

**City of Alameda, California  
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD  
THURSDAY, September 23, 2021  
APPROVED MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Sarah Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: President Sarah Lewis, Board members Dianne Yamashiro-Omi, Priya Jagannathan, Samantha Green, Scott Means.

Absent: Vice President Kristin Furuichi Fong (excused), Board member Tony Lewis (unexcused).

City staff: Lois Butler, Veronika Cole, and Eric Fonstein (Secretary to the Board).

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3-A 2021-1326 Review and Approve August 26, 2021 Draft Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of August 26, 2021 was made by Board member Yamashiro-Omi and seconded by Board member Jagannathan. Ayes: Board members Yamashiro-Omi, Jagannathan, Green, and Means. Nays: none. Note: President S. Lewis abstained due to absence from meeting. Motion passed 4-0.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**5. AGENDA ITEMS**

**5-A 2021-1327 Alameda Housing Authority Presentation on the Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs)**

Shekhar Dubbani, Management Analyst with the Housing Authority of the City of Alameda, presented on the recently awarded, Emergency Housing Vouchers (EHVs), highlighting the following key segments:

- In May 2021, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) allocated 70,000 EHVs to public housing authorities. These vouchers were funded as a part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).
- EHVs are to assist individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness, on the verge of homelessness, domestic violence, or transitional youth. Vouchers are portable throughout the United States.
- Alameda Housing Authority (AHA) was awarded 57, EHVs.

- 43 of the 57 EHV's have been issued to qualified applicants, registered in the, Call 2-1-1 program.
- Five of the 43 issued, have obtained a lease, and will be housed by October 1, 2021.
- AHA advertised an incentive program; \$250 bonus, to individuals awarded EHV's and who were successful in securing housing, on, or before, 10/15/21. And, \$500 bonus, to owners, who registered available units through AHA.

Mr. Dubbani thanked the Board for their time, and opened the floor for questions.

Board members expressed concern surrounding the public awareness and understanding of the Call 2-1-1 program, and it's correlation to EHV's. Suggesting that, another wave of literature, explaining the program, be distributed throughout the City (including local businesses and the realtor association).

Public member, Marilyn stated, City Council recently approved agreements with the Alameda Fire Department (AFD) and Alameda Family Services (AFS), to assist handling the current mental health crisis. Stating that individuals interested in applying for an EHV, should use, AFD and AFS as a resource.

Mr. Dubbani thanked the Board for their time and answered clarifying questions.

#### **5-B 2021-1328 Recommendation to Recommend Approval of The Road Home: A 5-Year Plan to Prevent and Respond to Homelessness in Alameda to City Council.**

Staff member Amanda Gehrke introduced consultant, Amanda Wehrman Director of Strategy and Evaluation at Homebase. Ms. Wehrman presented the updated 5-Year Plan, which incorporated, City of Alameda, staff and Board member recommendations from the August meeting. Summary of changes:

- Report structure and organization
- Highlighted additional achievements
- Alignment to County Strategic Plan Update
- Clarifying data needs
- Two new action steps
- Minor formatting and edits for clarity and style

Board members expressed appreciation for quality of the presentation, noting the changes made to the 5-Year Plan, and their alignment with the recommendations voiced in the August meeting. Additionally, Board members requested clarification and/or commented on the following key segments:

- Board member Yamashiro-Omi inquired if there is an expectation and/or option for Board members to submit a list of recommendations to guide the implementation. Highlighting priorities identified by Board members. Staff member, Gehrke suggested an annual and/or bi-annual meeting to review work plan, and determine if existing goals are being met.

- Board member Yamashiro-Omi voiced concern that the Plan does not provide the additional financial assessment/analysis of the implementation cost.
- Board member Means voiced that for this plan to work, wrap around services need greater commitment, including tracking and an ability to spend time on individuals. Matching funding may be needed to fund these activities. He also suggested a temporary housing increase during specific times of the year (colder months). Stating that the partial term housing would be better than none at all.
- Board Member Jagannathan questioned why there was a lack of references to families with young children vs. with older children, such as children in Head Start. Recommended inclusion of families with young children.
- Board member Green suggested that with the assistance of a board member, work plan *Strategy 3.2: Strengthen the homeless response system infrastructure*, could possibly be moved to a short term goal.

Public member, Marilyn voiced concern that the work plan does not include resources for individuals over the age of 90, and requested information on possible alternatives.

Ms. Wehrman presented the Recommendation to Recommend approval of The Road Home: A 5 Year Plan to Prevent and Respond to Homelessness in Alameda to City Council.

Board member Means put forward a motion to approve recommendation, seconded by Board member Green. Ayes: President Lewis, Board members Yamashiro-Omi, Jagannathan, Green and Means. Nays: none. Note: Vice President Furuichi Fong and Board member T. Lewis abstained due to absence from meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

#### **5-C 2021-1329 Review and Revise the Draft 2022 Work Plan for the Social Service Human Relations Board**

Staff member Fonstein confirmed this will be a regular agenda item at the October meeting, where the work plan will need to be formalized and Board members will need to establish the recommendation to present to City Council.

Staff member Fonstein addressed the upcoming Community Needs Assessment (Last completed 3-4 years ago). Stated plan to use previous year as a guide/base tool to form 2022, Community Needs Assessment. Staff member Fonstein will distribute copies of the previous Community Needs Assessment with Board members.

Board member Yamashiro-Omi put forward a motion to skip to next agenda item, seconded by Board member Jagannathan. Ayes: President Lewis, Board members Yamashiro-Omi, Jagannathan, Green and Means. Nays: none. Note: Vice President Furuichi Fong and Board member T. Lewis abstained due to absence from meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

No additional Board member comment.

No Public comment.

#### **5-D Discuss Agenda for SSHRB “Retreat” to be held during the next regularly scheduled SSHRB meeting on October 28, 2021**

Staff member Fonstein provided examples of previous “Retreat” agenda items:

- Current and previous member (Example, Doug Biggs) collaboration, discussion major initiatives, effective tools and success stories.
- Meet & Greet for newer members.

Additionally staff member Fonstein suggested the possibility of including a facilitator to assist during retreat. Board members agreed to the added value of a facilitator. Board member Yamashiro-Omi has a suggested facilitator in mind and will confirm availability.

Board members expressed concern surrounding the allotted time for the retreat. Suggested removal of meet and greet at this time.

Staff member Butler stated that the retreat would be an ideal platform to discuss reviving community programs and suggested that the retreat could be used to see how some activities could be revised due to COVID. Suggested Board members form a sub-committee to finalize agenda. Butler also suggested that the meeting would need to be noticed to meet Sunshine Ordinance requirements unless it was purely social, and a weekend retreat would need special notice and would be subject to staff availability. President S. Lewis and Board member Yamashiro-Omi volunteer for sub-committee.

Staff member Fonstein will follow up to see if past SSHRB members could come to the next SSHRB meeting.

Board member Jagannathan requested learning more about how past SSHRB members selected priorities, and how the SSHRB can most effectively represent the community.

Board member Green requested learning more about what was and wasn’t effective in policy taken to the City Council, and where the SSHRB had the most traction.

#### **5-E Appoint SSHRB Representative to Vision Zero Task Force**

Staff member Fonstein presented the request to appoint a Board member to Vision Zero task force. Meeting 3-4 times a year starting in 2022 to ensure implementation plan is achieved, that it has equity, and is serving priorities of the community. Responsibilities would include attending meetings, reviewing public safety plans, providing advice and acting as a liaison with the SHHRB.

Board member Means, volunteered to represent SSHRB on the Vision Zero Task Force.

#### **5-F Workgroup Reports**

- Homeless Action Plan Workgroup: No update to report aside from item 5-B.
- Domestic Violence: Staff member Eric Fonstein confirmed there will be a statistic update following the next quarterly meeting. Assured members, all will be notified of any upcoming events. In closing, staff member Fonstein mentioned that October is National Domestic Awareness Month.

### **6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **6-A Homelessness Updates and Initiatives**

- Feed Alameda: Program is still serving the community each week. Unless City Council extends the program. October 13<sup>th</sup> will be the final date.
- Transitional Housing Program (community cabins/tiny homes): Staff issued RFP. Four (4) responses were received – Each proposals is currently undergoing review. Interview date to be determined. The proposals are for a site on 5<sup>th</sup> and Stargell. Staff are considering emergency housing in housing properties owned by the city, with implementation possible more rapidly than with Homekey.
- Encampments: Attempt to close Main Street encampment, planned for September 28<sup>th</sup>. Encampment has become violent as well as hazardous.
- Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) funding: Funds directed toward shelter only programs. A quick timeline was required, which prevented staff from seeking SSHRB input. Staff will approach the SSHRB for input around housing in the future. Received promising proposals.

#### **6-B Status of Community Service Awards**

Staff member Fonstein provided an update on the virtual 2021 Community Service Awards, notified the Board that nominations are being accepted through the end of September. Date of awards has not been finalized, however leaning toward second week of November. Vice President, Furuichi Fong and Board members Jagannathan and Green volunteered to serve as judges.

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

None.

#### **8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

President Lewis adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Fonstein, Board Secretary