

**City of Alameda, California**  
**SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD**  
**THURSDAY, December 9, 2021**  
**APPROVED MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Sarah Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:07pm.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: President Sarah Lewis, Vice President Kristin Furuichi Fong, Priya Jagannathan, Samantha Green, Scott Means, and Dianne Yamashiro-Omi (joined late).

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

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3-A October 28, 2021 Draft Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of October 28, 2021 was made by Vice President Furuichi Fong and seconded by Boardmember Means. Ayes: President S. Lewis, Vice President Furuichi Fong, Boardmembers Jagannathan, Green, and Means. Nays: none. Note: Boardmember Yamashiro-Omi abstained due to absence from meeting. Motion passed 5-0 with one abstention.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**5. AGENDA ITEMS**

**5-A Continuation of Social Service Human Relations Board (SSHRB) Retreat and Working Session to Discuss: Current SSHRB Priorities, Revision to Draft 2022 Work Plan Outlining Priorities and Draft 2022 Work Plan.**

Staff member Eric Fonstein announced the SSHRB priorities and listed the Boardmembers assigned to each subcommittee.

- Community Needs Assessment: Boardmember Jagannathan and Green
- Human Relations/Alamedans Together Against Hate: Vice President Furuichi Fong and Boardmember Yamashiro-Omi
- Infrastructure (e.g., future work groups): President Lewis and Boardmember Means

President Lewis stated the need for each subcommittee to develop a work plan, with a clear timeline and realistic deliverable's, to be presented to City Council in March, 2022. President Lewis then introduced Renato Almanzor, the retreat facilitator, and asked for input on next steps.

Mr. Almanzor presented a sample worksheet as a tool to collect ideas pertaining to SSHRB priorities and work plan development. President Lewis opened the floor for discussion. Following is a summary of comments/recommendations by Boardmembers:

- Community Needs Assessment
  - Review the previous need assessment, determine consistency from year to year, and SSHRB's needs
  - Clarify area of curiosity: culture, structures, programs and populations
  - Decide methodology (e.g., protocols, community engagement, minimum number of respondents)
  - Community outreach, such as possible focus group meetings with seniors, people with disabilities, and homeless individuals and advocates
  - Determine timeline for completing survey and presentation of findings for CDBG process in November
  - Incorporate previous individuals that participated in 2017 Community Needs Assessment
- Human Relations/Alamedans Together Against Hate:
  - Define Human Relations and vision (with key informants, such as, faith-based organizations, immigrant communities, elders, etc.,)
  - Create an action plan to realize the definition
  - Possibly have the community needs assessment address some of these issues
  - Collaboration with community
  - Town halls that are facilitated toward healing and a place of understanding; mutual respect
  - Develop a sense of proactive rather than reactive to build relationships and sense of community
- Infrastructure (e.g., future work groups):
  - Identify optimal resources
  - Establish subject matter experts
  - List of committees where SSHRB0 is currently involved
  - Shift from "Committees" to "Action Groups", to maximize production
  - Rethink what it means to be a SSHRB member and time commitments

## **5-B Community Needs for Community Development Block Grant FY 2022-23**

Staff member Lisa Fitts presented on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Community Needs for FY 2022-23 Action Plan, highlighting the following key segments:

- What is CDBG? Federal funds to assist low – and moderate – income persons by providing; decent housing, suitable living environment and expanded economic opportunities.
- In 2020 the City of Alameda submitted the five-year strategic plan, outlining the housing and community development needs. Priorities submitted by SSHRB included; affordable housing, fair housing, food security, food services, homeless services, mental health services, safety and crime prevention, and transportation and pedestrian safety.
- As part of the Annual Action Plan, there are a few key dates for SSHRB where individual actions will be required.
  - December 14, 2021 – SSHRB Needs Letter Finalized
  - January 4, 2022 – City Council hears public comment and adopts the Needs Statement for the FY2022-23 Action Plan

- February 3, 2022 – RFP responses due
- February 21, 2022 – Public scoring due from SSHRB
- March 24, 2022 – SSHRB Meeting to Review Proposed Funding Levels
- Spring 2022 – SSHRB Kicks off Community Wide Needs Assessment
- Ms. Fitts stated that representative from the following companies, have attended this meeting to provide a brief update. Family Violence Law Center, Eden Information and Referral (I&R), Legal Assistance for Seniors and Village of Love. She asked individuals to raise (virtually) their hand if they would like to speak.

Gitanjali Rawat, Director of Programs with Eden I&R, highlighted the following key segments:

- Eden I&R is the operator for Alameda's 211-Line, which is the 24/7 multilingual phone line that connects individuals and families to critical, health, housing and human services.
- Last fiscal year Eden I&R processed 1824 calls and two-way text message conversations, 2611 health, housing and human service referrals. This included screening for eligibility and the transfer of 64 callers to the Mid-County West Housing Resource Center, through the County's, coordinated entry system.
- The number one reason for Alameda residents contacting 211 year after year is housing (rental assistance, utilities assistance, emergency shelter and transitional housing).
- Eden I&R has partnered with Alameda County Public Health Department, assisting with COVID-19 related calls.
- Soft launched, the scheduling of Lyft and Uber rides (subsidized by the City of Alameda) for qualified clients.

Erin Scott, Executive Director with Family Violence Law Center (FVLC), highlighted the following key segments:

- Provides 24-hour, crisis intervention services to survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. Free legal services, civil legal services, family and housing law services.
- Noted the City of Alameda has had the highest number of cases within, Alameda County, specifically, a 45% increase in the number of survivors served, and 117% increase in legal services provided, from July-September 2021, compared to the same time period in 2020.
- Alameda Policy Department continues to refer domestic violence calls to FVLC. The number of cases has gone from an average of 35 calls, per quarter, to 74 calls, from July-November 2021.

Joey Harrison, Executive Director with The Village of Love, highlighted the following key segments:

- Village of Love operates The Day Center (7 days per week), Safe Parking Program, Overnight Shelter and coordination of FEMA Trailers.
- Provide housing navigation and case management for individuals to ensure needs are being met.

President Lewis opened for Board comment. Boardmember Yamashiro-Omi asked Ms. Scott if she's seen an increase in cases from immigrant communities or from a specific demographic. Ms. Scott, replied that she did not have the answer right now, however will follow up with official demographic percentages. Boardmember Jagannathan asked Mr. Harrison about the Safe Parking program and its current vacancy. Mr. Harrison

confirmed, there are spaces available. President Lewis thanked everyone for their time and presentation.

Boardmember Yamashiro-Omi put forth a motion for President Lewis to finalize the SSHRB Needs Letter, seconded by Boardmember Jagannathan. Ayes: President Lewis, Vice President Furuichi Fong, Boardmembers Yamashiro-Omi, Jagannathan, Green and Means. Nays: none. Motion passed 6-0.

### **5-C Status of the 2022 Point-in-Time County Count of the Unhoused in the City of Alameda**

Staff member Veronika Cole introduced Katie Haverly with EveryOneHome. Together they presented the report on the 2022 Point in Time Count for the unhoused in the City of Alameda. Following were the highlighted key segments:

- Point-in-Time (PIT) is a count and survey of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness on a single night in January
- It is required by HUD; informs funding that the county will receive for homeless services
- This year the PIT count will be on Tuesday January 25, 2022 (complying with all COVID-19 policies and procedures)
- Outreach teams will be assigned census tracts. Areas with higher concentrations of unhoused individuals will have teams that include an individual with lived experience who is paid to be a guide for the count.
- Still recruiting for guides and volunteers

Ms. Haverly thanked the Boardmembers for their time, and offered to leave her email address if anyone had additional questions following the meeting.

### **5-D Approve SSHRB Meeting Schedule for 2022**

Boardmember Furuichi Fong put forth a motion to approve the schedule without any changes, seconded by Boardmember Means. Ayes: President Lewis, Vice President Furuichi Fong, Boardmembers Yamashiro-Omi, Jagannathan, Green and Means. Nays: none. Motion passed 6-0.

### **5-E Workgroup Reports**

- Homeless Action Plan Workgroup: No additional update.
- Domestic Violence: Mr. Fonstein reported that Sgt. Mountain for Alameda Police Department was unable to make the last quarterly meeting on December 9 due to police training. Therefore, the meeting was cancelled and will be rescheduled after the New Year.
- Community Service Awards: The Awards were held on November 17. There was no Workgroup report.

## **6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

Staff member Butler provided the following updates:

- Feed Alameda: Ms. Butler reported that the program has ended with no more available funding.

- Transitional Housing Program: Ms. Butler confirmed that the HomeKey application has been submitted. City staff submitted an application for approximately \$12.3 million of Project Homekey Round 2 funding available through the State of California Department of Housing and Community Development. A response is expected from the State by mid-January. If awarded, Ms. Butler said that construction of the temporary housing on the “bottle parcel”, near the College of Alameda, would need to be completed by October, 2022. This application was very extensive with many staff hours contributed to its completion, along with additional time spent from the co-applicants.
- Encampments: Ms. Butler provided a status update for various sites.
  - Civic Center Garage—the person has moved away from the site.
  - Main Street—The Public Works Department is scheduled to clean up the encampment on December 16 and the inhabitants will be relocated in the area.
  - City Hall Steps—this site is also scheduled to be cleaned up by the Public Works Department
- Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) Funding: At this time, staff does not have a timeline from the County. The City has been providing temporary grants for overnight shelters, which will hopefully be reimbursed by the County.

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

None.

## **8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

President Lewis adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Eric Fonstein, Board Secretary