

**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://sdcounty-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/83305025075>

**SSAB Meeting Minutes  
July 10, 2024**

**Members Present**

Vino Pajanor  
Robin Maxson  
Andrea Gonzalez  
Phil Thalheimer  
Rachel Morineau  
Carol Lewis  
Daniela Murphy

**Members Absent**

Jan Spencley  
Greg Anglea

**Staff Present**

Rick Wanne, Director, Self-Sufficiency Services  
Alberto Banuelos, HHSA  
Assmaa Elayyat, HHSA  
Allison Boyer, HHSA  
Jeannie Hufford, HHSA  
Albert Garcia, HHSA  
Yenissa Salgado, HHSA  
Janelle Jones-Phillips, HHSA  
Eric Rubio, HHSA  
Claudia Gurrola, HHSA  
Michael Schmidt, HHSA  
Ismael Lopez, HHSA  
Bianca Sosa-Graciano, HHSA  
Marcus Giffin, HHSA  
David Sagaz, HHSA  
Patty Baker, HHSA  
Ricardo Hernandez, HHSA  
Nina Olivas, HHSA

**Guests**

Daniel Benson, Legal Aid Society of San Diego  
Adrian Carstens, 2-1-1 San Diego  
Jessica Peter, 2-1-1 San Diego  
Anae Evangelista, San Diego Hunger Coalition  
Mauricio Medina, San Diego Hunger Coalition  
Amelia Broadnax, GLM House  
Dawn Schultheis-Musselman, HHSA Staff  
Alexondria Harris, HHSA Staff  
Samantha Brown, HHSA Staff  
Kim Smith, HHSA Staff

1. Meeting called to order at 9:30 by Chair, Vino Pajanor.
2. The June 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes were approved, with all Board Members present voting yes.
3. Public Comments:
  - No public comment

4. **Presentation Item:** State Budgets Impact Update: Jeannie Hufford, Deputy Director, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Ms. Hufford provided an update of the State Budget following the May Revise, at the amount of \$297.9B, including solutions to address the budget shortfall with the use of reserves, program reductions and new revenues. From the May Revise, Medi-Cal and CalFresh program had no changes, and CalWORKS programs were either restored at reduced amount, redistribution of statewide unspent funding or restored from FY 23/24 amount.

A public comment was made by Mauricio Medina from the San Diego Hunger Coalition, expressing that the San Diego Hunger Coalition is viewing the most recent State Budget as kind of a victory with some bitter news added in, with seeing good things such as fully funding school meals, fully funding the administration of summer EBT, staving off devastating cuts to the CalFresh fruit and vegetables pilot program, which he encourages the Board to request to get a presentation on. He also had a question for staff regarding the CalFresh administration's \$5.1M estimated reduction.

5. **Presentation Item:** Access Call Center Update: Yenissa Salgado, Chief, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Ms. Salgado provided an update on the status of BenefitsCal features that the Access Call Center is assisting with, including Callback SMS, BenefitsCal Live Chat, and BenefitsCal Call Me. She also provided monthly stats for each, as well as FY 2023-2024 stats for the customer service line, Community Based Organization (CBO) line and total e-mails received.
6. **Information Item:** Review Legislative Advocacy Bills that Support SSAB Strategic Priorities: Assmaa Elayyat, Deputy Director, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Ms. Elayyat shared an updated draft letter of support to the Board of Supervisor regarding SB 2241, which the Members present at the previous meeting voted yes to move forward with advocating, following edits.
7. **Information Item:** Update on Medi-Cal Renewals, PHE Lift for Public Assistance Programs, Waivers, Enrollment, Service Delivery, Data: Assmaa Elayyat, Deputy Director, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Ms. Elayyat provided an update on CalFresh program flexibilities and waivers granted by the Food and Nutrition Services (GNC) and provided updates on the new self-service EBT phone application, ebtEDGE, as well as Self-Sufficiency's awareness efforts for EBT skimming and scamming. She also provided updates on the Medi-Cal PHE unwinding waivers and BenefitsCal features.

**ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:19 a.m. Next regular meeting will be held on September 11, 2024.