

City of Alameda, California
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD
THURSDAY, May 27, 2021
Final MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Christine Chilcott called the meeting to order at approximately 7:05pm.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Tony Lewis

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the minutes of April 22, 2021 was made by Vice-President S. Lewis and seconded by Board member Furuichi Fong. Ayes: Christine Chilcott, Vice-President S. Lewis, Board members Furuichi Fong and Jagannathan. Nays: none. Motion carried unanimously.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public member Mary Manning provided information on a new Childcare Tax Credit and requested support and suggestions for getting information out to the public. Staff member Fonstein said he will circulate this information with the Alameda Collaboration for Children, Youth, and their Families (ACCYF). Other Board members offered to share this information with their networks.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5-A 2021-981 Season for Non-Violence Student Speeches

President Chilcott welcomed student presenters. Kaia Marbin, Mya Nguyen, Sarah Park, and Rana Wiar, who presented their speeches of non-violence to the Board. Board members praised the inspiring speeches and were very proud and honored to have the students share their speeches.

5-B 2021-982 Homelessness Strategic Plan Status Report

Staff member Amanda Gehrke provided a status report on the Homelessness Strategic Plan, including an upcoming community workshop, scheduled for June 10, which will share the Strategic Plan's draft goals and solicit community comments, as well as provide

education on existing homelessness initiatives. The draft Strategic Plan will be presented to SSHRB at the July 22 meeting.

5-C 2021-983 Recommendation to Add “Alamedans Together Against Hate,” or a Similarly Titled Item, to SSHRB’s Regular Monthly Agenda

President Chilcott presented a staff report on Alamedans Together Against Hate (ATAH), originally formed by the Board 23 years ago, to address issues of racism and hate within the community. President Chilcott discussed the Board re-forming this type of workgroup. Staff member Fonstein described the advantages of having this as a regular SSHRB monthly agenda item are to simplify scheduling and noticing requirements, while having the entire Board involved in the discussion.

Board members discussed the recommendation and staff answered clarifying questions. Board member Furuichi Fong supported the idea of agendizing the workgroup so that all Board members can participate. Board member Jagannathan agreed, stating that these issues integrate with all of SSHRB’s work. She asked why ATAH dissolved and how to ensure the workgroup is action-oriented in reporting to the City Council. Mr. Fonstein said he will return to the next meeting with recommendations and more information on the history of ATAH. Board member Jagannathan also recommended that workgroup title explicitly address anti-racism. President Chilcott raised questions about the scope, to include hate crimes against targeted groups. Vice President S. Lewis supported the Board taking an active, leadership role (such as Season for Nonviolence speech contest).

5-D 2021-986 FY 2021-22 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Services Funding Recommendations

President Chilcott re-introduced this item presented at the last meeting, as the Board did not formally make a motion to approve. Vice President S. Lewis made the motion to approve staff’s funding recommendation for FY 2021-22; second by Board member Jagannathan. Ayes: President Chilcott, Vice-President S. Lewis, Board members Furuichi Fong and Jagannathan. Nays: none. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice President S. Lewis made a motion to approve proportional distribution of any additional funds collected before the end of the FY 2020-21 to Alameda Family Services, Alameda Food Bank, Building Futures, Family Violence Law Center, and Legal Assistance for Senior; second by Board member Furuichi Fong. Ayes: President Chilcott, Vice President S. Lewis, Board members Furuichi Fong and Jagannathan. Nays: none. Motion carried unanimously.

5-E Workgroup Reports

- Homeless Action Plan Workgroup (S. Lewis): Vice President S. Lewis expressed her appreciation for the diversity of the workgroup, and her recognition of the magnitude of the work to be done. The most recent meeting was focused on collecting feedback from workgroup and community members.
- Youth Mental Health (Chilcott): Additional funding for youth mental health services is scheduled to be voted on at the June City Council meeting.
- Domestic Violence (Furuichi Fong) Board member Furuichi Fong reported the next quarterly meeting is scheduled for June 10.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

6-A Homelessness Updates and Initiatives

Staff member Butler provided the following updates:

- Feed Alameda – the program continues serve 105-120 meals on Wednesdays through at least August 4, 2021.
- Transitional Housing Program – Staff will be asking the City Council for direction at its June 15 meeting, either on a community cabins approach or a hotel-based alternative.
- Encampments – the City is initiating the cleanup at the Veterans Memorial Building; however, there are concerns because the substantial amount of personal property. Cleanup support is being offered to the Main Street encampment residents, and the Posey Tube encampment continues to be monitored.
- Homeless Housing Assistance Program (HHAP) Funding – Ms. Butler updated SSHRB that the County is running HHAP, and will provide further updates at the following SSHRB meeting.

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

Board member Jagannathan asked how the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds allocated to City will be spent. Ms. Butler stated that the funds will be disbursed in two tranches, which the City Council will discuss in its budget deliberations. Ms. Butler added that staff will be presenting transitional housing to the Council for consideration as a use of funds.

President Chilcott updated the Board that SSHRB candidates have been interviewed by the Mayor, and recommendations will be made to City Council at the next Council meeting.

President Chilcott announced that she will be resigning after the June meeting, to pursue her doctoral program, and that it has been an honor to serve on the Board.

Mr. Fonstein announced that Ana Bagtas accepted a position at Contra Costa County pursuing her field of study, and has resigned from the City of Alameda. Staff members Butler and Fonstein are supporting ACCYF, and other Social Service issues until the position is filled.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Chilcott adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Fonstein, Board Secretary