

**City of Alameda, California  
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023  
APPROVED MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

President Scott Means called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Present: President Scott Means, Board Members Gerald Bryant, Michelle Buchholz, Cindy Pile, and Dianne Yamashiro-Omi

Absent (excused): Vice President Samantha Green and Board Member Bernie Wolf

City staff: Marcie Johnson and Eric Fonstein

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**3-A Review and Approve July 27, 2023 Draft Minutes**

A motion to approve the July 27, 2023 minutes was made by President Means and seconded by Board Member Buchholz. Ayes: President Means, Board Members Bryant, Yamashiro-Omi, and Buchholz. Nays: none. Abstained: Board Member Pile. Motion passed 4-0-1.

**4. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**5. AGENDA ITEMS**

**5-A Presentation of City of Davis Hate Free Together Program**

The presentation was given by Sharpee Butler, Cultural Competency/D.E.I.B Analyst for Yolo County, Jenny Tan, Director of Community Engagement, City of Davis, and Tara Thronson, Chief of Staff to Yolo County Supervisor Lucas Frecichs, District 2 for Yolo County. The following is a summary of the key segments:

- Following the pandemic, the City of Davis vowed to condemn hate, create safety, and cultivate change. Highlighting that hate and hate crimes don't just affect one community, they ripple out into other communities. Hate impacts the victim, their friends and family, their support networks, their place of work, and even beyond. Hate is not isolated and cannot be fixed in isolation.
- The Hate Free Together campaign contains three spheres:
  - Individual / Community (residents, families, seniors, college students, and religious institutions)
  - Public Agency (county, city, and school districts)
  - Business (retail, food, nonprofits, large institutions, business owners, farm owners, etc.)

- Prior to the program launch, content and materials were presented and reviewed by a variety of local groups.
- The City of Davis was awarded a \$300,000 grant through the California Arts Council to host community workshops.

Public Comment – None.

Board Questions/Comments:

- Board Member Bryant applauded their presentation and accomplishments thus far and asked how they went about applying for and obtaining the \$300,000 grant. Jenny Tan responded that once they identified the grant category they wanted to go after, they then applied for both tiered options (\$115,000 and \$300,000) with hopes of winning one.
- Board Member Buchholz asked if the City of Alameda could use the infographics shown in the presentation. Jenny Tan offered to assist SSHRB with developing its own infographic.
- Board Member Yamashiro-Omi asked for clarification on the funding source for the \$300,000 grant. Jenny Tan confirmed it was part of the California Creative Core (Arts Initiative).
- Board Members agreed that it would be ideal to start with posting some type of signage and information in locations where people congregate together.

## **5-B Status Report Presentation of City's Guaranteed Income Pilot Program**

The presentation was given by staff member Walker Toma. The following is a summary of the key segments:

- May 17, 2022 City Council approved the guaranteed basic income pilot program.
  - \$1,000 per month for 150 low income households for two years
  - \$4.6 million of ARPA Funds
- City staff returned to City Council for approval of contracts with project partners:
  - Operation Dignity to serve as Implementing Partner
  - Abt Associates to serve as Research Partner
  - Usio Inc. to serve as Financial Partner
- The program offers a flexible monthly cash payment directly to recipients to use as they see fit (housing, childcare, food, or other household expenses).
- Research has shown that recipients demonstrate increased self-determination and agency and a greater capacity for goal setting and empowers people to improve their circumstances.
- The pilot program is named *Rise Up Alameda*.
- The City received approval for waiving income from the pilot program for most housing assistance programs (housing choice vouchers/Section 8) as well as CalWorks and CalFresh.
- City staff has secured locations to serve as application hubs.
- Informational flyers were translated into seven languages and distributed to over 28 community organizations.
- The 24-month pilot program will end in Summer/Fall 2025 and Abt Associates will conduct a 24-month survey.
- A final report will be presented to Council in the Spring of 2026.

Board Members asked clarifying questions and thanked Mr. Toma for his presentation.

Public Comment – None.

Board Member Buchholz asked what would happen if a recipient moved out of Alameda during the pilot program. Staff Member Fonstein stated that they would continue to receive the funds.

### **5-C Discuss and Review Social Service Human Relations Board Workgroup Reports**

Public Comment – None.

Board Members gave a brief overview of their individual workgroups as an introduction for the newly appointed Board Member, Cindy Pile.

- Domestic Violence Task Force (Buchholz/Wolf)
- Alamedans Together Against Hate (Yamashiro-Omi, Bryant)
- Outreach and Community Engagement (Means, Green)

### **5-D Review Draft Schedule of Future Social Service and Human Relations Board (SSHRB) Agenda Items and Discussion of Having a Youth Representative to SSHRB**

Public Comment – None.

President Means advocated moving the monthly SSHRB meeting to City Council Chambers (conference room 391) as well as expressed his interest in hearing from Family Violence Law Center regarding domestic violence statistics.

Board Member Buchholz suggested SSHRB collaborate with the other City of Alameda Boards and Commissions.

Board Member Yamashiro-Omi requested to have Paul Hudson with the Seeds Collaborative attend a future meeting.

Staff Member Johnson reminded the Board that anyone who is working with youth must complete a background check for the City of Alameda and will email additional information to Board Members.

## **6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS**

### **6-A Status Report on Homeless Services**

Staff Member Johnson shared an update on behalf of the City of Alameda's Housing and Human Services Department.

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

President Means shared that AARP will be hosting a World Health Organization, Age-friendly Cities Regional Event on Wednesday, October 11 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Board Member Buchholz asked if the SSHRB Board is now full. Staff Member Johnson confirmed that the Board is now full.

**8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

President Means adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.