

**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
June 14, 2023**

Members Present

Vino Pajanor
Jan Spencley
Robin Maxson
Daniela Murphy
Carol Lewis
Phil Thalheimer
Keara O'Laughlin

Members Absent

Buck Martin
Greg Anglea
Rachel Morineau

Staff Present

Rick Wanne, Director, Self-Sufficiency Services
Albert Banuelos, 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
Ismael Lopez, HHSA
Christopher Kaeg, HHSA
Amy Klock, HHSA
Emmanuel Molina, HHSA

Guests

Lindsey Wade, HASDIC
Karla Samoyoa, 211 San Diego
Daniel Benson, Legal Aid Society of San Diego
Mauricio Medina, San Diego Hunger Coalition
Shelly Dieu, San Diego Hunger Coalition
Cierra Gant, SEIU
Alexondria Harris, HHSA Staff
Kimberly Smith, HHSA Staff
Raul Soriano, HHSA Staff
Juan Molina, HHSA Staff
Mike Kveen, HHSA Staff
Marco Rivera-Coudurier, HHSA Staff
Carlyn Obringer, Blue Shield of California
Cesar Peraza, Towards Max Indep/VELA
Samantha Brown

1. Meeting called to order at 9:32 by Chair, Vino Pajanor.
2. The May 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes were approved, with 6 Board Members present voting yes, and 1 member abstaining.
3. Public Comments:
 - No public comment
4. **Presentation Item:** BenefitsCal Demonstration: Amy Klock, Human Services Program Manager,

CalSAWS Implementation Support, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Ms. Klock and Mr. Emmanuel Molina presented an overview and demo of the new BenefitsCal website and how the Community Based Organizations (CBOs) can utilize it to submit applications, upload documents, check application statuses, view reports of activities, as well as create referral campaigns and staff accounts.

5. **Presentation Item:** Update on the Eligibility Task Force (ETF) Recommendations Implementation: Dr. Alberto Banuelos, Assistant Director, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Mr. Banuelos provided an update on recommendation #4, including improvements in the Human Services Specialist hiring process/onboarding and additional staff positions added for FY 23/24. He also included updates on #10, including Mr. Rick Wanne testifying at Senate Sub 3 hearing on EBT Theft on April 27th 2023, County elected officials sent an EBT theft advocacy to State entities, and SSAB's legislative advocacy letters on 3 active bills for the 2023 session.
6. **Action Item:** Review Legislative Advocacy Bills that Support SSAB Strategic Priorities: Assmaa Elayyat, Deputy Director, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)

Mr. Banuelos provided an overview and discussion on a draft Letter of Legislative Advocacy regarding AB 843.

A public comment was made by Mauricio Medina, Public Affairs Manager of San Diego Hunger Coalition, expressing his gratitude for the County's advocacy work, including AB 843 and AB 311. He requested to bump up AB 712 CalFresh: hot and prepared foods, as a priority. He also asked support from the County to advocate for the State Governor to include SB 600 in his priorities.

A motion to approve the Letter of Legislative Advocacy regarding AB 843 was made by the Vice-Chair Jan Spencley and 2nd by Robin Maxson, with all 7 Board Members present voting yes.

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 (HHSA). Mr. Banuelos shared updates on program flexibilities and waivers CalFresh, Medi-Cal and CalWORKs programs. He also shared the updated Legislative Log, CBO Referral Report and introduced the new Monthly Medi-Cal Renewal Report.

ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m. Next regular meeting will be held on July 12, 2023.