

SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

M I N U T E S

May 22, 2025 Regular Meeting

The regular meeting of the Human Services Commission was held on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 9:30am in person in the Born auditorium at 170 Otis Street, San Francisco and remotely via Webex and telephone for disability accommodations.

MEMBERS PRESENT     DR. JAMES MCCRAY, JR., Vice President  
IN PERSON             SALLY COGHLAN MCDONALD

MEMBERS PRESENT     DARSHAN SINGH  
REMOTELY VIA  
WEBEX

MEMBERS ABSENT     SCOTT KAHN, President  
(EXCUSED)

OTHERS PRESENT     Trent Rhorer, Executive Director, SFHSA  
IN PERSON             Elizabeth LaBarre, Commission Secretary  
Dan Kaplan, Deputy Director – Finance & Administration  
Anna Pineda, Deputy Director – Economic Support & Self-Sufficiency (ESSS)  
Joan Miller, Deputy Director – Family & Children’s Services (FCS)

CALL MEETING TO     Vice President McCray called the meeting to order at 9:39am, noting that we  
ORDER                   have the privilege, because we work to work for the City and County of San  
Francisco, to come together to create an oasis of hope and do the people’s  
business.

ROLL CALL             Commission Secretary Elizabeth LaBarre took roll and noted the presence of  
Commissioners McCray and Coghlan McDonald in person in the Born  
auditorium. Commissioner Singh was present remotely via Webex from his  
home and his wife, Olivia Singh, was sitting next to him to assist him with  
the Webex features. President Kahn had an excused absence. There was a  
quorum.

AGENDA                Vice President McCray’s call for public comment related to the meeting’s  
agenda yielded no responses.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously  
carried, the Commission adopted the agenda as posted.

EMPLOYEE OF THE     Vice President McCray presented the June 2025 Employee of the Month  
MONTH                   Award to GABRIELLA GUERRERO, Senior Eligibility Worker, SFBN, naming  
her the Oasis of Hope winner of the day, which she accepted with thanks to  
all in attendance. She feels blessed to work for an agency where she can  
help others and do meaningful work.

APRIL 24, 2025        Vice President McCray’s call for public comment related to the meeting  
REGULAR MEETING     minutes yielded no responses.  
MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the adoption of the April 24, 2025 Regular Meeting minutes.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Rhorer provided updates on Human Services Agency ("SFHSA" or the "Agency") programs and federal, state and local policy and activities as they relate to the Agency.

### FEDERAL

The reconciliation bill passed this morning in the House after an all-night session. It now heads to the Senate where there will likely be changes. The bill includes \$700 billion in cuts to Medicaid (Medi-Cal) over the next 10 years and cuts to SNAP (CalFresh in California). The cuts to Medicaid include adding a work requirement for the first time ever, reducing Medicaid expansion reimbursement by 10% to the few states who provide benefits to their undocumented residents using state dollars (Executive Director Rhorer repeated the point that these states, comprising just a few and of which California is one, use their own money, in other words no federal dollars, to cover this population, and yet the federal government sees it fit to penalize them), and increasing the frequency of annual recertifications to every six months which the House believes will reduce caseload and thus bring about savings. The changes to SNAP include adding a state contribution for the first time ever, eliminating the tolerance level for errors, increasing state admin cost contributions 25% (from 50% to 75%), imposing a cost neutrality provision, expanding the definition of Able-bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs), and eliminating eligibility for refugees and asylees.

### STATE

None of what is pending at the federal level is reflected in the governor's May Revise budget since it was released May 14. California has a revenue short fall of \$12 billion due to tariff impacts on the economy and Medi-Cal cost growth. The May Revise includes proposing freezing enrollment for undocumented adults, requiring a \$100 monthly premium for anyone with an "unsatisfactory immigration status," and Medi-Cal asset tests (returning to the \$2000 maximum), all effective January 1, 2026. These proposals received a negative response from the Democrats in the Legislature.

### LOCAL

It is budget season. No more changes can be made to department budgets until June 1 when the Board of Supervisors budget process begins (budget hearings are in the second and third weeks of June). Leading up to this point, it has been a very iterative process with the Mayor's Office, a lot of back and forth with our budget team until the last minute before the submission deadline. Executive Director Rhorer will expound on the Agency's budget during the next commission meeting, though he did note that there will be no layoffs and minimal cuts to services. The Board of Supervisors has a big job ahead of them. They are receiving a budget with \$800 million in cuts. Meanwhile, the budget chair, Supervisor Chan, has made it clear that she is concerned about making cuts that might affect the City's most vulnerable residents.

Executive Director Rhorer then provided an update on the latest collaboration between the Agency and the City's Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) who are co-leading a workgroup on public benefits, housing, and services for immigrants. The workgroup provides a space for City agencies to share about any eligibility and service availability issues impacting immigrants. This collaboration supports situational awareness and coordinated response when necessary to ensure that San Franciscans retain access to the benefits for which they are eligible. Other City departments are members of the workgroup including HSH, DPH, MOHCD, SFUSD, DEC, DCYF, CAT, and City Clerk.

The Agency continues to closely monitor immigrant participation in our services, such as declining application rates or withdrawals from benefits, and has not yet seen signs of chilling or reduced participation. This is markedly different from 8 years ago, during Trump's first administration, when folks did withdraw from benefits. Executive Director Rhorer credited the work of the employee of the month and others who are effectively getting the word out to the community to not withdraw from benefits at this time.

#### AGENCY

On behalf of the HR team, Executive Director Rhorer relayed that Mayor Lurie's request for City staff to return to the office four days per week has been postponed to the end of SFUSD summer, August 18, as a result of conversations and agreements with several labor unions. The current three days in the office, two days work from home telecommute agreements will remain in place until further notice.

On behalf of the Facilities team, Executive Director Rhorer was pleased to report that the lease for 1455 Market St. was approved and signed by Mayor Lurie on May 2. This means that staff are officially leaving 170 Otis St. (owned by HSA) and 1235 Mission St. (owned by SFUSD) in phases beginning Spring 2026.

#### ESSS

##### SFBN

In CalFresh, new EBT chip/tap cards have been mailed to all households. Reminder texts and emails will advise households to use and activate the new cards. The old stripe-only cards will automatically go dormant in October. The new EBT cards have improved security and aim to reduce fraud due to skims. California is the first state to convert its EBT cards. The effort has already lead to tens of millions of dollars in savings to the state.

In Medi-Cal, as of June 1, the requirement for Unconditionally Available Income will be eliminated. The policy update will streamline the Medi-Cal application and enrollment process for applicants and will help members retain their Medi-Cal coverage. As of May 5, the eligibility period for the Refugee Medi-Cal Assistance program (RMA) has been reduced to 4 months. Applications submitted before May 5, 2025 will continue to receive 12 months of RMA. Current RMA beneficiaries will remain eligible for RMA for 12

months, despite any income changes that would disqualify them from Medi-Cal.

#### CAAP

On May 1, CAAP implemented a number of reforms. For unhoused CAAP recipients, the cash grant ceiling changed from \$109 to \$72 reflect the true value of in-kind values like shelter. CAAP no longer accepts CBO letters for homeless residency verification. Instead, program staff rely on systems checks like EBT usage, shelter usage, and appointments to determine residency. Clients who are rated for Workfare or Light Duty Workfare are now required to do 24 hours of service a month instead of 12 hours a month. Clients applying for CAAP need to do an in-person employability screening before being approved for aid. Lastly, clients who are discontinued for non-compliance reasons for the 2nd time within 12 months are served a 90-day sanction. Program will be tracking how these changes impact caseload and if there is a ripple effect (e.g., treatment program).

#### PROGRAM SUPPORT OPERATIONS (PSO)

The kiosks at 1235 Mission St. now offer client self-service options. This will be implemented at 1440 Harrison this week. Since its implementation on April 22, a little over half of the client tickets at 1235 Mission have been issued via the kiosks. The kiosks offer a virtual queue option as opposed to physically lining up at a counter to get a ticket. This new system lightens the load for service center staff, decreases congestion in the service center, and clients no longer spend time in lines.

#### FCS

3rd Street is now hosting and co-facilitating the monthly parent advisory council and parent support group. The Family Services Unit (FSU) within FCS has started a parent advisory board, referred to as the Parent Advisory Council (PAC). The PAC is a board of parents who have been part of the child welfare system, or those who have been involved in providing a service within the child welfare system, such as participants of the Resource Family Approval (RFA) program. In 2024, FCS increased its collaborations with the Black, Indian, People of Color (BIPOC) community, including a symposium with San Francisco communities of color to discuss needed changes for the child welfare system. One recommendation from the group was for FCS to partner more closely with parents with direct experiences with the child welfare system. This impetus led to the formation of the PAC. PAC's primary purpose is to provide FSU management community feedback on San Francisco's child welfare system and gain diverse perspectives and valuable insights to better shape programs to fit the needs of the communities we serve. Monthly meetings will be held to discuss the impact of child welfare on SF communities, provide solutions to perceived challenges, give suggestions to improve engagement, and lend a parent's perspective to system improvements.

#### CONSENT CALENDAR

Vice President McCray's call for public comment related to the consent calendar yielded no responses.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the consent calendar, comprising actions taken by the Executive Director since the April 24, 2025 Regular Meeting in accordance with Commission authorization of May 22, 2025:

1. Submission of request to encumber funds in the total amount of \$287,690 for purchase of services or supplies and contingency amounts.
2. Submission of 1 temporary position for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 4/18/25 to 5/19/25.
3. Submission of 3 temporary appointments for possible use in order to fill positions on a temporary basis made during the period 4/18/25 to 5/19/25.

#### *COMMISSION BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS*

URBAN ALCHEMY      Vladimir Rudakov, Director of Program Integrity, presented the request to modify the existing grant agreement with URBAN ALCHEMY.

Executive Director Rhorer noted that this grant with Urban Alchemy was one of several interventions taken by agency leadership to address the safety concerns and street conditions in the area around the 1235 Mission St. location that staff spoke about during public comment at a past commission meeting. In large part thanks to Urban Alchemy’s engagement (as a result of this grant), the conditions have improved. Vice President McCray asked a clarifying question about the budget and Commissioner Coghlan McDonald asked about services at the new agency location (1455 Market).

Vice President McCray’s call for public comment yielded no responses.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request modify the existing grant agreement with URBAN ALCHEMY for the provision of Street Safety Monitors; for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027; in the additional amount of \$4,928,180 plus a 10% contingency for a revised total grant amount not to exceed \$9,626,340.

ALTERNATIVE      Brian Baggaley, Program Manager, presented the request to enter into a new  
FAMILY SERVICES      contract agreement with ALTERNATIVE FAMILY SERVICES.

Mr. Baggaley introduced Tamara Reyes, San Francisco Program Director at Alternative Family Services (“AFS”) to the Commissioners. She noted that she has been involved since the beginning (2019). Executive Director Rhorer expanded on Brian’s explanation of the history of emergency placement for foster youth in San Francisco, noting that the Emergency Placement program used to be called the Child Protection Center which was ostensibly a shelter where youth would be brought when initially removed from their parent(s) and was run out of the basement of SF General Hospital. The program was then transitioned to Edgewood, a congregate care facility. As a result of statewide child welfare reform and the closing of congregate

settings for emergency placements, AFS took a risk with SFHSA in 2019 to provide immediate, temporary homes to youth with specially trained resource parents while FCS staff identify relatives or a longer-term foster home for the youth. AFS has done amazing work in the last six years – it's a testament to the effectiveness of AFS that youth are always and immediately placed in a home. He thanked Director Reyes for her partnership.

Vice President McCray asked how the system works exactly, how does it ramp up or down the range of 10 to 28 short-term placements, to which Brian replied that AFS has many licensed sites with many beds at each location. The number of placements varies but they can always accommodate the maximum (28 youth). Director Reyes added that they try to keep siblings together, whether it is 2 siblings or 9, in the same home. Vice President McCray then inquired about supports for the parents whose children have been removed, to which Brian explained that there are many available. Parents are connected with social workers who are trained to stabilize the home. They assess the home, what is working, what needs work, and they partner with the parents to make improvements with the goal of returning the youth to their parent(s) as soon as possible. Sometimes the removal is for a few days. The average emergency placement stay is 16 days. Vice President noted that the federal government matches 30% of the costs to which Executive Rhorer responded that those funds are not, at this time, being cut.

Vice President McCray's call for public comment yielded no responses.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new contract agreement with ALTERNATIVE FAMILY SERVICES for the provision of FCS Emergency Placement for Foster Youth Services; for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028; in the amount of \$6,565,839 plus a 10% contingency for a total amount not to exceed \$7,222,423.

#### ABODE SERVICES

Vlada Gulchin, Program Support Analyst with Family and Children's Services, presented the request to enter into a new contract agreement with ABODE SERVICES.

Vlada introduced Omar Reed, Director of Housing & Services at Abode San Francisco to the Commissioners.

Vice President McCray asked if the number of non-minor dependents is stabilizing or growing because it is his understanding that there is an extension needed, those who are aging out are still in need of the service. Vlada replied that youth who are transitioning out of foster care homes or STRTPs receive care after their 21<sup>st</sup> birthday. This contract helps them to avoid homelessness and offers case management up to age 25 or for 36 months. Through this program, the transitional-age youth do not receive cash. They do receive federal housing vouchers that have a time limit. They do receive case management such as assistance with eliminating a debt,

paying an overdue electric bill, increasing their credit score to help them with their futures and set them up for success, etc.  
they need support beyond a certain age to which Vlada replied that services are provided up to the age of 25 such as counseling. Then Vice President McCray asked if \_\_\_ to which Vlada responded not through this program.

Vice President McCray's call for public comment yielded no responses.

On motion of Commissioner Coghlan McDonald, seconded and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the request to enter into a new contract agreement with ABODE SERVICES for the provision of Housing Navigation, Case Management, and Housing Stabilization Services for Transitional Aged Youth; for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029; in the amount of \$6,000,000 plus a 10% contingency for a total contract amount not to exceed \$6,600,000.

GENERAL PUBLIC  
COMMENT

Vice President McCray's call for general public comment yielded no responses.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice President McCray adjourned the meeting at 10:38am.



Elizabeth LaBarre  
Commission Secretary  
Human Services Commission

Posted: 6/5/25