

Social Service Human Relations Board

Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Thursday, April 24, 2008

1. CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL: President Wasko called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. Present were President Wasko, Members Nielsen, Villareal, and Soglin. Vice-President Chen and Member James arrived late. Staff: Jones. Member Franz was absent.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The special meeting minutes from April 1, 2008 were held until more of the Board could be present to vote. M/S Soglin, Nielsen and unanimous.

3-A. WORKGROUP STATUS REPORTS:

Alamedans Together Against Hate – Member Villareal reported that the workgroup will co-host an upcoming program with the College of Alameda on Monday, May 5th, at the Alameda Free Library. The public is invited to attend and discuss the impact of the budget deficits on Alameda's Public High Schools. He explained that confirmed speakers include Dr. Cecilia Cervantes, President of the College of Alameda (COA) and Ardella Dailey, Superintendent of AUSD. Peralta Board student trustee Reginald James and a high school student will represent the student perspective.

Assessment and Awareness – Member Nielsen reported this workgroup has recently reviewed progress on their annual goals. First, the workgroup has achieved its needs assessment goals through the publishing of the Community Needs Assessment. Through the Countywide "Health is Not Just Healthcare" workgroup, additional mapping of community services to low-income areas in Alameda is being conducted. The workgroup is also sponsoring a dental workgroup, to increase access to services for low-income residents in Alameda. Members from the dental community include Alameda County Dental Administrator for Public Health Department, a representative from COA Dental Assisting Program, a local dentist who is a facilitator for a local City dental group, and another DDS who is also the president of the Alameda County Dental Society (ACDS) and a representative from the Alameda Pediatrics Care. Alice Lai-Baker's representative Ms. Fong has been present at meetings and their office is very supportive of efforts to try to pull together support for dental services and has pledged funding towards the effort. Currently, there are a number of intervention programs for prevention services for pre-school and elementary school children, but nothing for older youth and adults.

COA Dental Assistant Program has an interest in applying for grant funds for their classroom to be turned into a clinic, expanding to 10 chairs, adding to the equipment to be fully functional, and attracting volunteer dentists to provide services. They asked the City to come to their next Dental Advisory Board meeting in May, and present some data indicating the need in Alameda.

Nielsen further reported that other goals are to promote awareness on social service needs and resources. The resource guide has been published. "Health is Not Just Health Care", is a great initiative and is targeted towards prevention, but one of the things we would like to do when we make it our own is to expand it beyond prevention, and look at intervention for those people who are already sick (including health insurance). The group is reviewing the idea of a student intern to support this effort.

Wasko – Member Franz is absent. He asked that I announce that the Alameda Services Collaborative luncheon will be in May and they need a topic. Please email Franz with any ideas for topics.

Family Services Workgroup – President Wasko – Nothing to report.

Sister City Workgroup – Vice-President Chen reported that they have not met in the last three weeks; the end of May is the next meeting. We are still on target to transition the work group to a non profit, and we will continue to work on the spin-off process for a non-profit but funding and staff time are needed. Frank Matarrese suggested that some funding for a non-profit spin off could come from the general fund, but with the current crunch in budget it is unclear if that will happen.

Mayor of Jiaying, China is planning to visit with a government and business delegation possibly as early as June, pending his VISA approval. The delegation will be five persons from health services including the Director of Education, foreign affairs and the Peoples Congress along with five business men. Jiaying needs two invitation letters from our Mayor, one for the businessmen and one for city officials. Auschio, El Salvador has been working with St. Phillip Neri and a trip is planned to Auschio for three weeks in July.

Wasko –Mayor Beverley Johnson spoke at the Lunar New Year festival and the workgroup also had dinner with the Chinese consulate recently.

Nielsen – Inquired about the services learning program at the Peralta system. James reported there is nothing consolidated and programs offer on and off campus opportunities. The program works much like the AmeriCorps Program.

3-B. PARTICIPATION IN MAYOR'S 4TH OF JULY PARADE: President Wasko reported in Franz's absence. The July 4th trolley is the Board's highest visibility event and the primary method of communicating the Boards presence to the people of Alameda. A maximum expenditure authorization of \$1000.00 for the trolley is being requested. The annual trolley costs are shared and used by both the R.A.C.E. folks and this group. There is a donation from the RACE folks annually, this year will be a minimum of \$250. Any additional donation will offset the Board's share of trolley expenses. The increasing prices of fuel have raised the anticipated cost of the float. Motion to allocate \$1000.00 maximum for the 4th of July parade. M/S Wasko, Villareal and unanimous.

Nielsen – What are the rules for a "green" parade?

Wasko – This is a question for the parade committee.

3-C. UPCOMING BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE: Wasko suggested the Board discuss possible topics for future meetings. She asked the Board if they had any particular topics in which they would like further education, or if they would like to hear from any particular speakers. She mentioned the possibility of a follow-up with Mona Breed, Executive Director, Sentinel Fair Housing on housing discrimination. In the March 2008 Social Service Human Relations Board meeting, there was discussion around how to best encourage single unit landlords to attend workshops on fair housing laws.

President Wasko also mentioned that Member Franz (absent) has suggested that speakers be invited to talk about how to increase access to the internet for populations, such as youth, seniors, and people with disabilities. He also recommended speakers who could focus on eliminating language barriers on the internet, including the ability to post information in multiple languages.

Nielsen's suggested speakers who could discuss other city's models for promoting health care access to low-income.

Chen – Are we talking about information items only, or are we also suggesting issues for Board action and topics for workgroups? He went on to report a speaker from the Asian/Pacific American Cultural Center in Oakland that caters to the entire East Bay and is funded by the County and City of Oakland. We could ask them for an overview of what their center is doing and what they offer. Are we talking about discussing the human component of China, as in Tibet issues?

Wasko – These items for discussion can range from an informational item for the Board to a letter to the Mayor and Council, to an advanced process with reporting to City Council.

Villareal – Are we able to request how those who receive CDBG funds. And I would like to hear a brief discussion like what we had from Biggs at APC, and Russell at Alameda Food Bank.

Soglin – How about a briefing on the Foreclosure Assistance and First Time Homebuyers / Downpayment Assistance program, updates on any foreclosure issues that may arise.

James – How about someone from another boards, like Youth Advisory Commission or Youth Commission, and having a discussion on bridging the digital divide.

4. BOARD / STAFF COMMUNICATIONS: Staff person Jones reported The Koshland Foundation made a DVD on Alameda. Each Board member was given a copy.

Chen – Asked a question regarding Board member terms. Jones replied that the City Managers office tracks member terms. Members are limited to two consecutive terms. Partial terms do not count towards that term limit.

James – Passed out copies of the Laney Tower, which had articles on both the Immigration forum and the Public Safety forum.

Nielsen – What was the result of the CDBG funding for public services? Jones reported that the recommendation was accepted and adopted by City Council.

Wasko – We deferred the Minutes of April 1, 2008 for more Board members to be present, we have that now can we motion for approval? Jones replied yes. The special meeting minutes from April 1, 2008 were approved with edits. M/S Nielsen, James and unanimous.

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: None

6. ADJOURNMENT: President Wasko adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Jones
Secretary, Social Services Human Relations Board

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