

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, April 27, 2015
12:30 p.m.

Supervisor Nate Miley, Chair
Supervisor Richard Valle

Location: Board of Supervisors' Chambers – Room 512 – 5th Floor
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Public Authority for In Home Support Services IHSS 2014 Report

[Attachment](#)

Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency and Randy Morris, Assistant Agency Director, Adult & Aging and Medi-Cal Services presented introductory comments. Both Ms. Cox and Mr. Morris thanked Charles Calavan, Executive Director, Public Authority for IHSS, for his years of service and announced that this would be his last report to the Committee as he will retire as of June 30, 2015.

Supervisor Nate Miley, Chair, Social Services Committee, read and presented a commendation to Mr. Calavan, signed by all members of the Board of Supervisors.

Charles Calavan presented a PowerPoint presentation which included the accomplishments of the Public Authority over years. Accomplishments include:

- Board of Supervisors increased the IHSS wage by \$1.00 to \$12.50 effective November 1, 2014, which, until February 2015, was the highest IHSS wage in California
- 1999 - An innovative emergency IHSS worker replacement service began in Oakland with grant funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
- 2000 - Alameda Alliance health plan was provided to IHSS workers, and later added dental and vision benefits
- 2002 - PA changed the service model for Rapid Response, reducing the annual cost from over \$200,000 and serving only residents of Oakland, to \$80,000 and serving all of Alameda County.
- In 2002, created and began distributing a consumer video and handbook
- In 2003, urged Adult Services to reduce the 6-month backlog for IHSS applicants
- Since moving to Eastmont, the PA has successfully advocated for accessible doors, improving how payroll paperwork is processed, improving the lay-out of the lobby, making available forms and information in the lobby, serving non-English speaking visitors in their own language, improving the frustrating IHSS phone system

Mr. Calavan thanked the Board of Supervisors and the Social Services Agency for the opportunity to be part of the Public Authority and to serve the 18,000, dedicated IHSS workers and the nearly 20,000 consumers in Alameda County who rely on IHSS to remain independent and contributing members of our community.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

II. Asset Building

Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency, and Sylvia Soublet, Director, Public Affairs, Social Services Agency, presented introductory comments regarding the Agency's Asset Building program, which aims to assist low to moderate income families with better financial outcomes.

Lorena Briseño, Asset Building Coordinator, Social Services Agency, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Agency's Asset Building Program.

The Social Services Agency has created an Asset Building Coordinator's position and launched an Agency-wide, staff driven Asset Building Steering Committee to coordinate efforts across SSA departments and programs. The Committee identified three (3) goals for its asset building efforts:

- Promote and increase savings.
- Offer financial education through credit building and repair.
- Increase use of low-cost financial products/decrease use of high risk predatory instruments.

The Agency has begun implementation of their Asset Building program, with assistance clients with no-cost tax preparation, in which the Agency prepared over 2600 returns and processed over \$4 million in tax refunds.

In addition, the Agency has recently installed surcharge-free ATMs for EBT card users in all SSA Self Sufficiency Centers. The Agency has also received a two-year grant from The San Francisco Foundation (TSFF) to pilot a scalable model to effectively combine asset building with public social services.

The Agency is planning a full scale implementation and integration of asset building concepts and will implement referral partnerships with local community based organizations and coalitions.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

III. Oral report on Localized Disaster Plan for Unincorporated Alameda County Communities

Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency, reported that she was informed that the Social Services Agency was the designated agency to have a plan in place for shelter in a localized disaster for Unincorporated Alameda County.

The Board has approved a contract with Tetra Tech to develop an overall shelter plan for the County, in the event of a large disaster, and the Agency will determine if they can also assist with a plan for smaller localized disasters, in collaboration with other County departments. The Agency will also check with other counties to determine if they have plans that the County can model after.

Sylvia Soublet, Director, Public Affairs and Community Relations, Social Services Agency, stated that it should be a County-wide effort to discuss the localized disaster plan.

Speaker

Olga Crowe, Disaster Program Manager, American Red Cross, stated that there are about 190 volunteers dedicated to disaster response. Since April 2014, the Red Cross has assisted approximately 900 clients and on a weekly average there are approximately two responses. The Red Cross has assisted 73 clients in the unincorporated area over the last year. The Red Cross is the assisting agency in the event of a small disaster.

The Red Cross offers a free training curriculum from 8 to 16 hours for every employee that will be designated as a disaster relief worker.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

Recommendation from the Social Services Committee: The Social Services Agency will report back to the Committee in July 2015 on their progress of developing a Localized Disaster Plan for the unincorporated communities.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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