

Social Service Human Relations Board
Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Thursday, April 23, 2009

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL,** President Wasko called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Present were Nielsen, Soglin, James, Biggs, Villareal, and Dailey. Staff: Franz, Wright.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Before reviewing the minutes, President Wasko distributed copies of ATAH's "Pledge for a Hate Free Alameda" as a reminder that we are routed in the kind of respectful communication and goodwill practices that ATAH promotes. This is the first time in twelve years that the document has been shared with the Board.

President Wasko explained that the former SSHRB staff person had presented "court reporter" minutes that were transcribed from the tapes by someone else in development, and that we were moving towards "Action Item" minutes that also reflected relevant points of discussion during the meeting. Our Rules and Procedures have a process for members to have a statement recorded into the minutes. Workgroup Progress Reports had been used in the past to document discussion from both SSHRB and Workgroup meetings. We will distribute copies of those and consider re-establishing this practice, which creates a history of each workgroup, to which everyone can refer. President Wasko cited the Dental Clinic as an example of a project that could have been chronicled in this format.

The Revised minutes from the meeting on January 22, 2009 were reviewed and accepted with the deletion of the word "unanimous" in item 3B.

The minutes from the meeting on March 26, 2009 meeting were reviewed. And accepted as revised with the following changes.

Staff member Franz explained that the welcoming of member Dailey to the Board had not been included in the minutes. He also explained that a motion and second (Dailey / Biggs) that President Wasko, as Chair of the Family Services Workgroup, be appointed as SSHRB representative to the Alameda Collaborative for Children, Youth, and their Families was Unanimously approved by the Board.

The following revisions were made in the Election of Officers item: eliminating "another" in reference to Vice-president Villareal's term and the elimination of President Wasko nominating herself for vice-president.

A statement by member Soglin explaining a request by ATAH was clarified to read "Member Soglin explained that, at this time, the School district has no plans to host another community meeting (Public Forum). He then explained that CARE (Community Alliance for Resources in Education) was planning to hold a strategy meeting, but since no Action Item was on the Agenda, SSHRB would not be able to discuss co-sponsoring that meeting"

**3-A. PRESENTATION OF ALAMEDA BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB PROGRAMS –
GEORGE PHILLIPS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and MARC MORALES, SITE
DIRECTOR OF THE WEST ALAMEDA TEEN CLUB**

At the City Council's request and annually as part of the public review process, the Board reviews staff's recommendations for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for public services. During the discussion period that followed staff presentation on the recommendations at the March meeting, board members expressed the desire to have more information regarding organizations receiving funding. Member Biggs suggested that representatives from the organizations be invited to come to our meetings to provide information and answer questions regarding their programs and services. This presentation is the first in a series that will be scheduled throughout the year, with the intention to have all funded organizations make presentations before the next public hearing on housing and community development needs.

George Phillips introduced himself and explained that he, Marc Morales, and Boys and Girls Club Board Member, Chief Burny Mathews would be speaking on two topics, the first being Marc speaking on what's happening at the West Alameda Teen Club they've been operating for the past six years, and the second being Burny Matthews speaking on the Club's plans for the future.

Marc provided information on their program's hours of operation and stated that they are currently serving 151 youth (boys and girls) between the ages of 12 and 18. Programs include "Money Matters" which, among other things teaches students how to manage a checking account, and a Career Launch Program that teaches them to write Resumes and helps them learn how to present themselves during a job interview.

Other program activities include:

- Eight members participating in an Old Navy "Job Shadow" program, spending a morning working alongside associates at the Old Navy store at Towne Centre.
- Two Leadership Groups; a Torch Club for middle-school youth and a Keystone Club for high-school youth.
- A Cooking and Nutrition camp
- A high-school basketball house-league, which had participation by 40 members.
- Flag football games
- A Technology Center, which includes job search opportunities, and a "skill set" on-line program that teaches various computer programs.
- A weekly Arts & Crafts program
- An Audio mixing and recording studio
- A free summer lunch program in partnership with AUSD that had 70 participants
- Field trips to various sports events
- Hosted four barbecues, a Halloween Party, a Thanksgiving Feast, four Arts & Crafts events, a Martin Luther King "Be" event, and four events during National Boys & Girls Club Week.

In addition, Mark explained that the Club had met their CDBG SOW requirements.

Chief Matthews provided details on the Club's ten million dollar capital campaign to build a center that will be a safe, clean place for youth at the Woodstock location in West Alameda. He explained that thirty-four hundred youth live within a mile and a half of this location and that the project is in partnership with AUSD. The school will use the gymnasium during school hours. The facility will include a gym, teen club, professional kitchen, a computer lab, free office space for non-profits, a dental clinic, and a medical clinic. They plan to break ground in the next several months. He invited the board to visit the site.

President Wasko invited questions from the board.

Q. Is current Center connector to "School Loop"?

A. No. Issue is space, and it's hard to draw some youth to West End / Housing Project.

Q. What is construction time-line? Do you need all of the funds raised before you start?

A. They have arranged for a construction loan to bridge the gap and hope to be open by the spring of 2010.

Q. Your old site has been closed for almost five years; other organizations in similar situations have put in portables. What do you see happening when you open?

A. We expect it to be a "youth magnet", and a facility that will serve three thousand youth each year.

Q. What is average daily attendance at current sites?

A. Twelve to twenty at Esperanza and as high as forty or fifty at Chipman.

Member James "Doors were not open when I stopped by on April 14th at 6:45-7:00. I helped youth present create an obstacle course." "What types of outreach do you perform?"

George Phillips "I heard that you stopped by at 7:45, not 6:45. We do outreach at Esperanza and Chipman"

Q. Do you provide counseling?

A. We refer to AFS. Try to collaborate rather than re-invent the wheel.

Q. What other programs will be offered? Will there be case-management?

A. ACLO Summer Program will move to new site in 2010. We are in conversation with AFS for them to provide "private" services.

Q. Does Torch Club know about upcoming Job fair?

A. Torch Club is for middle-school students who are not yet "working-age"

President Wasco thanked Boys & Girls Club representatives for coming to speak.

Wright: I hope you found this helpful. This is the beginning of an ongoing process and we will continue to invite other organizations to come and speak

Member Biggs: Yes, this was helpful and I've learned some things tonight that I will take back to my organization.

Member Villareal: This gives us a better understanding of the services provided by the organizations for which we recommend funding.

Wright: In addition to visiting the new Boys and Girls Club site we could also schedule visits to other programs funded with CDBG.

3-B. PRESENTATION (STAFF) ON THE PROPOSED PLAN FOR THE HOMELESS PREVENTION AND RAPID RE-HOUSING FUNDING, AND DETERMINE IF CONSISTENT WITH IDENTIFIED COMMUNITY NEEDS.

Wright explained that through the recently enacted American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) the City of Alameda has been allocated \$552,208, over three years, in Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP) funds.

This new infusion of funds creates a number of opportunities for Alameda including making \$275,000 CDBG Capital Project funds available to Boys and Girls Club because they are shovel ready.

We were notified on March 19 that we were granted \$552,000 in HPRP funds through the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) program. We usually receive this kind of funding through the County, instead of directly through the ESG program, but because of the infusion of funds, the city has met the threshold for receiving this funding, which is based on the same formula used to determine the amount of our CDBG.

We have sixty days (until May 18) to come up with and submit a plan which will be an amendment to our fiscal 08/09 Action Plan, and we are supposed to coordinate at a countywide level. The plan we are developing will go to the City Council on May 5., and an item asking the Council to endorse the EveryoneHome Plan will also be on the May 5 agenda.

This funding is targeted towards the types of services that are not anything like the normal Shelter Grant program, including Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing, which is expected to be the way HUD funds homeless services in the future. The purpose of the HPRP is to help persons affected by the current economic crisis in two ways; one to provide homeless prevention assistance to persons who are currently housed and number two, to rapid re-house persons who are currently homeless.

Eligible activities include:

- short-term rental assistance (provides one to three months housing)

- medium term rental assistance (four to eighteen months)
- security deposits and other move-in costs and utility payments.

The housing relocation and stabilization services that are eligible include outreach, case-management, housing search and placement, legal services, mediation, tenancy preparedness, and credit repair.

We sat down with APC, AFS, ECHO, and the AHA, partners we work with to provide services in Alameda to prioritize, and we came up with key strategies. They are to focus on a goal of stable housing, and to work to maintain the housing for those that are most in need, and to create stable housing opportunities for those that are not stable. A second goal is to meet the HUD requirements, which are to get the money on the street very quickly. This means we need to have contracts with providers in place by September 30. We will also coordinate with regional partners to take advantage of economies of scale when those opportunities are appropriate and available.

A copy of the HUD required budget summary was distributed. The information is relatively sparse compared to that normally requested.

The important thing to understand is that there are two service tracks for this funding; the homeless prevention and the rapid re-housing. Rapid re-housing is another way to implement transitional housing,

We will coordinate on a countywide basis to develop assessment tools and 2-1-1 will get an expansion opportunity.

This funding will hopefully give those in permanent supportive housing into Sect. 8 housing. If we can implement this program, there is an additional \$125,000 in Homes funds to supplement the program, and broaden our service delivery

President Wasko: Do we have flexibility in changing levels of allocation as we develop the programs.

Wright: Yes we do.

Member Dailey: Are these funds competitive or is it guaranteed?.

Wright: It is guaranteed. It is an entitlement, but we do have to submit a plan to HUD.

President Wasko: In addition to utility assistance, can this money be used for food?

Wright: No, that is not an eligible expense.

President Wasko: It's great that with the adopting of the EveryoneHome Plan we are getting onboard with the rest of the county.

Member Biggs: I've been in on some of the discussion and have worked with Terri and she deserves a great deal of credit for helping put this together. If we get the Sect. 8 piece in place we will be taking a national lead in implementing a local continuum. We have seen an increasing demand for emergency stabilization payments, such as the need for utility assistance in the winter, when heating costs increase. One high utility bill can cause a family to be homeless. Using a local provider network that is already in place will make it easier to implement case-management services.

Wright: Yes, there is a requirement to use a (HMIS) homeless Management Information System data collection and evaluation system that is mandated as part of this funding. Countywide \$900,000 will go to this system. Providers will need to implement assessment processes that go beyond identifying the immediate need and go to the root cause of a household's barriers to stability.

Member Dailey requested a copy of the Everyone Home resolution being adopted by the council.

A Motion, Amendment and Second (James /Biggs/Dailey) that the Board support the proposed plan, and that it believes it is consistent with what the Board believes to be priority social service and human relations needs in the community, including short-term services to prevent people from becoming homeless, and rapid re-housing. Unanimous

3-C. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

It was M/S (James/Soglin) that President Wasko be re-elected and member Villareal be elected to one-year terms as President and Vice President, respectively. Unanimous

3-D. **WORKGROUP PROGRESS REPORTS**

- Alamedans Together Against Hate

Member Villareal reported that ATAH has not met since the last meeting. He and member Soglin have continued to be active in support of the Caring School Curriculum, but not as members of ATAH. One of them will present the SSHRB letter of support for the curriculum at the AUSD board's meeting, when public comment is heard on this matter.

Some minor changes have been made to the curriculum, but not a major overhaul. Emails to AUSD members have been running about 50/50 for and against.

The workgroup is planning to participate in the 4th of July Parade and will ask that it be put on the May agenda.

- Assessment and Awareness Workgroup

Member Nielsen reported that plans for the Dental Clinic are proceeding, with the MOU being around 95% completed. CDBG will provide \$40,000 for this project, with an additional \$27,000 being provided from a separate, unrestricted City fund. The hope is that the project stays on its timeline and opens this September. She continues to represent SSHRB on the ACCYF Data Collection workgroup.

- Family Services Workgroup

President Wasko reported that the family Services Workgroup is "currently under construction"

- Sister City Workgroup

President Wasko reported that the Sister City Workgroup's next meeting would be to finalize plans for a spin-off as a separate non-profit.

- Resource-Sharing Workgroup

Member Biggs reported that the Resource Sharing Workgroup would be meeting on April 30.

4. **BOARD/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA**

Member Biggs: Attended LWV Meet Your public Officials Night before coming to tonight's meeting.

There is very minimal service on the 63 bus-line serving Alameda Point, and is an important resource for both APC residents and Alameda Food bank Participants. A public process reviewing bus service is coming up in May and the 63 route is in the cross hairs for being cut.

May 13 is the Annual APC Breakfast.

Member James: Announced an Earth-day Event in East Oakland (he has flyers) and he is in a play.

He will be attending the Oakland Police Department Academy. He applied for the one in Alameda, but did not receive a response.

5. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS** None

6. **ADJOURNMENT** - M/S to adjourn (James/Villareal) Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Franz
Secretary, Social Services Human

Relations Board
JF:sb

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