

City of Alameda, California
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD
THURSDAY, October 22, 2020
FINAL APPROVED MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Christine Chilcott called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendance: President Christine Chilcott, Vice President Pravda Wright, Board members Joanna Paillet-Growl, Kristin Furuichi Fong, Moustafa Aly, and Sarah Lewis.

City staff: Ana Bagtas, Eric Fonstein, Lois Butler

Absent:

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of September 24, 2020 was made by Board member Furuichi Fong and seconded by Board member Lewis. Ayes: President Chilcott, Vice President Wright, Board members Paillet-Growl, Furuichi Fong, and Lewis. Nays: none. Motion carried.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Public member James Downey expressed recognition of those in our community who are impacted by homelessness and the effects of drug use and expressed concern about the blight of the community caused by homeless encampments.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5a. 2020-8425 Recommended Allocations for CARES Act Funding (CDBG-CV3) and Reprogramming of Entitlement funds

Staff member Lisa Fitts presented the recommended allocations for CARES act funding and reprogramming of entitlement funds, and highlighted five different proposed programs: Safe Parking, Day Center, emergency rent relief, emergency food distribution, and emergency case management, as well as the recommendation to allocate \$200,000 for Community Cabins. A motion to approve recommended allocations for CARES act funding and reprogramming of entitlement funds was made by Board member Lewis and seconded by Board member Paillet-Growl. Ayes: President Chilcott, Vice President Wright, Board members Paillet-Growl, Furuichi Fong, Lewis, and Aly. Nays: none. Motion carried unanimously.

5b. Discuss Community Service Awards Planning and Program

President Chilcott and Staff member Bagtas briefed the Board on preparations to date the upcoming virtual Community Service Awards ceremony, and notified the Board of the winners. Board members briefly discussed final logistics.

5c. Discuss Homelessness Strategic Plan Request for Proposals (RFP) and Planning Group

Staff member Bagtas updated the Board that the RFP has been solicited for a consultant, and will be followed by developing a steering committee, and engagement with the community to create a comprehensive Homelessness Strategic Plan. Public member Downey requested that the County plan be published or made accessible on the City website. Staff member Bagtas clarified that the existing County report is published on the City website, and updates will be made to the website when a new report is available. Board member Lewis invited community members to attend the December SSHRB meeting for updates on this process.

5d. Discuss Temporary Shelter/Community Cabin Planning Group

Staff member Bagtas updated the Board that the planning group continues to research developing a temporary shelter or community cabins for unhoused individuals in Alameda and answered questions about low barrier entry and other options at existing transitional housing models in the bay area. Bagtas and Board members invited public interested in participating in this process to email abagtas@alamedaca.gov.

5e. Work Group Progress Reports

- Census 2020 – Staff member Fonstein reported that the census officially completed, and reported that collection of data surpassed the previous census, even given COVID-19. Staff members Fonstein and Bagtas expressed appreciation for the sub-committee and all community partners.
- Homeless Action Plan – Vice President Wright updated the Board on the Day Center, and Staff member Bagtas updated the Board on Block By Block, an ambassador program supporting the Park and Webster Street Districts, and reported that there is an increase in newly-homeless families. She also reported Dine and Connect Services are now being provided at four locations in Alameda, and the Warming Shelter will begin providing services with safety modifications given COVID-19.
- Youth Mental Health – Staff member Fonstein shared Alameda Family Services and AUSD show an alarming increase in mental health concerns, particularly due to social isolation caused by COVID-19. The effect of the pandemic may last for years after the event and will be observed down the road. Members of the Board discussed services available and how people are accessing resources.
- Domestic Violence Task Force – Board member Kristin Furuichi Fong reported that the Alameda Police Department shared data that 14 domestic violence cases were reported in September 2019 versus 15 this year, showing that the trend is somewhat normalizing after a surge at the beginning of the pandemic. Supervisor Wilma Chan held a town hall about the purchase of the Marina Village Inn. The County did not get the funds to purchase but will continue to look for funds. The goal is to place

residents in permanent housing. Those who are not successfully placed will likely return to the shelter. A subcommittee of the Domestic Violence Task Force is looking at materials available that can be disseminated to the community.

- Community Service Awards (CSA) – topic has been covered previously.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

6a. Homelessness Updates and Initiatives – no additional report

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

President Chilcott announced Vice-President Pravda Wright's completion of her term. Vice-President Wright is stepping down from the Board but will continue to serve on the CARES team and the police reform committee. President Chilcott acknowledged Vice-President Wright's contributions this past two years. Vice-President Wright thanked the Board.

Two new Board members will be joining SSHRB and will be at the December meeting. Nomination of officers will take place at the December meeting.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Chilcott adjourned the meeting at 8:33 p.m.