

**City of Alameda, California
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023
APPROVED MINUTES**

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Scott Means called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Present: President Scott Means, Board Members Gerald Bryant, Michelle Buchholz, Cindy Pile, Dianne Yamashiro-Omi, and Vice President Samantha Green (attended remotely)

Absent: Board Member Bernie Wolf

City staff: Yasamin Obaidy and Eric Fonstein

President Means announced that Vice President Green requested to participate remotely, under the “Emergency Circumstances Exception,” for in-person attendance. This exception applies to a physical or family medical emergency preventing the Board Member from attending in person. SSHRB must vote to approve the exception. If not approved, the member can only participate as a public attendee and cannot vote.

A motion to approve Vice President Green’s request was made by President Means and seconded by Board Member Yamashiro-Omi. Ayes: President Means, Board Members Bryant, Yamashiro-Omi, Pile, and Buchholz. Nays: none. Abstained: Vice President Green. Motion passed 5-0-1.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-A Review and Approve August 24, 2023 Draft Minutes

A motion to approve the August 24, 2023 minutes was made by Board Member Buchholz and seconded by Board Member Bryant. Ayes: President Means, Board Members Bryant, Yamashiro-Omi, Pile, and Buchholz. Nays: none. Abstained: Vice President Green. Motion passed 5-0-1.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5-A Presentation on the City of Alameda’s Community Assessment Response & Engagement (CARE) Team

The presentation was given by Nick Luby, Fire Chief with the City of Alameda. The following is a summary of the key segments:

- Provides 24/7 alternative response to nonviolent individuals facing a mental health crisis
- When the CARE Team is dispatched, first responders arrive in a program-branded vehicle outfitted for this work. The CARE Team triages and assesses clients to assist them with navigating the best path forward in obtaining services.
- The Pilot Program commenced on December 16, 2021.
- The County wanted a licensed clinician for immediate consultation and aftercare; Alameda Fire Department (AFD) partnered with Alameda Family Services (AFS)
- Additional partners include:
 - Alameda County Behavioral Health Care Services
 - Alameda County Emergency Medical Services
 - Alameda Police Department
 - City of Alameda Health Care District
- The creation of the CARE Team has provided an alternative for the Alameda Police Department (APD) to decrease responses/interactions with community members experiencing a mental health situation.
- Additional information and data from the presentation can be found [here](#).

Public Comment – None.

Board Questions/Comments:

- Board Member Green asked if individuals must be taken to Alameda Hospital. Chief Luby stated that unless the individual requests a specific hospital they are taken to Alameda Hospital.
- Board Member Buchholz asked if many of the calls are related to substance abuse. Chief Luby stated that they do not make judgements based on what the caller states, they allow the hospitals to determine if the individual is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol (via blood or urine testing).
- Board Member Pile asked if the CARE Team provides interpretative services. Chief Luby confirmed that this service is available on an on-call basis.

Chief Luby thanked the Board for their time as well as their devotion to the City of Alameda.

5-B Discuss and Review Social Service Human Relations Board Workgroup Reports

Public Comment – None.

- Domestic Violence Task Force (Buchholz/Wolf)
 - The task force was developed during the pandemic when there was a significant spike in domestic violence
 - During the annual CDBG presentation, Family Violence Law Center provides statistics updates and year to year comparisons
 - Experience with elevated stats
 - Following the October 23 SSHRB meeting, city staff plans to resume regular task force meetings
- Alamedans Together Against Hate (Yamashiro-Omi, Bryant)
 - Waiting for feedback from Sarah Henry on the proposed Resolution
 - Met with SEEDS Collaborative to discuss Diversity Plan and the possibility of a representative presenting at a future SSHRB meeting
 - Board Member Bryant is looking for individuals to present during the

- upcoming Speaker Series
 - Alameda Pride Week will be Friday, October 13 – Sunday, October 15
 - Staff Member Obaidy mentioned that Alameda Pride is looking for volunteers and confirmed she will reach out to the Founder to see how SSHRB can assist
 - Ideas for upcoming Youth events include:
 - Poetry slam
 - Stop hate art
 - Student organized rally
- Outreach and Community Engagement (Means, Green)
 - Vice President Green and Board Member Buchholz have completed the draft the infographic to go along with the Community Needs Assessment (CNA)
 - President Means and Vice President Green have started their CNA presentations tour; visiting other City of Alameda, Boards and Commissions
 - Upcoming presentations include; Library Board and Public Arts Commission

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

Staff Member Obaidy shared an update on behalf of the City of Alameda's, Housing and Human Services Division. The following is a summary of the key segments:

- Dignity Village
 - Continues to serve the most vulnerable members of our community.
 - City staff held the monthly community meeting with staff, residents, and neighbors.
- Emergency Supportive Housing
 - The Alameda Point tenant meeting took place at the end of August
 - Staff continues to coordinate with Alameda County Office of Homelessness and other city staff to understand their approach to supporting people who are experiencing homelessness.
 - Staff will tour Amber House in October.
- Main Street Ferry Terminal Closure
 - Main Street Ferry Terminal, including the parking lot will close in October.
 - The Homeless Outreach Team has begun contacting individuals and move them in advance of the parking lot closure.
- Affordable Housing
 - Alameda County Board of Supervisors are partnering with the Community Development Administration to host public information and input session about affordable housing.
 - The public meetings are held in Castro Valley and accessible via Zoom.

Staff Member Fonstein shared an update on behalf of the City of Alameda's Base Reuse and Economic Development Department. The following is a summary of the key segments:

- Job Fair
 - Advertised through Eventbrite, social media

- Largest turnout; over 30 employers and 350 attendees
 - Participants came in with resumes in hand and dressed for interviews
- Rise Up Alameda
 - Application windows ended
 - 2300 applications
 - Low-income
 - Extensive outreach
 - Significant number of unhoused
 - Next steps: working with research partner and Operation Dignity to look through the application pool
 - Random selection, orientation, sign and consent, benefit trainings, (onboarding process)
 - 2-3 weeks
 - First payment at the end of the year
 - Services for them on the website
 - List of services available
- Alameda Food Bank
 - The food bank is preparing for the possible federal government shut down.
 - The Food Bank and the City Manager's office is in communication with the Coast Guard to best support the impacted families.

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

President Means highlighted the continued effort to make the City of Alameda an Age-Friendly Community, sharing that Vice President Green started writing the grant application for the Local Aging and Disability Action Planning (LADAP) Grant Program. If selected the program offers up to \$200,000 per grant.

Staff Member Obaidy mentioned the upcoming ACCYF Youth Advocacy Committee will be meeting on October 11. Family Violence Law Center will present about domestic violence resources for youth. Pizza will be provided and Alameda Food Bank will be donating water, fruit and snacks.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Means adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.