

City of Alameda, California
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD
THURSDAY, December 3, 2020
FINAL APPROVED MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Christine Chilcott called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

2. ROLL CALL

Attendance: President Christine Chilcott, Board members Moustafa Aly, Kristin Furuichi Fong, Priya Jagannathan, Sarah Lewis, Tony Lewis, and Joanna Paillet-Growl.

City staff: Ana Bagtas and Eric Fonstein

Absent: none

3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Tony Lewis, long time local resident, retired from public sector as vocational rehabilitation counselor, was inspired to join SSHRB to make sure senior and minority populations are served and well-represented. He has served on multiple boards.

Priya Jagannathan, parent and educator who has experience in human services, violence prevention, and early childhood development, is looking forward to serving on SSHRB.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of October 22, 2020 was made by Board member S. Lewis and seconded by Board member Aly. Ayes: President Chilcott, Board members Aly, Furuichi Fong, S. Lewis, and Paillet-Growl. Nays: none. Motion carried. Note: New Board members Jagannathan and T. Lewis were not present at the October 22, 2020 meeting and abstained.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

6a. Recommendation to Review and Provide Comment on Planning to Establish a Transitional Housing Option for Alameda's Unhoused Residents; Appoint Representative(s) to the Program Model Planning Committee and Other Committees, As Appropriate

The City of Alameda is exploring the feasibility of establishing a transitional housing option for its unhoused residents. Staff member Bagtas provided an overview of the

transitional housing project and presented the planning process plan and an update of activities to date. Bagtas presented the next steps in the process to establish a transitional housing option for Alameda's unhoused residents to move them out of encampments and street living towards permanent housing.

Bagtas answered questions and invited comments that included ensuring that the goals are measurable, establishing a realistic timeline, providing a safety net for the unhoused, and collaborating with other agencies and the County.

6b. Discuss 2021 SSHRB Work Plan

Staff member Fonstein provided updates on the following events/programs:

- The Season for Non-Violence Speech Contest did not happen last year due to COVID, but it will happen this year. Board member Furuchi-Fong offered to help plan this year's event.
- The Community Development Block Grant process will begin in January 2021. The Board will be apprised of the process, and funding recommendations will be presented in March 2021.
- The biennial Point-in-Time Count of the homeless population is supposed to take place in January 2021. Due to the pandemic, this will likely change. Staff will update SSHRB in January.
- A consultant has been contracted to help produce the Homelessness Strategic Plan. The work will commence in January with the aim of a finalized plan in April.
- The Alameda Services Luncheon was canceled last year due to COVID and may happen this year in May.
- The Community Needs Assessment conducted every four to five years is due to be done in 2021. Board member Jagannathan volunteered to help.

6c. Board Nomination of Officers

Board member S. Lewis nominated current President Christine Chilcott for another term as President. Board member Furuchi-Fong seconded.

President Chilcott nominated S. Lewis for Vice President, seconded by T. Lewis.

Confirmation of officers will take place in January.

6d. Work Group Reports

- Homeless Action Plan Workgroup (S. Lewis) – Staff member Bagtas reported that construction of the showers at Christ Church has begun, and that all remaining HEAP funding has been allocated for projects. The work of the HEAP Ad Hoc Committee is now completed, and the committee has been dissolved. Oversight of funded projects is now under the purview of the CARES team. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the warming shelter has not opened yet. All other programs are operating well.
- Youth Mental Health (Chilcott/Paillet-Growl) – President Chilcott reported that the student mental health survey showed a significant increase in high school students reporting stress. Younger children are also exhibiting stress. Long-lasting effects are expected due to COVID-related factors (isolation, virtual schooling, etc.).

- Domestic Violence Task Force (Aly/Chilcott/Furuichi Fong) – the County did not get funding from the State to purchase the Project Roomkey motel in Alameda where DV residents are sheltering. The County is working transitioning clients into permanent housing. Without additional funding, this site will be closed down, and remaining guests will receive a 30-day notice. The DV Task Force meetings will now be held quarterly with the option to schedule meetings as necessary.
- Community Service Awards (Aly/Furuichi Fong/Paillet-Growl/ Chilcott) – Very successful virtual CSA in November. Workgroup will dissolve until next year.

7. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

7a. Homelessness Updates and Initiatives

- Alameda Homelessness Strategic Plan – item discussed earlier.
- Update on HEAP Projects – item discussed earlier.
- Point In Time Count 2021 – item discussed earlier.
- Block By Block – the new program that works with local businesses and homeless in business districts started last month and is going well.
- Parking Meters – 20 Parking Meters collecting funds to support the homeless have been installed and received many donations so far.
- FEMA Trailers – continue to house COVID-19 high-risk unhoused residents.
- Project Roomkey motel – item discussed earlier.
- Posey Tube encampment – Outreach and cleanup efforts continue. Encroachment permit from Cal-Trans to place dumpsters has allowed area to be kept much cleaner.

8. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

Board member Aly suggested prioritizing transitional housing project due to time sensitivity and encouraged participation by fellow Board members. Board members T. Lewis and Aly offered to join the Homeless Action Plan workgroup.

President Chilcott requested continued monthly updates by police department on DV statistics.

9. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

President Chilcott adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.