

**Social Service Human Relations Board**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting, Thursday, December 1, 2011**

1. **CALL TO ORDER and ROLL CALL** President Wasko called the meeting to order At 7:30 p.m. Present were: members Biggs, Dailey, and Nielsen. (Members Holder and James joined the meeting at 7:35) Absent was: Vice-President Villareal

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the September 22, 2011 Regular Meeting were approved as presented.  
Motion / Second: Biggs/ Dailey Unanimous

3. **AGENDA ITEMS**

3-A. **COMMENTS REGARDING NEEDS RELATED TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PUBLIC SERVICES FUNDING TO FORMULATE FY 2012/13 PUBLIC SERVICES NEEDS STATEMENT AND HEARING ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FY 2011-12 REPROGRAMMING OF PROGRAM INCOME FUNDS FOR PUBLIC SERVICES**

**Claudia Young** -Community Development Program Manager for the City of Alameda presented a Power Point explain the CDBG process, timeline, funding levels over the past six years, and how the FY 11-12 funds were spread across services. (Power Point Presentation attached). She explained that the expectation is that there will be a 6% to 10% reduction in funding compared to last year and that only 15% of that can be used for Public Services. In crafting the budget, City Staff will plan conservatively and use the 10% reduction. There is an expectation that program Income will also be less for next year. Estimated funds available for Public services are \$175,000 or about \$49,000 less than last year. Hopefully the reduction will be less than the 10%. This funding will be for a FY starting July 1, 2012. Ms. Young was not aware of any plans to increase the Public Services cap beyond 15%. The final slides in the presentation showed the priority needs listed in our letter to the council last year.

**Public Comment:**

Shannon Ellis, ED -- Family Violence Law Center

Ms. Ellis introduced herself as the new ED of FVLC, and thanked the Board for “keeping Domestic Violence in the mix”. She explained that FVLC sees Domestic Violence as a core cause of many other areas of need in the community, such as unemployment, services for youth, and homelessness. In this respect, Domestic Violence programs are a vital component of Safety-Net Services.

Kathleen Seabolt, West Alameda Community Programs Director – Alternatives In Action:

Ms. Seabolt offered to provide a summary of her presentation and those made by The Alternatives in Action teens, Becca Alturk (grade 11), Edgar Alvarado (grade 10) and Dee McWilliams (grade 12), who accompanied her.

Founded in 1994, Alternatives in Action engages youth to express their leadership potential and prepares them for college, career and community life through dynamic educational, skill-building and real world experiences.

With funding from CDBG, last year we supported 140 youth attending schools in Alameda to improve their college & career readiness through our after school & summer workforce

development programs focused on Multimedia, Child Development, Health & Human Services, and Legal Studies West End Alameda students attending Encinal, ACLC, Alternatives in Action's BASE, [and list others] have benefited from participating in our career prep programs, paid & unpaid internships, and college & career guidance and workshops.

Youth founded Home Sweet Home preschool in 1998, and today it serves 42 children and families with licensed daycare. Currently, 31 youth interns receive professional career training in Early Care and Education. Home Sweet Home interns partner with Head Start to support children and families in the Alameda community. Edgar has more than 100 hours direct service with children through Home Sweet Home preschool. He attended a four day professional development conference through NAREA which networked him internationally with Early Childhood educators - Edgar brought his learning back to Home Sweet Home and has shared it with children, youth and families in his work as a student intern.

Media studies provide over 60 youth a year with technical training in video production and sound engineering. Project Youth View is the premiere Alameda event identified with this project group, impacting over 500 people annually and offering youth the opportunity to share their stories and viewpoints through the Art of filmmaking. Current partners include HBO and the Bay Area Video Coalition. Dee has a strong career interest in event production, and has applied his technical training to attain a paid job in this field, where he was recently promoted as manager. Dee represented Alternatives in Action at the Comcast Youth Tech Summit in Sept 2011, sharing the stage with the mayor of San Francisco as issues and concerns around youth social networking were highlighted.

Alternatives in Action's Legal Studies project group provides over 40 teens a year with legal training and partners with McCullum Youth Court to provide a restorative justice opportunity for teens who take responsibility for their actions to make appropriate restitution through community service. Becca has partnered with both the Legal Studies program and Home Sweet Home, driven by her strong interest in support of children and families; she is researching best college programs for family counseling and has her eye on University of Chicago.

Through our work with Alternatives in Action, we understand and have identified that access to transportation, especially affordable youth access to enable their ability to independently travel to jobs and internships; and affordable, full day childcare for working and return-to-work parents are two significant needs of the Alameda community.

Liz Varela, ED – Building Futures with Women and Children (BFWC):

Ms. Varela thanked the City and the Community for being a great partner to Midway for the 25+ years it has operated in Alameda. She explained that 1/2 of BFWC's programming is in the City of Alameda, and includes their operation of Midway Shelter, Bessie Coleman Court on Alameda Point, and other DV services. She expressed the concern that, with reduced funding from CDBG and other DV and Shelter programs, combined with the elimination of HAP funds, agencies like BFWC will reach the "tipping point" This is a point where programs and services can no longer be trimmed down any more and agencies face the possibility of needing to close.

It forces an agency like BFWC that operates three Shelters and the Housing at Bessie Coleman Court to look at making some incredibly difficult decisions.

BFWC has also provided the case-management for the Homeless Prevention – Rapid re housing Program (HPRP) at the Mid-County Hub for the past two years. This has been made possible by Stimulus Funding, which is scheduled to go away in six months. Over the past two years, the program has provided \$500,000 in rental assistance to families-in-need in Alameda County. (She has offered to put together a presentation for the board regarding HPRP)

Hank Leeper, ED - Alameda Food Bank:

Mr. Leeper explained that he is the new Ed of the Food Bank, has been on the job for seven months, and volunteered at the Food Bank before applying for the position. The AFB is expecting a 7 to 10% increase in their client base this year, unlike the 24% increase a few years back, but their families served is at an all-time high. They noticed a bump in July, as those who lost their Unemployment Benefits came in for assistance. They continue to see new families every day. He noted that this was his first Public Needs Hearing and expressed appreciation as to how the funds benefited so many programs, and what a great value the programs brought to the community. He also thanked the City and the Board for their continued support of the Food Bank.

George Phillips, ED – Alameda Boys and Girls Club

George echoed Mr. Leeper's comments, adding "When I hear the stories from other agencies, it's hard to ask for more money." He said that, with the opening of the new Club, the West End Teen Center numbers have grown quickly. Membership is now at 600, with 125 to 140 youth participating daily. Over the years, he has seen his CDBG funding drop from around \$35,000 to \$15,000, and he may be losing a \$40,000 grant from the Alameda Housing Authority.

His clientele has changed, and they're no longer just from Public Housing. He's just added 25 youth who now pay \$50 a year B&G Club membership as opposed to the much higher cost of ARPD's RAP program. He's hoping to find ways to encourage more parents to devote time to the club. A Blight Busters grant will allow the club to create a community Garden in a space that formerly had outdated portables. The Club also hosts Girls Inc's Teen "Zine, and AFS and Island High programs.

President Wasko thanked the Agency Directors and Students Representatives who made their presentations. The board was especially impressed by the stories of the AIA student presenters: Becca, Edgar, and Dee

### **Board Discussion:**

A discussion regarding the greater utilization of corporate and community volunteers included a suggestion to have an Executive from a corporation, such as Abbott, speak at a Council meeting explaining their employees volunteering in the community, how they see the importance of our service providers, and the need for other sources of funding for these programs. Ways to seek financial support from our business community, especially Alameda's larger corporations, should be explored.

Suggestions were made to encourage the Council to explore other funding sources to help meet the increased need and replace the shrinking CDBG funds, and other traditional funding sources. A request was made to have CDBG staff make a presentation regarding ways that safety net services might benefit from CDBG funding beyond the 15% Public Services dollars. The Board should have a working group meeting to discuss options.

The CDBG funding process should allow us to see how many people are being served by a Grant (\$10,000 for example), so we can make a direct correlation to numbers served per dollars spent. We can then say, "If another \$XXX is given to this program, XXX more people can be served.

We must encourage more service providers to attend the City Council Community Needs meeting and also bring their clients / residents / students. Hearing the presentations of the AIA youth is an example of how compelling that can be.

It was decided that, while the four priority needs categories should stay the same, our letter should demonstrate a heightened urgency, as agencies are approaching a critical breaking point of needing to consider eliminating programs because they can no longer simply be cut back. The Council needs to hear that agencies “just can’t get by” anymore, and that more funds must be identified.

Youth was added to item three as an additional target population and “such as” was deleted from item #2. The letter should also be updated chronologically. Finally, the letter should state that the Board will present additional information at the February 21<sup>st</sup> Council meeting, after analyzing the 2012 Community Needs Assessment Survey data.

Motion to amend the 2011 Needs Statement to include changes named above, with president Wasko working with staff to finalize the letter. President Wasko will present the letter and 2012 Survey findings at the February 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. (Speakers were encouraged to come to the meeting with their constituencies)

M/S Nielsen/Dailey Unanimous

**3-A. Cont’ FY 2011-12 REPROGRAMMING OF PROGRAM INCOME FUNDS FOR PUBLIC SERVICES** (Chart showing Reprogramming formula **Below**)

**Claudia Young** then presented the staff recommendation for reprogramming funds, explaining that this formula would restore the grants for these three agencies to approximately their 2010 levels.

These three agencies also received significant (30%) cuts in their 2011 FEMA Emergency Food and shelter Grant funding. Ms. Young explained that FVLC had submitted a \$20,000 technical assistance grants which was not funded, and stated that staff was asking the Board to consider convening a meeting of DV services stakeholders for the purpose of bringing back the DV Taskforce.

**Speaker:** Shannon Ellis, ED -- Family Violence Law Center, explained that if the \$20,000 request would have come out of Public services dollars, FVLC would not have made the request. She also stated that the purpose of the request was to do a comprehensive study as to the DV needs and services available in Alameda.

Member Biggs stated that, if more funds had been available, he would have recommended additional funding also be given to the Boys and Girls Club, based on their increased numbers served, After a brief discussion there was a motion to support the amendment to the FY11-12 Action Plan re-programming \$11,816 in program income for the Alameda Food Bank, Building Futures Midway Shelter and the Family Violence Law Center, and send a letter to the City Council stating so.

M/S Dailey / James

Organization	Activity	2010 CDBG Funded Amount	2011 CDBG Initial Funded Amount	CDBG Increase	FINAL CDBG Allocation after reduction
Alameda Food Bank	Alameda Food Bank operating costs	\$ 33,000	\$ 29,339	\$ 3,899	\$ 33,238
Building Futures With Women and Children	Midway Shelter	\$ 50,000	\$ 44,452	\$ 5,908	\$ 50,360
Family Violence Law Center (FVLC)	Family Violence Prevention Services	\$ 17,300	\$ 15,382	\$ 2,009	\$ 17,391
Total				\$ 11,816	\$ 83,598

### 3-B. **WORKGROUP PROGRESS REPORTS**

Assessment and Awareness Workgroup – Nielsen  
Member Nielsen announced that the survey would be launched in a few days, and also acknowledged Ms. Young's request for the board to convene a DV Taskforce meeting, stating she saw this being relevant to both ATAH and the A&AWG.

Alamedans Together Against Hate Workgroup - Villareal

Member Holder said that ATAH and the AMCCC are working together to present three NIOT screenings, and, with other partners, produce a 2012 Harvey Milk day event.

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

Member James let us know this was his last meeting on the Board, and expressed his appreciation for being able to work with us over the past four years.

All members and staff acknowledged Member James' value and unique contributions to the board. We wish him well and he will be missed.

### 6. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn M/S James / Dailey Unanimous  
Meeting adjourned at 9:50  
Respectfully Submitted: Jim Franz - Secretary