



County of Santa Barbara
105 E. ANAPAMU, SANTA BARBARA

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING - ACTION SUMMARY

Date: Thursday, March 3, 2016

Time: 10:00 AM to Noon

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

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING:

Call to Order: Commission Chair Solomon called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

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

Absent: Commissioner Siegel

Staff Present: Susan Foley, Housing and Community Development Staff Deputy Director Dinah Lockhart, A.J. Quinoveva, Akila Shenoy and Laurie Baker

Public in attendance: Justin Wilkins (People Helping People and Adra McCue (People's Self Help Housing))

Public Comment Period: There was no public comment.

- I. **Minutes to January 7, 2015 HSC Commission meeting and February 4-5 Allocations Committee meeting:** Commissioner Keator made a motion to accept the Regular Commission meeting notes. This was seconded by Commissioner Fairfield, abstained by Commissioner Aceves and passed. Commissioner Fairfield made a motion to accept the February 4-5th meeting notes. This was seconded by Commissioner Jensen and passed by the Allocations Committee members.

- II. **Chair Report** – Chair Solomon and Allocations Chair Mickiewicz led the briefing about the February 4-5th Allocations Committee meetings related to the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) programs and general fund mini grants. They asked staff; Laurie Baker and A.J. Quinoveva to go over the HUD allocations for FY 2016-17 which came in after the February meeting. The final CDBG award equals \$147,793 rather than the \$163,375 estimated. The ESG award went up from the estimated \$126,795 to \$142,614. Staff presented options for their consideration. The full Allocations committee was in attendance and approved the attached final awards.

Mini Grant recommendations from the Allocations Committee are also attached. The general fund recommendations are required to be approved by the full Commission (unlike federal awards). Commissioner Cawthon made a motion to approve the recommended allocation. This was seconded by Commissioner Allen and passed by the full Commission.

III. Committee Updates

Ad Hoc Committee: Chair Solomon led the discussion about the ad hoc committee that was set up to work with the CEO's office on options for outside agency funding requests that come in during budget hearings per the Board's request. She noted that the initial outcome from the meetings was a recommendation from the CEO's office of a \$300,000 increase to the human services budget to accommodate the outside human services related requests. She noted that the Commission had not seen the board letter being prepared by the CEO's office but that there were some possible concerns with additional options being presented. Ms. Foley stated that there are three options being developed in response to the board's directive of November 3, 2015. 1) Continue the current process with the board hearing outside agency requests directly, during budget hearings; 2) Have the Human Services Commission (HSC) offer input on applications received during budget hearings or ; 3) increase the HSC budget by some amount and have all human services related outside agency requests come through the HSC's regular process. The Commission's preference is option number 3 to ensure a fair process for all, to align the surplus funding to the board's 1977 directive, and to catch up to the current cost of living index. The least desired option is to continue as is with requests coming in outside the Commission's process and going directly to the board without being vetted. Ms. Foley stated that in the draft board letter there was a clause related to not permitting outside funding requests to occur at all going forward but that she wasn't certain that was going to stay in the board letter.

After a great deal of discussion, it was agreed that Ms. Foley would provide a draft of the board letter to the Commissioners to provide input before it's finalized if possible. The Commission agreed that Chair Solomon would then prepare a position statement in response to the CEO's recommended options and relay any concerns or preferences to the CEO's office. A major point of discussion is that separate from the issue with outside agency requests, is the fact that the Commission's budget has been static for decades and the \$300,000 increase would bring it current with the cost of living index. Commissioner agreed that this should be the goal, to bring the budget up to current demand.

Communications Committee: Commissioner Tade shared her recommended Communications Strategy with the Commission. The feedback was very positive. It calls for implementing a few key items the first year and taking on bigger tasks next year. The priority this year is to re-vamp the Commission website. Commissioner Tade obtained a few estimates for website maintenance and to produce an annual report. Ms. Foley stated that she was setting up a meeting between Chair Solomon and Commissioner Tade and the County IT and Website managers to discuss suggestions for change and responsibilities. The priority work estimates from LoACOM for two options include: 1) option 1 \$5,750 to re-design the site (including training) and secure its own URL (i.e., www.humanservicesb.org). This could accommodate 4-6 pages; 2) option 2 is to work under the current County SB website for \$1,750. The team would work with County website staff to redesign the current site with 3-5 pages under the current platform.

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- IV. Staff Items:**
- a. All ethics certificates are now current
 - b. The board hearing for the federal CDBG/ESG and general fund mini grant recommendations is scheduled for **April 19, 2016**. It is recommended that the Chair and Committee Chair attend and any others who are able to. The meeting is likely in Santa Maria unless there is a schedule change of the Board meeting.
- V. What's Happening in the Community:** Commissioner Jensen announced that March 15, 2016 is National Agricultural Day. Commissioner Sepulveda announced that there is controversy surrounding a planned medical marijuana dispensary to be located on Milpas Street. Chair Solomon announced that Phoenix House is to be re-branded as Crescend Health and there will be a public event March 10, 2016 at 3:30 p.m. to celebrate the change.
- VI. Next Meetings:** April 7, 2016 Regular Commission meeting; April 19th Board hearing on FY2016-17 recommendations
- VII. Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned