



County of Santa Barbara
105 E. ANAPAMU, SANTA BARBARA
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING - ACTION SUMMARY

Date: Thursday, October 1, 2015

Time: 10:00 AM to Noon

Place: Parlor, St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 2901 Nojoqui Ave., Los Olivos, CA

Call to Order: Commission Chair Solomon called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

Roll Call **Members Present:** Chair Solomon, Commissioners Keator, Mickiewicz, Sepulveda, Tade, Fairfield, Lindner, Jensen

Absent: Commissioners Cawthon, Allen, Siegel, Ramirez

Staff Present: Susan Foley

Public Comment Period: There was no public comment.

- I. **Minutes to September 10, 2015 HSC meeting:** Commissioner Keator made a motion to accept the minutes with a revision to add "unanimous" (per Commissioner Allen's comments) to the Action Items. This was seconded by Commissioner Jensen and passed.

- II. Commission Chair Solomon moved the Community Relations discussion of HSC process and Board of Supervisors budget hearing process to the forefront. She began by reading the list of bullet points that might be helpful to share with Supervisors in the individual briefings. In summary the concern is that Human Services agencies are being funded directly by the Board without going through the Commissions long-standing, comprehensive, fair and transparent application process. The Commission wasn't asked to play a role in the review of these agencies funding requests. Some were also funded by the Commission's \$1.2 million dollar general fund and some were not funded for a reason. There could be an issue for the Supervisors and the Commission if all or most agencies learn there is an easier process for obtaining a Human Services grants and circumvent the well thought out process put in place by the Commission after they were appointed by the Board to manage Human Services grants back in 1977. Commissioners agreed to set up meetings with their Supervisors to obtain feedback about their process and to discuss the two grant processes.

- III. Commissioners debriefed their September 10, 2015 retreat. Commissioners were very pleased to have the detailed presentations on federal grants. Commissioner Keator was a bit disappointed in the Food Bank presentation since the interactive asset map can be accessed by Commissioners on the Food Bank website on their own time. Ms. Foley stated that she had not been aware of the asset map and thought it was impressive enough to have the Food Bank staff do hands on presentation of it. The Commissioners were all very pleased with the presentation about the development of a Food Action Plan that is expected to be completed by the end of the year. Some Commissioners noted that the Brown Act presentation is laborious since they've been through it many times. Ms. Foley offered to

- have it first next time for new Commissioners and other Commissioners could arrive afterwards. Everyone enjoyed the Marriott Hotel space.
- IV.** Liaison Discussion: Commissioners had a lengthy discussion about whether or not the liaison positions were bringing enough value to the Commission. It was decided that while there is some benefit, there is not enough to continue formal liaisons knowing that we can keep in touch with the organizations without the liaison positions. It was agreed that Commissioners would reach out to those they have been in liaison with and let them know that while they would no longer be formal liaisons they would be interested in being made aware of any major activities if at all possible. Chair Solomon recommended that Commissioner Keator prepare a sample letter to the agencies to inform them. This was seconded by Commissioner Aceves and approved unanimously.
- V.** Site visits: Ms. Foley wanted to offer Commissioners a chance to share their summer site visits since there wasn't time at the September retreat. Commissioner Aceves stated that she was disappointed in the Boys and Girls Clubs quality of food. She supports that the need is high and that improvements are being made with the new director. Commissioner Keator went to PATH, St. Vincent's and Independent Living and CALM. She emphasized the importance and the value in seeing the service delivery first hand and in meeting the staff at their place of work. Ms. Foley noted that she also attended the VTC site visit in Santa Maria and was extremely impressed with the work they are doing there with the recycling program.
- VI.** 2016-17 NOFA: Ms. Foley shared the draft November 1, 2015 Notice of Availability of Funding (NOFA). She said that the General Fund NOFA is the same timeline as the Housing and Community Development's Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Services Grant NOFA so as not to confuse applicants. The general fund Mini Grant will be via email vs. Zoom Grants to save costs. It was decided that individual interviews would not be necessary for the Mini Grant applicants. Ms. Foley agreed to organize additional Allocations Committee meetings to discuss the process for both federal and general funds. Applications will be due January 8, 2016 with deliberations scheduled for February 4, 2015 for both the federal and general fund grants. The Allocations Committee will know once applications are in, if the one day will be enough time to interview (federal) and deliberate (federal & general fund grants).
- VII.** Mileage: Ms. Foley reminded Commissioners to get their mileage in quarterly, (October 31, January 30, April 30 and July 31st). She said that she increased the FY 2016-17 mileage budget to accommodate Commissioners.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.