



County of Santa Barbara
105 E. ANAPAMU, SANTA BARBARA

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING - ACTION SUMMARY

Date: Thursday, May 5, 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 Vice Chair Mickiewicz called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. as Chair Solomon was running late

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

Absent: Commissioner Ramirez and Commissioner Jensen

Staff Present: Susan Foley

Public Comment Period: There was no public comment.

Vice Chair Mickiewicz started the meeting with Committee updates and held off on Chairs report for the Chair to arrive. Commissioner Allen announced that as her term expires in June she will step down from the Human Services Commission. Commissioners in attendance thanked her for her incredible contribution over the past three years.

Commissioner Fairfield made a motion to accept the March 3, 2016 meeting notes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Keator and passed with the caveat that staff fix a couple of errors as part of the motion, including adding Commissioner Allen to the attendee list.

The Community Relations Committee Chair Jessica Tade shared that the committee met with County IT staff over options for improving the Commissions website. The IT staff expressed a willingness to work with the committee to revamp the website. She shared her draft website drawing and outline of categories with the full Commission. Ms. Foley agreed to type up the outline and scan it with the drawing and email it to all Commissioners. She went over the key concepts that would make the website more appealing and user-friendly including Commissioner and client photos, human interest stories and better designs along with a stand-alone URL. Each Commissioner was asked to schedule a time when they can come in to meet with the County photographer over the summer, to get the individual photos up on the website along with bios. Chair Tade also offered to prepare a Press Release announcing the FY 2016-17 awards (general fund and federal).

Chair Solomon provided an update when she arrived, about the HSC budget increase request she presented to the Board at their March 15, 2016 hearing. She presented the cost of living figures showing the human services fund would be a million dollars more than it currently is if it kept up with the cost of living. She requested \$330,000.000 increase for FY16-17 (\$30k for admin). Ms. Foley stated that the HSC

funding request is part of a package of requests that will be discussed by the Board the week of June 13th. Commissioner Mickiewicz offered to attend in case there are questions from the Board.

There was discussion of the need to brief new Supervisors when then come on board and to determine appointments for District's 1 and 3 that might mean a change in some Commissioners.

Ms. Foley gave the Commission an update on the County Strategic Plan work that she is doing. She said that they're in the process of collecting demographic and other data on the County population vs. County workforce to see differences. Ms. Foley stated that nearly half of County employees are commuting due to cost of living, housing sales prices and rental prices. Those moving to the area since 2000 have had difficulty finding suitable housing. Businesses are stating this is their biggest deterrent to hiring and retaining employees. Some offer transit support and very few offer housing incentives.

Ms. Foley handed out nomination forms for Commissioners to nominate FY6-17 Commission Chair, Vice Chair and 2nd Vice Chair in June. She also passed around a list of who would be interested in various committees. That will be finalized in June as well.

Ms. Foley stated that as of the end of quarter 3 all current fiscal year grantees have been meeting or have already met their targets. The one exception is Valley Haven. She said they have shared that they expect to be fully compliant by the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Foley said there wasn't a need for a contract compliance committee meeting at this time. There may be a need to pull the committee together during the summer for site visits of the Best Practices grantees.

Terms of office expiring and needing renewals include Commissioner Mickiewicz and Cawthon. Ms. Foley has emailed the district office staff about these appointments. She offered to follow up again.

Commissioner Tade shared that the Santa Barbara Independent has a front-page story about the Santa Barbara Community College's (SBCC) "SBCC Promise" announcement of offering two-year scholarships (tuition and books) to current High School Students in the City of Santa Barbara school district for incoming fall students.

Commissioner Aceves mentioned the Gary Awards to outstanding officers in the County. She said the department is low on officers partly due to some who retire as early as age 50 and take other positions in order to increase income. There are issues with cost of housing and cost of living and commuting long distances that could jeopardize County safety if officers can't get into the area in a crisis.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 2, 2016 Regular Commission meeting

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned