

**Social Service Human Relations Board**  
**Minutes of the Special Meeting, Thursday, November 8, 2012**

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL** President Wasko called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Present were: Vice-President Villareal, members Biggs, Radding, Watkinson, and Williams

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
The Minutes of the Special Meeting, September 12, 2012 were approved as presented.  
M/S Biggs / Villareal Unanimous

3. **AGENDA ITEMS**

3-A. **COMMENTS REGARDING NEEDS RELATED TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC SERVICES FUNDING TO FORMULATE FY 2013/14 PUBLIC SERVICES NEEDS STATEMENT CLAUDIA YOUNG – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MANAGER, CITY OF ALAMEDA**

City Staff, Claudia Young began with a PowerPoint presentation describing the CDBG process which included: how Alameda's grant amount is determined, the purpose of CDBG funds, and an explanation that funding for Public Services cannot exceed 15% of the current allocation, plus the prior year's program income. She added that we do not know the amount of prior program income until the City's annual audit is completed, which was in November this year.

One slide listed Alameda's Five-Year Consolidated Plan Priority Needs for 2010-2015, and another showed how our HUD funding has decreased by 27% in the last two years, adding that we may receive an additional 8% cut this year, depending on actions taken by Congress in the next few months. Ms. Young listed the priorities included in the Boards FY2012-2013 Community Needs Statement to the Mayor and City Council (Attachment A), and explained that next steps are City Council adopting a Needs Statement in January 2013, and the RFP being released in January / February 2013.

**Public Comment**

**Karen Kenney-** ED Girls Inc. of the Island City thanked the Board for supporting the funding of their 12/13 CDBG application, stated their growth plan includes serving more girls from the West End, that 43% of the girls they serve are from families living below the poverty level with the expectation of increasing that number to 65+%. Last year, they successfully piloted programs at the Academy and B&GC, are starting another at APC in January, and are in discussion with the Academy, EHS, NEA, ACLC and B&GC for programs next year.

**Hank Leeper-ED and Anna Crane** –Board Chair of the Alameda Food Bank shared that the AFB is serving 5,000+ low-income Alamedans and, while the rate of increase has slowed, they continue to be at a record-high level of clients served. They provide these services with two full-time paid staff, one part-time holiday staff (funded by CDBG) and more than 200 community volunteers. They are open six days a week, and the food packages they provide help Alamedans balance their budget and be able to pay rent, utilities, and other basic needs expenses. They receive support from local donors, food collections such as ones by Postal Workers and scouting for Food, daily pick ups at local markets, and FEMA / CDBG grants.

**Jeff Miller** –ED, Alameda Boys and Girls Club shared that this was his 4<sup>th</sup> day on the job, but he has had experience running a number of other B&G Club sites, most recently in Arizona. Their new 25,000 square foot facility serves 1,200 unduplicated youth each week, providing arts and crafts, help with homework, a computer lab, and athletics. All of these, helping to create a well-rounded youth experience. He explained that this year's CDBG funds are being used to provide member scholarships to youth from low-income Alameda families.

**Carlos Zialita**, ED and **Zoe Holder** Program Director of the Alameda Multi-Cultural Community Center explained that the organization started in 1998 and now provides services at their Woodstock Education Center, which also has a computer lab, added in 2010. They provide access for all, with their services available to all ages and ethnicities. Thirty-percent of those using their lab have a primary language other than English, and they will be requesting funds to replace their outdated computers.

**Angie-Hajeem**, Fair Housing Counselor with ECHO Housing explained that she investigates claims of housing discrimination in Alameda, with families with children being one of the groups most discriminated against.

Other ECHO staff provide landlord – tenant mediation services in the City of Alameda in addition to being available to answer other tenant-rights related questions, often dealing with the eviction process. She stated that there are no Rental assistance Funds available in Alameda.

**Liz Varela**, ED of BFWC explained that, in addition to operating Midway Shelter for the past 25 years, BFWC operates Bessie Coleman Court at APC, offers a number of Domestic Violence Services, and currently has a CDBG to provide Rental Assistance (RA) in Alameda. BFWC provided case-management, RA, and other HPRP funded services for the mid-county hub located in San Leandro, during the recent round of HPRP / Stimulus funding.

Midway Shelter provides 25 shelter beds for homeless women and children, the majority of which are victims of domestic violence for up to six months. BFWC has the highest “placement into permanent housing” rate of any shelter program in Alameda County. They have recently been awarded State funding which will allow them to use all of the CDBG \$20,000 RA funds for direct services, supplement it with an additional \$10,000 for direct services, and cover the other necessary admin. Costs. BFWC is also in the process of reviving Alameda's DV Task Force.

**Richard Winefield**, ED – Bananas, shared that his organization helps families identify quality pre-school or child-care providers, and also offers child-care vouchers to low-income families through a number of funding sources. Many of their customers are single moms or dads and some of them are at-risk of losing their housing, if they are not able to go to, or look for jobs, because they can't afford childcare.

Throughout the presentations, many presenters stated how the need has increased for the services of their agency and other programs. President Wasko and other Board Members also thanked the presenters for the amazing services they provide to our community.

President Wasko explained that the Board would now discuss what they had heard in the presentations, take into consideration what we have learned from the 2012 Community Needs Survey data, and review the 2012 Needs Letter, as they decide what will be included in this year's letter.

It was noted that Survey showed that Alamedans think that youth are one of the highest priorities, but without safety-net support services for low-income families with children, families might not be able to stay housed.

Member Biggs summed it up with the statement that “Our task is to feed a community with a loaf of bread. This is the largest group of presenters we have had”  
It was agreed that the Board could not simply continue to make cuts to each organization, and that there needed to be a re-ordering of priorities.

Discussion of collaboration included acknowledging that some are already happening, but, while not mandating it, some additional weight might be given to collaboration in scoring the applications. Taking advantage of fundraising opportunities we have as one of the 100 Best Communities for Young People recognition was also noted as a resource sharing opportunity.

The discussion ended with a motion for the 2013 Needs Letter to contain the following items”

- Given the CDBG funds available, we can’t nearly address all of the priority needs we have named in the past..
- We will only put forward one priority: an edited version of the first 2012 priority .which will only name safety-net services that provide food, shelter and other programs that help keep families and individuals from becoming homeless.
- We recommend that funds be directed to Alameda neighborhoods “most in need”.
- As the Board makes this difficult choice, we will ask the Council “What kind of community do we want to be as we face cuts that destroy our social services safety net?”
- While we value their importance in our community, we believe that at this time, providing the essential safety net services listed above, is the best way to serve our seniors, families with special needs, and youth.
- The letter will highlight the importance of increased, meaningful collaboration, and for organizations to look at partnerships “in a new way”
- The first page will be updated

M/S Watkinson / Williams Unanimous

### **3-B PRESENTATION REGARDING THE CITY OF ALAMEDA PARTICIPATING IN A COUNTY-WIDE “DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PILOT PROJECT” MARIA RAFF, ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT ANALYST, CITY OF ALAMEDA FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Scheduled Presenter Maria Raff was unable to attend the meeting and Member Biggs, also a participant in this project, made a brief presentation.

The Risk-Based Pilot Project (Disaster Preparedness for Frail & Disabled Alamedans)

Alameda County Public Health is considering the City of Alameda for a pilot project regarding developing a plan to serve vulnerable populations, especially those who would not be able to access a shelter, in the event of a disaster. The AFD is convening meetings, bringing together City departments, CBO’s and the County for continued discussion. More meetings are scheduled.

### **3-C. WORKGROUP PROGRESS REPORTS** - Information – 30 minutes

Each item below is an **INFORMATION** item:

#### **Assessment and Awareness Workgroup**

President Wasko announced she will make a Needs Survey presentation to ACCYF and ASC at a joint meeting on November 14th

**Alamedans Together Against Hate Workgroup**

Vice President Villareal announced plans for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Harvey Milk Day Celebration in May.  
He is meeting with AUSD to have the district institutionalize the event.

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

5. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn M/S Villareal / Watkinson Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:48

Respectfully Submitted: Jim Franz – Secretary

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