

Social Service Human Relations Board
Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Thursday, September 21, 2006

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER
President Bonta called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Present: Members Bonta, Chen, Franz and Wasko. Staff: Beaver and Jones.
2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the May 25, 2006 Regular Meeting and the June 14, July 18, and August 8, 2006 Special Meetings were approved (M/S Franz/Wasko) 4/0.
- 3.A. PRESENTATION AND REVIEW OF PROPOSED 211 INFORMATION AND REFERRAL SYSTEM FOR ALAMEDA COUNTY.

Barbara Bernstein, Executive Director of Eden I&R, provided background on the agency, including information regarding the current proposal to provide 211 hotline services, CHAIN (Community Housing Assistance and Information Network) and the public safety emergency line. She explained that Eden I & R has two databases covering more than 1,250 organizations and that it is the publisher of the Big Blue Book, on sale in Alameda County for more than 20 years, and also free on –line to providers and consumers. She further noted that Eden I & R had received Public Utilities Commission (PUC) approval to be the 211 provider in Alameda County, and that said approval would expire in December 2006.

Board members asked a number of questions and received responses from Ms. Bernstein. Under discussion, Board members stated their overall support for the program and expressed concern about the timing and status of contributions from other Alameda County jurisdictions. The Board questioned staff regarding the possible use of CDBG funds and learned that further analysis would be needed to determine if the operation would qualify as a public service for low and moderate-income individuals.

The Board reached consensus that the 211 system has broad community application and value, would meet a number of community needs, including public safety and emergency response, citizen information and referral, and provider efficiency.

A motion and second (Franz/Wasko) was adopted 4/0, recommending that:

- the City consider whether a special allocation of General Fund monies to the Alameda County 211 hotline is appropriate to meet the social service and public safety needs of the community;
- City staff be directed to analyze the eligible use of CDBG funds for a portion of the City's share, and
- A proposal from Eden I & R be reviewed for future CDBG funding if CDBGF eligibility is determined.

Staff was requested to prepare a draft memo for review and signature by President Bonta and Vice President Wasko on behalf of the Board.

3-B. AUTHORIZING CO-SPONSORSHIP OF “IN THE MIX” FORUM

Staff reminded the Board of the presentation by Alameda Youth Collaborative staff Audrey Lord-Hausman and President Bonta stated he had been attending the planning meetings as the Board’s representative. By appointing Bonta as the Board’s representative, it was agreed in principle that the Board would co-sponsor the forum with the Youth Collaborative. M/S (Wasko/Bonta) to authorize co-sponsorship of the “In The Mix” Forum for mixed-race youth and their families was approved 4/0.

3-C. AUTHORIZING CO-SPONSORSHIP OF ALAMEDA SERVICES COLLABORATIVE MEETINGS

Staff indicated that the Board had included co-sponsorship of the Alameda Services Collaborative meetings in its goals for the year and that this item would formalize approval of the co-sponsorship with the understanding that the Assessment and Awareness workgroup would report to the Board regarding future topics during the Work Group Status Reports at monthly meetings. A M/S (Franz/Bonta) to co-sponsors of the Alameda Services Collaborative meetings in 2006-07 was approved 4/0.

3-D. WORK GROUP STATUS REPORTS

Alamedans Together Against Hate: President Bonta stated that applicants for vacant Board positions had expressed interest in this workgroup, and it is hoped that appointments will be made soon.

Assessment and Awareness Workgroup: Franz reported that the September ASC meeting would include a presentation on the new library and resources for community-based organizations and an update on disaster preparedness activities.

Family Services Workgroup: Chair Wasko reported on the production of “Kids Clips” parenting education resource. Four segments are planned initially, including one on Calming a Fussy Child, Healthy Habits for Kids, In The Mix and Teen Stereotypes.

Sister City Workgroup: Chair Chen noted that an invitation to an Economic Trade Conference in Wuxi had been received, and that several Alameda business people were attending. He informed the group that Alameda resident Lynne McIntosh was making world tour with her family and that Mayor Johnson had designated her to represent the Mayor when visiting in Wuxi.

4. BOARD/STAFF COMMUNICATIONS, NON-AGENDA

Member Franz stated that the Board was invited to participate in the Alameda Hospital Health Fair again this year. Vice President Wasko stated she would be going and would represent the Board.

President Bonta informed the Board that Mayor Johnson nominated Hector Villareal and Cathy Neilsen to fill vacancies on the Board and that the nominations would come up for Council consideration at the next meeting.

Vice President Wasko asked members to save the evening of December 1 for a non-business holiday gathering,

5. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
There were none.

6. ADJOURNMENT
President Bonta adjourned the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Beaver, Secretary

CB:sb