes at Alameda Point. City staff go back to City Council on February 21 to ask to open a fourth home.
- Midway Shelter currently has 25 beds, for women and/or women and children.
- Winter Warming Services has 7 beds, which is a hotel program for individuals who are medically vulnerable during the winter months.
- Winter Warming Shelter takes place at Christ Episcopal Church, adding another 20 beds.
- Day Center / Day Center Overnight Services is a place for individuals to go indoors and receive assistance in case management during the day and provides 10 beds for overnight service.
- Safe Parking provides 25 parking spaces for individuals choosing to live in the vehicles.
- Safe Sheltering (4 to 8 beds available during Shelter-in-Place order).
- Mobile/Street Outreach is the City's homeless outreach team, providing services Monday – Sunday.
- Dine and Connect is a volunteer-driven effort by faith-based organizations to prepare and offer meals.
- Alameda CARE Team is a program providing a 24/7 alternative response to nonviolent, noncriminal individuals facing a mental health crisis.

Staff member Johnson thanked the Board for their time. Vice President Means asked for any clarifying questions.

Board member Bryant asked when the next modular units were expected to arrive. Staff member Johnson confirmed that the last modular unit recently arrived, however, we are currently waiting on the three ancillary buildings (common areas).

Board member Green wanted to know the total number of affordable housing units, in Alameda. Staff member Johnson confirmed she will get this number and respond at a later time.

Board member Buchholz commented that she liked the bathroom arrangements and asked how the outreach is done. Staff member Johnson answered that the City is required to coordinate referrals through the County's coordinated system with priority given to those associated with the City.

Vice President Means for public comments, which there were none.

A motion to approve the Report of Emergency Response Services for the Homeless in the City of Alameda was made by Board member Bryant and seconded by Board member Green. Ayes: Vice President Means, Board members Green, Bryant, Wolf, Yamashiro-Omi, and Buchholz. Nays: none. Motion passed 6-0.

5-C Discussion of 2023 Work Plan for the Social Service Human Relations Board

Staff member Fonstein advised that the target completion date is February 23, however, it can be extended to March 23. He offered to assist as needed and suggested the use of a graphic designer to format the Community Needs Assessment (CNA).

Board member Wolf wanted to know the current status of the CNA. Staff member Fonstein advised that he is putting together a revised draft, and will circulate it to the subcommittee once complete. Board member volunteered to help review the draft CNA.

Board member Green asked for City staff to reach out to Bananas to obtain data about Alameda's childcare capacity and cost.

5-D Social Service Human Relations Board Workgroup Reports

- Domestic Violence Task Force (Buchholz) – Staff member Fonstein plans to meet with Board member Buchholz, to strategize and discuss dates for the 2023 quarterly meetings.
- Alamedans Together Against Hate (Yamashiro-Omi, Bryant) – Board members Yamashiro-Omi and Bryant have been meeting monthly, to discuss ideas. Board member Yamashiro-Omi has been researching and comparing city resolutions, and recommends that Alameda creates a program similar to the City of Davis. Board member Bryant stated that it should be written in very simple, straightforward language (a five-year-old can understand). He suggested that a future resolution should be strengthened address the root causes of hate in the community. Board members Yamashiro-Omi and Bryant stated that they would like to meet with Davis representatives in the near future.
- Infrastructure Workgroup (Lewis, Means) – No update.

5-E Vision Zero Committee Meeting Report

Vice President Means reported that the next meeting will be held in February and the agenda will include; going over the first annual report on the Vision Zero Action Plan, information about traffic fatalities, injury reports, the progress of street design, and the status of the Action Plan.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

6-A Status Report on Homeless Services

Foregoing item since information was covered in agenda item 5-A

6-B Status of Return to In-Person or Hybrid Board Meetings

Staff member Fonstein shared that California is expected to lift the State of Emergency, on March 1, so the City will be returning to in-person meetings. Starting in March, the City will be introducing a hybrid, meeting format. Board members will be required to attend meetings in person and members of the public will have the option of attending in person, or via Zoom. Additional information and training will be provided, prior to the March 23, SSHRB meeting.

6-C Next Steps in CDBG grant applications: Board members to individually review and score applications in early February 2023

Staff member Fonstein reviewed the timeline for CDBG action items for Board members from February 9 to 27. The following is a summary of the key segments:

- Board members will receive a unique username and pin to log onto CityDataServices.com, to review/score the submitted applications;
- City staff will provide the specific scoring criteria;
- At the March 23 SSHRB meeting, Board members will make a recommendation on how to allocate the funds; and
- City Council will conduct a public hearing on May 2 to adopt funding recommendations.

Non-Agenda: Staff member Fonstein announced that the City will be hosting a Season for a Non-Violence speech contest, on Saturday, March 25. The City is looking for volunteers to serve as judges. Board members Bryant and Yamashiro-Omi volunteered.

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

Vice President Means shared that the Alameda County Transportation Commission is sponsoring a “Reboot Your Commute” event on February 8, 9, and 10. Aimed to encourage high school students to walk, bicycle, carpool, or take transit to school.

Board member Buchholz informed the Board that she will likely miss the February meeting, but will return in March.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Means adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.