



# Social Service Human Relations Board

Draft Minutes: Thursday, May 28, 2026

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

President Scott Means called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

### Roll Call

Present: President Scott Means; Vice President Samantha Green; Board Members Chantel Carter, Gerald Bryant, Bernie Wolf, and Michelle Buchholz.

City staff: From the Housing and Human Services (HHS) Division, Division Manager C'Mone Falls, Program Manager Grecia Mannah-Ayon, and Administrative Specialist Shelbey Neil.

## 2. NON-AGENDA PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kenneth Kahn shared his experience with homelessness in Alameda. He described not only the loss of shelter, food, hygiene, etc. but also the stigmatization that comes along with it. He asked the SSHRB to help support and expand the services available to unhoused individuals in Alameda.

Danielle Mieler, Sustainability and Resilience Manager for the City of Alameda, updated the SSHRB on work her office is doing engaging the community regarding the City's infrastructure needs. They have identified more than \$800 million in urgent infrastructure needs including aging roads, bridges, storm drains, and public safety facilities. Residents can learn more and respond to a survey on the topic on the [City's website](#).

Craig Browning shared his experience intentionally living in nontraditional housing (i.e. his vehicle) and the difficulties of obtaining access to electricity and sewage.

Karin Kirschbaum shared her dissatisfaction with the SSHRB and its members. She urged Board Members to continue reading reports and educating themselves on the needs of unhoused individuals in Alameda.

Dr. Cindy Acker, Principle of the Child Unique Montessori School and Montessori Elementary-Intermediate School of Alameda. She shared that her school is losing their campus at the space owned by St. Barnabas Catholic Church in Alameda, which is being closed and sold. She highlighted the impressive achievements of the student body and the successes of their staff and administration. The school contributes heavily to the local community, with community-wide

greening projects, Black history education projects, and advocacy for the most vulnerable members of the community. She encouraged SSHRB to look out for their school and assist them in finding a new site.

### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **3-A Review and Approve April 23, 2026 Minutes**

A motion to approve the April 23, 2026, minutes was made by Board Member Buchholz and seconded by Board Member Bryant. Ayes: President Means, Vice President Green, Board Member Bryant, Board Member Carter, Board Member Buchholz, and Board Member Wolf. Nays: None. Abstained: Board Member Buchholz. Motion passed 6-0-0.

### **4. AGENDA ITEMS**

#### **4-A Vote on the Social Service Human Relations Board FY 2026-27 Scope of Work**

At the April 23<sup>rd</sup> SSHRB meeting, C'Mone Falls, Housing & Human Services Division Manager, gave a brief overview of a new proposed scope of work. At that meeting, the Board discussed the proposal and asked clarifying questions. They were given further opportunity to discuss and propose changes to the draft scope of work at their monthly subcommittee meetings. These suggestions were reviewed by City staff SSHRB Vice President and incorporated as appropriate into the second SOW, which will be reviewed at this meeting.

#### **Discussion:**

Division Manager C'Mone Falls clarified that the scope of work is intended to help inform what the annual workplan will look like, and will help to provide clarity about the role of SSHRB and allow them to have more input and more impact on the work of social services in the City. Program Manager Mannah-Ayon described how the scope of work can provide greater continuity and consistency in SSHRB's work year over year and as Board Members come and go.

Board Members discussed the draft scope of work at length, posed many clarifying questions, and suggested alterations. Major items of discussion included:

- Work of the current subcommittees
- Procedural/legal concerns
- Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) involvement
- Relationship between SSHRB and the Housing & Human Services (HHS) Division
- Prioritization of multiple pressing community needs
- Method of amending the scope of work

A motion to conditionally approve the draft 2026–27 Scope of Work was made by Board Member Carter and seconded by Board Member Buchholz. Conditions included 1) adding a new Section G, Subsection C that addresses board-initiated workgroups, 2) striking out Section G, Subsection A, Item C that outlines the Community Outreach and Belonging Subcommittee, 3) striking the first section in Section G regarding subcommittee membership requirements, 4) striking out the mention of HHS evaluation of SSHRB, and 5) adding that the document can be amended as needed. Board Member Bryant made a suggestion to add a further condition that the scope of work be reviewed by the City Attorney, which was rejected by Board Member Bryant.

Ayes: Vice President Green, Board Member Carter, and Board Member Buchholz. Nays: President Means, Board Member Wolf, and Board Member Bryant. Abstained: None. Motion failed 3-3-0.

Vice President Green proposed that an ad hoc SSHRB committee including herself, Board Member Bryant, and Board Member Wolf meet to make changes to the scope of work and present the new version at the June 25<sup>th</sup> SSHRB meeting.

**Public Comment:**

Karin Kirschbaum shared her support of Board Member Wolf and Board Member Buchholz’s comments. She reiterated her previous disapproval of SSHRB’s members and efforts, as well as the work of Housing and Human Services.

**4-B Discuss and Review Social Service Human Relations Board Workgroup Report Outs**

**Public Comment:**

Craig Browning expressed his desire for services and resources addressing homelessness to be created with an attitude of standing *with* unhoused people rather than doing something *for* them.

- The Road Home/People Experiencing Homelessness (Means, Green, Buchholz)
  - President Means reported that an [age-friendly survey](#) is live that solicits the community of older adults in Alameda for feedback on social services.
- Domestic Violence Workgroup (Carter, Wolf)
  - Board Member Carter reported that the quarterly Domestic Violence Task Force was held on May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Alamedans United Against Hate (Green, Bryant)
  - Board Member Bryant reported that the AUAH committee has already started on their workplan for the following year, and that he would like to share resources gained from the larger chapter of United Against Hate.

## **5. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

### **5-A Status Report on the City of Alameda's Housing and Human Services**

Administrative Specialist Shelbey Neil reported the division's updates.

**Public Comment:** None

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

President Means reported on a training he attended that was held by Alameda County Public Health Department regarding Medi-Cal changes.

Board Member Gerald Bryant expressed support for Dr. Cindy Acker, who gave public comment earlier in the meeting regarding the Child Unique Montessori School and Montessori Elementary-Intermediate School of Alameda.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

President Means adjourned the meeting at 9:23pm.