

**City of Alameda, California**  
**SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD**  
**THURSDAY, April 22, 2021**  
**Final MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. ROLL CALL**

Attendance: President Christine Chilcott, Vice-President S. Lewis, Board members Kristin Furuichi Fong, Priya Jagannathan, and Tony Lewis. Note: Board Member Joanna Paillet-Growl has moved out of area, and has resigned from SSHRB.

City staff: Ana Bagtas, Lois Butler, Lisa Fitts, Amanda Gehrke, and Eric Fonstein

Absent: none

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion to approve the minutes of February 25, 2021 was made by Vice-President S. Lewis and seconded by Board member T. Lewis. Ayes: Christine Chilcott, Vice-President S. Lewis, Board members Furuichi Fong, Jagannathan, and T. Lewis. Nays: none. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Public member Erin Scott, Executive Director of the Family Violence Law Center, expressed her appreciation to SSHRB for their continued funding support.

**5. AGENDA ITEMS**

**5-A 2021-776 FY 2021-22 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Services Funding Recommendations**

Staff member Lisa Fitts reviewed SSHRB's role in the CDGB Public Services funding process, which include: 1) assessing and providing input on community's social services and human relations needs, 2) reviewing staff's CDBG public service funding recommendations, and 3) reporting recommended allocations to the City Council.

Staff member Fitts presented the CDBG public services funding recommendations for the projected \$187,732 expected to be available for public services in the 2021-22 fiscal year. She answered clarifying questions and invited input from the SSHRB.

A motion to approve staff's funding recommendations for FY2021-22 was made by President Chilcott. Ayes: Christine Chilcott, Vice-President S. Lewis, Board members Furuichi Fong, Jagannathan, and T. Lewis. Nays: none. Motion carried unanimously. (Note: President Chilcott stated the motion without a second. The motion passed unanimously by rollcall vote.)

A motion to approve proportional distribution of any additional funds collected before the end of FY2020-21 to Alameda Family Services, Alameda Food Bank, Building Futures, Family Violence Law Center, and Legal Assistance for Seniors was made by President Chilcott. Ayes: Christine Chilcott, Vice-President S. Lewis, Board members Furuichi Fong, Jagannathan, and T. Lewis. Nays: none. Motion carried unanimously. . (Note: President Chilcott stated the motion without a second. The motion passed unanimously by rollcall vote.)

#### **5-B 2021-777 Recommendation to Review and Provide Feedback on Preliminary Goals and Strategies for the Homelessness Strategic Plan**

Staff member Amanda Gehrke introduced the Home Base consultant team, Amanda Wehrman and Aram Hauslaib. Consultants provided an overview of the Homeless Strategic Plan development to date, highlighting the three key emerging goals, their supporting strategies, and suggested next steps for each goal, as summarized below:

- mobilize the citywide response to homelessness by educating and engaging community, strengthening the homelessness response system infrastructure, and ensuring ongoing supportive services funding;
- increase access to homeless emergency response services by developing flexible resources for diversion, prevention, and housing retention; providing low-barrier, housing-focused temporary housing; and expanding outreach and supportive services to unsheltered households; and
- secure a housing future for Alamedans by assessing and utilizing public and private land for housing, protecting and expanding affordable housing through local policy, and coordinating short- and long-term housing solutions with the County and neighboring cities.

Consultants answered clarifying questions and requested feedback from the Board. Board members discussed the following aspects to consider in developing the Homelessness Strategic Plan:

- treat unhoused with dignity,
- destigmatize mental health issues,
- provide supportive services like laundry, showers, phone charging,
- provide true pathways to self-sufficiency,
- provide a spectrum of services that includes continued support once permanent housing is found,
- provide family reunification support,
- consider the differing needs and supports for unhoused families with children versus unhoused single adults versus unhoused youth, etc.
- collaborate with County and regional service providers for coordinated entry where possible
- consider the challenges of becoming rehoused, keeping in mind that some unhoused do not want to live indoors,
- educate the community on local issues and programs
- engage with local businesses to address the impact of homelessness

Home Base consultants thanked SSHRB for their input.

#### **5-C Workgroup Reports**

- Homeless Action Plan Workgroup (S. Lewis): None.
- Youth Mental Health (Chilcott/Paillet-Growl): The February 1, 2021 meeting with AUSD discussed issues identified in the youth mental health surveys, as well as how to address equitability of district services available to youth. Chilcott notified the Board of a First Aid training and Teen Mental Health first aid training that took place in March. The next quarterly meeting will take place in May.
- Domestic Violence (Furuichi Fong) Board member Furuichi Fong reported the following updates from the March meeting:
  - i. Sargent Spencer Mountain reported 32 DV incidents (a reduction of 7 incidents from previous year)
  - ii. Katherine Schwartz of Alameda Family Services reported an increase in depression from young teens as a result of pandemic conditions
  - iii. Liz Varella, of Building Futures reported the continuation of online support groups, and revamping family services.
  - iv. The next quarterly meeting will be June 10.

## **6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Staff member Bagtas provided the following updates:

- Feed Alameda – the City’s restaurant meal program for unhoused individuals and those in shelters, has increased the number of meals provided to 105 per week. Meals are distributed each week to people on the streets, encampments, FEMA trailers, Midway Shelter, and safe parking. Funds raised will support the program through August 2021.
- Transitional Housing Program – some funding has been secured for the Transitional Housing Program and staff will continue to search for potential sites for the program to be located.
- Vaccinations for the Unhoused – a partnership between Village of Love and Alameda County Healthcare for the Homeless provided vaccinations for unhoused individuals in March. Additionally, there are plans for a mobile vaccine clinic. The mobile testing site is being relocated to the Food Bank, and will continue to provide COVID testing three days per week.
- Shower Program – the onsite shower program at Christ Church has been open since February, and continues to provide showers every Sunday, 2-4p, to unhoused individuals.

## **7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA**

President Chilcott shared a story of an African American woman who reported on social media being ignored in person, but receiving information over the phone about City services. Chilcott suggested to the Board reinstating the Alamedans Together Against Hate Workgroup to combat issues of hate and racism that are impacting Alameda at this time. Staff member Fonstein offered to provide more information to the Board on the Workgroup at the next SSHRB meeting.

## **8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Staff member Fonstein updated the Board that the Season for Non-Violence Speech Contest will be postponed to next year; however, Fonstein requests the Board invite the three students that have already registered to present their speeches at the May SSHRB Meeting and the May ACCYF meeting. Board members supported this request.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

President Chilcott adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Fonstein, Board Secretary