

**City of Alameda, California  
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD  
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020**

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Christine Chilcott called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Attendance: President Christine Chilcott, Vice President Pravda Wright, Joanna Paillet-Growl, Kristin Furuichi Fong, Sarah Lewis, Moustafa Aly (arrived during the meeting)  
City staff: Lois Butler, Eric Fonstein, Ana Bagtas

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes for November 21, 2019 carried 4-0.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**5. AGENDA ITEMS**

**5a. Public Hearing on the CDBG Public Services Funding Recommendations for Fiscal Year 2020-21**

Lisa Fitts, Management Analyst with the Alameda Housing Authority, presented on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Services recommendations for funding for FY 2020-2021. Fitts provided background on the role of the Social Service Human Relations Board (SSHRB) on the CDBG Public Service funding process and reported that funding is available for all proposals submitted for FY 2020-2021. Fitts presented estimated funding available, which did not include the recently passed Emergency Stimulus Package in response to COVID-19 and is based on the current fiscal year's funding levels. The funding will be revised when next year's allocation is released, and is anticipated to be lower. Fitts reviewed the service provider funding recommendations to be presented to City Council on June 16, 2020.

Public speakers Erin Scott (Executive Director of Family Violence Law Center), Sabrina Thomas (Program Director of Building Futures), and Angie Watson-Hajjem (Program Coordinator of Echo Fair Housing) expressed their appreciation to SSHRB and for the funding. Scott stated that the Family Violence Law Center is fully operational during COVID-19, with priority on 24-hour crisis intervention, which is done remotely. Thomas reported that Midway Shelter continues to serve the most vulnerable populations with food, resources, and shelter for families and individuals.

Fitts welcomed comments from Boardmembers and answered their questions.

Boardmember Aly made a motion to approve the funding recommendations for the CDBG Public Services for FY 2020-2021. Boardmember Lewis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **5b. Discussion on COVID-19 Impact on Social Services**

- Boardmember Wright stated that the Alameda Point Collaborative is operating with a skeleton crew, coordinating services with the Food Bank and faith-based organizations, delivering supplies/food to at-risk members and distributing gift cards for food
- Fitts shared that the Housing Authority offices are closed, with the goal to open next Thursday. However, staff is returning messages and providing assistance remotely.
- Staffmember Bagtas shared written comments from Cindy Houts, Executive Director of the Alameda Food Bank. Bagtas reported that the Food Bank distribution numbers have doubled via a drive-through distribution system. Its biggest challenges are ensuring the homeless, those without vehicle transportation, and those with mobility issues continue to have access to food services. It is continuing to provide food at the Mastic Senior Center, through Dine-and-Connect, and at the Warming Shelter.
- Jackie Krause, Recreation Manager at Mastick Senior Center, reported it has a lunch program with “to go” meals every week day, a brown bag food program, and continuing to run the Alameda shuttle. Modified service has created a challenge for members without a way to warm their meals.
- Caitlin Chan with Legal Assistance for Seniors (LAS) informed that they continue to provide services over the phone. LAS anticipates an increase in need for services after the crisis is over, when the moratorium is lifted.
- Staffmember Bagtas reported that the CARES team is now meeting every two weeks, sharing information between represented agencies. She acknowledged that as this crisis continues, service providers will likely be stretched to or beyond capacity. For instance, 211 has seen over 200 percent increase in calls. She mentioned the various efforts the City has undertaken to support service providers with soliciting donations, recruiting volunteers, and promoting services.
- Thomas and Scott shared the importance of supporting those working in the front lines. Staff have taken on additional roles. Scott encouraged a more expansive view of “first responders,” to encompass food service providers and shelter workers. Discussion of the need for adequate support for employees/volunteers, like providing meals to on-duty staff/volunteers. Collaboration is needed in support of “the new front line” so that efforts can sustain over time.

#### **5c. Workgroup Progress Reports**

- Census 2020 - Staffmembers Bagtas and Fonstein explained the challenges in getting adequate responses for the Census given COVID-19. The deadline has been extended two weeks, but the need for non-conventional outreach is important. They shared various strategies that they have gathered so far. Boardmember Furuichi Fong offered to talk with AUSD about how they can help disseminate information.
- Homeless Action Plan - Boardmember Lewis and Staffmember Bagtas provided a status report on the impact of COVID-19 on homeless population and discussed funding and services that may be available. The City has requested four FEMA trailers through the State's emergency COVID-19 response program. Primary challenge with trailers is determining what scope of services will be provided for the trailer residents, and what agency will provide services. Bagtas reported that 17 hand sanitizing stations plus four portable washrooms have been dispersed throughout the city. She informed the Board that she is reporting to the City's Emergency Operations Center.
- Youth Mental Health - President Chilcott reported participating in an AUSD mental health committee meeting in February, where bringing "King Makers" program to Alameda boys' organizations and revising and distributing a mental health services pamphlet were discussed. Chilcott confirmed that Alameda Family Services continues to provide mental health services by phone to local youth. Boardmember Paillet-Growl expressed concerns about youth isolation during the crisis, and the Board discussed the importance of maintaining youth crisis services during this time and acknowledged the challenges with confidentiality during shelter-at-home.

## **6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Staffmember Bagtas shared that Dine-and-Connect, mobile showers, mobile health clinic, and warming shelter are all still operational, with modifications due to increased health risk. The County is working on developing protocols for referring and transporting individuals with COVID-positive symptoms.

## **7. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-President Wright made the motion to adjourn. Furuichi Fong seconded. President Chilcott adjourned the meeting at 8:44pm.