

**MEETING MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2019**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Board President Audrey Hyman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

President Hyman read the following Season for Nonviolence quote of the day for Wednesday, February 27:

“Today’s principle of nonviolence is Reconciliation. Nonviolence seeks reconciliation and understanding with the opponent. Nonviolence does not seek to defeat the opponent. Nonviolence is directed against evil systems, oppressive policies, and unjust acts, but not against persons. Civil rights activist John M. Perkins says, “There is no reconciliation until you recognize the dignity of the other, until you see their view- you have to enter into the pain of the people. You've got to feel their need.”

Roll Call: Boardmembers Audrey Hyman (President), Cheryl Harawitz, Kale Jenks, Claudia Medina, and Mark Sorensen

Absent: Boardmember Christine Chilcott (Vice-President)

**2. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Dan Ashbrook from Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS) thanked the Board for their support. Ashbrook provided an overview of his agency’s programs and services, including the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program, and its partner agencies. He stated that LAS will more than exceed its contracted service units for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Ashbrook announced the Elder Abuse Conference on Tuesday, May 21 at UC Hastings College of the Law. E-mail [dashbrook@las.org](mailto:dashbrook@las.org) to be added to the mailing list to receive announcements from LAS.

Laura McInnis from the Family Violence Law Center thanked the Board for considering the funding recommendation for CDBG. She talked about the importance of the funding to deliver needed services. She states that the funding makes a difference in providing supportive services from housing to safety.

### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Minutes of January 24, 2019 were approved as written. Board President Hyman abstained because she did not attend the January meeting.

### 4. AGENDA ITEMS

The order of Agenda items 4-A and 4-B was switched to accommodate scheduling requests.

4-B Lisa Fitts, Management Analyst with Alameda Housing Authority presented on the CDBG Public Service recommendations for funding for FY 2019-2020. Fitts provided background on the role of SSHRB on the CDBG Public Services funding and reported that all current providers will be funded at the same level in FY 2019-2020. No new providers applied. Fitts went over the budget, including program income, and delineated each of the funding recommendations. Fitts sought the Board's approval for the following recommendations:

- i. Enter into a three-year funding agreement with Eden I&R.
- ii. Set aside funding for Fair Housing and Information & Referral services and exclude these services from any proposed pro rata funding adjustments.
- iii. For the public services agreements for all other nonprofits, return to a two-year funding cycle, beginning with FY 20-21, which will be the first year of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan.
- iv. Make FY 19-20 funding recommendations assuming the same level of funding as received in FY 18-19, and propose funding allocations be adjusted on a pro rata basis (excepting Fair Housing and Information and Referral services) and rounded down in \$50 increments after the CDBG allocation for FY 19-20 has been published.

Boardmembers asked questions for which Fitts provided the following responses:

- Staff is requesting approval from the Board to allow staff to round down the funding amount by \$50 increments. Any surplus caused by this approach would be no more than \$250. Staff proposes that any surplus would be divided proportionately between the programs.
- The final amount for funding recommendation should be \$189,740. Any discrepancy in the amount may be due to the program income estimates.
- CDBG Public Services are for non-housing support services.

Boardmember Harawitz made a motion to approve staff's recommendations for funding for the CDBG Public Services for FY 2019-2020 and to allow staff the ability to round down the funding allocation by \$50 increments. Boardmember Medina seconded. The motions were approved unanimously.

The Board discussed the funding surplus that will result from the rounding. Eligible providers that may receive the surplus funds include the Alameda Food Bank, Building Futures with Women and Children, Family Violence Law Center, Legal Aid for Seniors, and a portion of the funding for ECHO/Eden Housing.

Boardmember Jenks made a motion to distribute the surplus funds proportionately to eligible providers. Boardmember Sorensen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- 4-A Victoria Williams, Paratransit Coordinator with the Mastick Senior Center, presented the City of Alameda Transportation Program Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Williams provided an overview of the City's transportation services and explained each program, which she described as a gap filler of services not provided by other transportation services. Paratransit has been rebranded and is now called Alameda Loop Shuttle and is ADA-accessible.

Williams went over the recommended programs for FY 2019-2020. The

City will continue exploring Uber and Lyft as options in the coming year and will add emergency wheelchair breakdown service. Current trips will continue. Capital improvements will be made on bus stops, and outreach and marketing materials will be updated. Williams went over the transportation budget for seniors and people with disabilities and mentioned that none of the revenues come from City general funds.

Boardmembers asked questions for which Williams provided the following responses:

- The limited service days is due to funding.
- There are safety concerns with the elderly using Uber and Lyft, however, these services have passenger assist. Alameda is watching how other cities are handling these transportation options. Alameda will follow.
- Client feedback includes having services available at night, weekends, and opposite directions. There were also requests for shuttle bus stops near clients' homes. This is not feasible.
- Data on seniors in Alameda will be sent to Ana Bagtas and Eric Fonstein to forward to the Board. [Staff subsequently provided the following information to the SSHRB: the 2010 U.S. Census showed Alameda's total population at 73,812 with 9,975 or 13.5 percent over the age of 65 years.]
- A research company did an analysis of Alameda's transportation services and recommended adding more hours rather than days.
- The change in name/branding of Paratransit may be associated with increase in rides.
- Posting signs about the fare is very important.

Boardmember Sorensen made a motion to approve the City of Alameda Transportation Program Plan for Seniors and People with Disabilities for Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Boardmember Medina seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4-C Workgroup Progress Reports

- Assessment and Awareness Workgroup—Hastings / Jenks: none
- Homeless Action Plan Workgroup—Harawitz / Hyman: none.

5. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

5-A Fonstein provided an update on the 2019 Season for Nonviolence. Daily readings are being done at schools, City Council, and other public meetings. The Speech Contest for middle school and high school students is scheduled on Saturday, March 16 starting at 10:00 am at City Hall. Boardmember Harawitz has already volunteered to serve as a judge. Kiwanis and Rotary Club are sponsoring the event, which enabled staff to increase the cash prizes.

5-B Fonstein provided an update on the Youth Career and Job Fair scheduled on Thursday, March 21, 2:30-4:30 p.m. at Encinal High School. Twenty-five organizations have already signed-up, which include businesses, nonprofits, and City departments offering 25-55 paid positions. This year, there is a Mayor's Challenge to offer 200 paid summer positions by 2020, and over 50 agencies have signed-on and are included in the Mayor's Honor Roll. Fonstein is also reaching out to Career Educational Pathways.

5-C Update on Homeless Programs and Initiatives

Bagtas provided the following updates on the programs that support Alameda's homeless:

- On January 15, the City Council approved staff's recommendation for the Interim City Manager, working through staff, to coordinate with SSHRB on finalizing the projects that will be funded through the Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) and oversee their implementation. SSHRB approved the establishment of a HEAP Ad Hoc Committee at its January 24 meeting to lead this effort. The HEAP Ad Hoc Committee is getting formed, and the first meeting will be sometime in March.
- The Point In Time count was conducted throughout Alameda County on January 30. Bagtas thanked those who volunteered to do the count on the island. Alameda was well-covered with volunteers. Preliminary results will be issued by EveryOne Home sometime in April with the release of the final report this summer.

- Public Works has ordered the parts for the parking meters that will collect donations and sponsorships to support programs and services for Alameda's homeless. Installation will start in April with the program launch around May.
- The Warming Shelter has been a great resource for the homeless this winter given the number of rainy and cold days we have had this season. Attendance has been averaging about 20 people.
- The Dine and Connect dinner for the homeless held monthly at Immanuel Lutheran Church has been highly successful, attracting 40-60 clients. It has become a community gathering.

5-D Fonstein provided an update on the Census 2020 and announced that the Mayor is establishing a local Complete Count Committee for Alameda. A Steering Committee will be established, and local leaders will be invited to participate. The Mayor would like the Complete Count Committee to be a community effort. In addition to the Steering Committee, which will be the leadership, several subcommittees will be established where community members will be invited to participate, especially those who are connected to groups and populations that are considered "hard to count." Fonstein is also attending subcommittees established by the County's Complete Count Committee. Some members of the Board will be invited to serve on the Steering Committee.

## 6. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

### 6-A Announcements and Updates

Boardmember Hyman announced that Pravda Wright has been nominated by the Mayor to fill the vacant position on the Board and will be approved by Council on March 5.

Boardmember Medina announced that Commonsense Media will come to Encinal High School on March 27 to talk about screen time for both youth and adults. Mental health issues may be correlated to screen use.

## 7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: none

## 8. ADJOURNMENT

Boardmember Sorensen made the motion to adjourn, Boardmember Jenks seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

