

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD (SSAB)**

**Held In Person
North Central Live Well Center
5055 Ruffin Road, 2nd Floor Conference Room, San Diego CA 92123
Phone (619) 338-2932 * * Fax (619) 338-2972**

**Public Video Viewing/Comment Option:
<https://zoom.us/j/96563579763>**

**SSAB Meeting Minutes
July 12, 2023**

Members Present

Vino Pajanor
Jan Spencley
Robin Maxson
Daniela Murphy
Phil Thalheimer
Keara O'Laughlin
Buck Martin
Greg Anglea

Members Absent

Carol Lewis
Rachel Morineau

Staff Present

Rick Wanne, Director, Self-Sufficiency Services
Albert Banuelos, HHSA
Assmaa Elayyat, HHSA
Adriana Ramirez, HHSA
Allison Boyer, HHSA
Jeannie Hufford, HHSA
Eric Rubio, HHSA
Albert Garcia, HHSA
Yenissa Salgado, HHSA
Brenda Vargas-Ramirez, HHSA
David Hopkins, HHSA
Karina Gallardo, HHSA
Patty Baker, HHSA
Ismael Lopez, HHSA
Christopher Kaeg, HHSA
Lucero Chavez-Basilio, HHSA

Guests

Stephanie Phann, HASDIC
Karla Samoyoa, 211 San Diego
Jack Dailey, Legal Aid Society of San Diego
Daniel Benson, Legal Aid Society of San Diego
Mauricio Medina, San Diego Hunger Coalition
Shelly Dieu, San Diego Hunger Coalition
Amanda Mascia, San Diego Hunger Coalition
Cierra Gant, SEIU
Alexondria Harris, HHSA Staff
Gerrell Howard, HHSA Staff
Iris Trammel, HHSA Staff
Carlyn Obringer, Blue Shield of California
Stephanie Gioia-Beckman, Rady's Children
Samantha Brown
Mark London
Deanna Troncoso

1. Meeting called to order at 9:32 by Chair, Vino Pajanor.
2. The June 14, 2023 Meeting Minutes were approved, with 7 Board Members present voting yes, and 1 member abstaining.
3. Public Comments:
 - No public comment

4. **Information Item:** Departmental Overview of Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs: Lucero Chavez Basilio, Director, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, Department of Homeless Solutions & Equitable Communities, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). Ms. Lucero provided an overview of the HSEC-OIRA department and their role in providing State-funded refugee support services and welcome centers, Public Charge concerns and resources, and their support for asylum seekers.
5. **Information Item:** Update on the HHS Outreach Activities, Public Charge Resources, Call Center Wait Time for Language Line, and BenefitsCal Follow Up: Dr. Alberto Banuelos, Assistant Director, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). Dr. Banuelos provided an update on the HHS Outreach Activities and Self-Sufficiency Services' presence during the summer months, as well as encouraged referrals from the SSAB and community members for any future events. He also shared that we cannot share the metrics at this time regarding the wait times for the language line at our call center but mentioned that we will work on getting this data to share. Dr. Banuelos also shared an update on the successful transition into the CalSAWS system alongside the BenefitsCal portal, in which staff are actively assisting customers as well as CBOs with navigating the new platform.

A public comment was made by Shelly Dieu, CalFresh Program Manager of San Diego Hunger Coalition, regarding the HHS CalFresh Program Guide 63-113: Authorized Representatives, requesting the adoption of additional language from California Department of Social Services into the existing Program Guide to reduce administrative burden and assist clients better.

6. **Information Item:** Review Legislative Advocacy Bills that Support SSAB Strategic Priorities: Assmaa Elayyat, Deputy Director, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). Ms. Elayyat shared the signed advocacy letter in support of Assembly Bill (AB) 843, submitted to Chairwoman Nora Vargas by the SSAB and an advocacy letter sent from the County's legislative office to our federal lobbyists, in support of House of Representatives Bills 3183, 3474 and 205. She also mentioned that as the State legislative cycle is coming to an end, the focus in September/October will be on monitoring and tracking along with updates and advocacy will resume in December/January.

A public comment was made by Mauricio Medina, Public Affairs Manager of San Diego Hunger Coalition, requesting for AB 712 CalFresh: hot and prepared foods to be placed in the support column and offered an alternative take to advocacy on the tail end of the State legislative cycle, stating that there is more work to be done.

7. **Information Item:** Update on PHE Lift for Public Assistance Programs, Waivers, Enrollment, Service Delivery, Data: Assmaa Elayyat, Deputy Director, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). Ms. Elayyat shared updates on program flexibilities and PHE unwinding waivers for CalFresh, Medi-Cal and CalWORKs programs. She also shared that the Monthly Medi-Cal Renewal Report's metrics will be an ongoing process, every month for the next 12 months, until July 2024.

ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 a.m. Next regular meeting will be held on August 9, 2023.