

City of Alameda, California
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2023
APPROVED MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting President Scott Means called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Board member Bernie Wolf (Excused)

City staff: Marcie Johnson, Eric Fonstein, Amanda Olson, and Lisa Fitts (attended virtually)

2-A Season for Non-Violence Word of the Day

Acting President Means presented the word of the day: "Negotiation"

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, due to lack of the four members who were present at the December 1, 2022 meeting. Board member Buchholz has volunteered to watch the video recording from the December 1, 2022 meeting and review 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."]

3-B Review and Approve February 23, 2023 Draft Minutes

A motion to approve the February 23 minutes was made by Board member Yamashiro-Omi and seconded by Board member Green. Ayes: Acting President Means, Board members Green, Yamashiro-Omi, Buchholz and Bryant. Nays: none. Motion passed 5-0.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5-A Review and Approve Community Development Block Grant Public Services Funding Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2023-24

The presentation was given by staff member Amanda Olson, Program Manager. The following is a summary of the key segments:

- On February 27, 2023 the federal Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD) allocated \$1,123,711 of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to the City of Alameda
- On January 10, 2023 the City of Alameda released the FY 2023-24 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) and Request for Proposals (RFP)
- Assuming estimated funding of \$180,556 for public services, a funding request of \$303,395 exceeds the funds available by \$122,839.
- The following is a summary of the Public Service applications received, the average score from SSHRB members, the FY 2023-24 funding request, and staff's recommendations:

Applicant Listed in order of Score	Score	Staff's Recommended Funding
Alameda Food Bank	97.3	\$28,000
Building Futures for Women and Children	94.8	\$105,505
Family Violence Law Center (FVLC)	90.0	\$30,000
Legal Assistance for Seniors	88.8	\$25,000
Eden Council for Hope and Opportunity (ECHO)	88.8	\$25,290
Alameda Family Services	85.8	\$68,600
Eden I & R	N/A*	\$26,000
		\$308,395

* SSHRB reviewers were not asked to score Eden I & R as it provides a needed service and is the sole provider of information and referral services in Alameda County.

- Staff recommended the following:
 - Fund the public services at the levels proposed in the previous section.
 - Fund Building Futures with Women and Children, using up to \$3,000 of CDBG funds and using PLHA funds to fund the remaining balance.
 - Fund Eden Information & Referral, using CDBG administrative funds.
 - Move \$10,000 of FVLC funding from CDBG-CV to CDBG public services to be allocated \$5,000 per year for the next two fiscal years.
 - In the event that the projected CDBG program income for the current fiscal year is more/less than \$80,000, then staff recommends the funding for all service providers be increased/decreased on a pro rata basis.

Public Comments:

- The following members of the public voiced their appreciation for SSHRB's

ongoing support and consideration for funding:

- Erin Scott, the Executive Director of Family Violence Law Center
- Sabrina Thomas, the Emergency Services Program Director with Building Futures with Women and Children
- Angie Watson-Hajjem, the Fair Housing Coordinator with Eden Council for Hope and Opportunity
- Gitanjali Rawat, the Director of Programs with Eden Information and Referral
- Caitlin Chan, the Interim Executive Director with Legal Assistance for Seniors

A motion to approve the Community Development Block Grant Public Services Funding Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2023-24 and to approve a two-year funding term for Eden I&R was made by Board member Buchholz and seconded by Board member Bryant. Ayes: Acting President Means, Board members Green, Yamashiro-Omi, Bryant, and Buchholz. Nays: none. Motion passed 5-0.

5-B Review and Approve Draft 2023 Community Needs Assessment for City Council Consideration

Staff member Eric Fonstein provided an update on the Community Needs Assessment and asked the Board if anyone wanted to volunteer to present at City Council.

Public Comments – None.

A motion to approve the Draft 2023 Community Needs Assessment for City Council Consideration was made by Board member Yamashiro-Omi and seconded by Board member Buchholz. Ayes: Acting President Means, Board members Green, Yamashiro-Omi, Bryant, and Buchholz. Nays: none. Motion passed 5-0.

5-C Review and Approve Draft FY 2023-24 Work Plan for the Social Service Human Relations Board for City Council Consideration

Staff member Eric Fonstein provided an update on the Work Plan, highlighting the main components:

- Circulating the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) to the general public and community stakeholder groups;
- Human Relations / Alamedans Together Against Hate (ATAH)
- Participating in the City's Domestic Violence Task Force; and
- Continuing to oversee existing City initiatives.

Public Comments – Diego Palacios, high school student, inquired more about history and scope of ATAH. Staff members Johnson and Fonstein provided context.

Board Comments

- Board members discussed the Work Plan and identified information that should be modified prior to presenting to City Council. The following is a summary of recommended changes:

- The Community Needs Assessment concludes its assessment work and reforms to monitor the strategic plan for housing (*The Road Home*); and
- Alamedans Together Against Hate changes the name to a more affirmative name.

A motion to approve the Draft FY 2023-24 Work Plan for the Social Service Human Relations Board for City Council Consideration with the above changes was made by Acting President Means and seconded by Board member Buchholz. Ayes: Vice President Means, Board members Green, Yamashiro-Omi, Bryant, and Buchholz. Nays: none. Motion passed 5-0.

5-D Social Service Human Relations Board Workgroup Reports

- Domestic Violence Task Force (Buchholz/Wolf) – No update.
- Alamedans Together Against Hate (Yamashiro-Omi, Bryant) – No update.
- Infrastructure Workgroup (Means) – No update.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

6-A Status Report on Homeless Services

Staff member Marcie Johnson shared an update on Homeless Services. The following is a summary of the key segments:

- Dignity Village construction continues, and the grand opening event is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3
- Exterior repair work has begun on the Emergency Supportive Housing program's fourth home
- The Community Development Department has coordinated several de-escalation trainings for Dine & Connect, Alameda Food Bank, Alameda Downtown Business Association, West Alameda Business Association, and Alameda Free Library

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

None.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Staff member Fonstein notified the Board of the upcoming events:

- Season for Nonviolence Speech Contest, Saturday, March 25, from 10 am to 3 pm at City Hall.
- Alameda Youth Career & Job Fair, March 29, 1 to 4 pm at Encinal Jr. Sr. High School Gym

9. ADJOURNMENT

Acting President Means adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.