

City of Alameda, California
SOCIAL SERVICE HUMAN RELATIONS BOARD
THURSDAY, March 24, 2022
APPROVED MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Sarah Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

President Lewis shared background information on the Season for Nonviolence, and the Word of the Day: "Ecology." The day's quote is from Wangari Maathai, who was a Kenyan social, environmental and political activist in Kenya and was the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. In her Nobel Lecture on December 10, 2004, she said:

"Today we are faced with a challenge that calls for a shift in our thinking, so that humanity stops threatening its life-support system. We are called to assist the Earth to heal her wounds and in the process heal our own - indeed to embrace the whole of creation in all its diversity, beauty and wonder."

2. ROLL CALL

Present: President Sarah Lewis, Vice President Kristin Furuichi Fong, Board members Dianne Yamashiro-Omi, Samantha Green, Scott Means.

Absent: Priya Jagannathan (Excused).

City staff: Eric Fonstein, Lois Butler, Veronika Cole, and Lisa Fitts

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3-A Review and Approve February 24, 2022 Draft Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of February 24, 2022 was made by Board member Means and seconded by Vice President Furuichi Fong. Ayes: President S. Lewis, Vice President Furuichi Fong, Board members Yamashiro-Omi, Green, and Means. Nays: none. Note: Board Member Jagannathan abstained due to absence from meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

5-A Make Recommendation to City Council on CDBG Funding Levels for FY 2022-23

Staff member Fitts, presented the Social Services, Public Service recommendations for FY 2022-23. The following is a summary of the key segments:

- SSHRB is tasked with three duties that benefit CDBG:

1. Assess and provide input on the community's social service needs
 2. Review CDBG Public Service funding recommendations
 3. Report to the City Council on recommended allocations
- Alameda County has a critical need to assist older adults who are at risk of, or are already experiencing homelessness, require high-acuity care, or hospice
 - SSHRB's Needs Statement identified the following priority areas:
 - Housing and Homeless services
 - Domestic Violence
 - Information and Referral Services
 - Legal Information Services
 - Mental Health and Crisis Intervention
 - Disaster Related Cash Grants
 - Food Pantries and Food Security
 - COVID-19 Diagnostic Tests
 - Public Service funding comes from 15% of the following:
 - Entitlement Allocation from HUD
 - Program Income received in the previous fiscal year
 - Staff Recommendations:
 - Fund the public services at the proposed levels.
 - Use CDBG administrative funds for the Eden Information & Referral contract.
 - Pay for \$25,000 of the Midway Shelter contract with Permanent Local Housing Allocation Funds.
 - Adjust CDBG funding recommendations on a pro rata basis once the CDBG allocations have been announced.
 - Pending the completed Community Needs Assessment, return to a two-year funding cycle for FY 23-24 and FY 24-25, which will be the last two years of the Five-Year Consolidated Plan.
 - Next Steps:
 - May 3, 2022: City Council holds a Public Hearing to consider the full CDBG funding recommendations for FY 2022-23, including the Non-Housing Public Service recommendations reviewed tonight.
 - After May 3, 2022: Once approved, staff will obtain FY 2022-23 budgets and prepare amendments to the Service Provider Agreements.
 - July 1, 2022: Funded agencies may begin making use of the funds.

President Lewis opened the floor for clarifying questions and public comment.

Board member Means asked for additional information regarding the reallocation of Permanent Local Housing Allocation Funds (PLHA).

Staff member Fonstein read public comment received (via email) by Marjorie Rocha, Executive Director for Eden Council for Hope and Opportunity (ECHO).

"Dear President Lewis and Members of the SSHRB: We appreciate City staff's recommendation of \$22,000 to fund Fair Housing and Tenant/Landlord Services. As always, it is a pleasure to provide services for City of Alameda renters. As a Qualified Fair Housing Enforcement Organization, we deliver fair housing counseling and investigation services to the City. In addition, we are a HUD-approved Housing Counseling Agency, and take pride in our ability to deliver critical tenant/landlord counseling and mediation services to low-income renters and housing providers in Alameda. Thank you for your

consideration of staff's recommendation. We request your vote to fund our proposal."

The following comments were made by the public:

- Erin Scott, Executive Director of Family Violence Law Center thanked City staff and Board members for their continued support, and shared the following statistics:
 - From July to December 2021, there has been a 95% increase in the number requests for legal services from Domestic Violence survivors, as well as, a 50% increase in overall requests for legal services
- Alison DeJung with Eden I&R, thanked City staff for their creative approach to continue funding its 2-1-1 program.
- Sabrina Thomas with Building Futures for Women and Children, thanked City staff for the continued support/funding for the Midway Shelter, Crisis Prevention and Domestic Violence Education programs.
- Kale Jenks with Alameda Family Services highlighted the continued need for Mental Health Services for students.

Board members thanked the providers for their attendance and continued service.

Board member Yamashiro-Omi wanted to know if there is a "plan B", if there is a change to the projected funding. Staff member Fitts stated that in previous years, funding has been pro-rated once actual funding numbers are made available.

President Lewis applauded the City's response to meet community needs, and asked for additional information on City staff recommendation, #3 (Pay for \$25,000 of the Midway Shelter contract with Permanent Local Housing Allocation Funds). Staff member Fitts, explained that the utilization of PLHA funds would avoid the overall reduction in CDBG funds. If approved, the Midway Shelter contract would be paid from two funding sources (\$25,000 PLHA funds / \$50,158 CDBG funds).

President Lewis asked about the possibility of City staff presenting a pie chart to show, year to year, estimates vs. actuals. Staff member Fitts urged against the use of historical data trends, as the overall variance in funding amounts is unpredictable.

Board member Yamashiro-Omi asked if there are other funding sources, dedicated to social services. Such as, a percentage of funds from new home builds. Staff member Butler suggested that Board member Yamashiro-Omi make a formal request for a future agenda item, under the Board Communication section of the agenda.

President Lewis outlined recommendation options and requested a motion to approve.

A motion to approve City staff recommendation for CDBG Funding Levels for FY 2022-23 was made by Board member Yamashiro-Omi and seconded by Board member Means. Ayes: President Lewis, Vice President Furuichi Fong, Board members Yamashiro-Omi, Green, and Means. Nays: none. Note: Board member Jagannathan abstained due to absence from meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

5-B Review and Approve the Draft Social Service Human Relations Board 2022 Work Plan for the City Council Consideration

Board reviewed work plan for accuracy and made minor changes to text.

A motion to approve the 2022 Work Plan for City Council Consideration was made by Board member Means and seconded by Board member Green. Ayes: President Lewis, Vice President Furuichi Fong, Board members Yamashiro-Omi, Green, and Means. Nays: none. Note: Board member Jagannathan abstained due to absence from meeting. Motion passed 5-0.

5-C Discuss the Development and Implementation of the 2022 Community Needs Assessment (CNA)

As a member of the CNA subcommittee, Board member Green recommended the following:

- Eliminate survey format (unless there is a Federal requirement)
- Utilize secondary data/data collected from community wide surveys
- Conduct community meetings (forum, focus group or task force) to collect data
- Introduce a new report, broken down by the following domains:
 - Demographics
 - Income and Employment
 - Education and Skills
 - Housing
 - Health
 - Social Connectedness
 - Social Supports
 - Transportation
 - Civic Engagement
 - Personal Security
 - Environmental Quality
 - Wellbeing/Quality of Life

Board member Green asked for input on recommended changes. Board members agreed with proposed changes and provided potential data sources and collaboration possibilities (ATAH, Girls Inc., APC, AFS, Democratic Club, League of Women Voters and Senior Services Coalition).

Board member Green asked if it would be an option to pay individuals for participating. Possibly with gift cards. Staff member Butler confirmed this may be an option, if approved by the City Manager.

5-D Workgroup Reports

- Domestic Violence (Furuichi Fong): Staff member Fonstein confirmed the next meeting has been scheduled for May 19.

6. STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

6-A Status Report on Homeless Services

Staff member Cole provided the following update:

- Dignity Village/Homekey: The City of Alameda was awarded \$12.25 million in Project Homekey Round 2 grant funding. There is an eight month timeline for construction and occupancy (end of October 2022). Dignity Village/Homekey will be presented to City Council on April 5, where CDD will be requesting a \$2 million,

short-term loan to ensure the timely and successful completion of the Dignity Village project.

- Emergency Housing at Alameda Point: The City hosted a community listening session on March 10, where the public raised concern regarding the immediate need to direct resources, to support individuals suffering homelessness. Suggestions included the distribution of EBT cards, hotel vouchers and transit passes.
- Winter Warming: Contract with Building Futures with Women and Children will be completed on April 15. Contract with Christ Church will be extended through May, as funds have not been exhausted.
- Dine and Connect: Started discussion on the possibility of in-person dining.
- Homeless Encampments: Monthly clean-up will be increasing to two times a month (2nd and 4th Tuesdays).
- Village of Love: In February the Day Center served 12 individuals, and Safe Parking served 13 individuals.

6-B City Council consideration of a Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) Pilot Project

Staff member Fonstein provided a description of the GBI pilot program, which will be presented to City Council in May. The following are summary of the key segments:

- City Council directed staff to research developing a pilot program and prepare a report on GBI
- Similar to Universal Basic Income (UBI)
- Basic income programs provide a flat monthly cash payment to a defined population of residents
- Research indicates that basic income programs increase expenditure on education and training, improve food security, and improve measures of well-being among the recipients
- If directed by City Council, staff will develop an outline for steps moving forward and action plan with potential for SSHRB involvement

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

Board member Yamashiro-Omi made a request that funding for social services be discussed at a future meeting.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Lewis adjourned the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Eric Fonstein, Board Secretary