

**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://sdcountry-ca-gov.zoom.us/j/89696196900>

**SSAB Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2025**

Members Present

Vino Pajanor
Jan Spencley
Robin Maxson
Daniela Murphy
Lori Brown
Andrea Gonzalez
Rachel Morineau
Greg Anglea
Phil Thalheimer

Members Absent

Staff Present

Alberto Banuelos, HHSA
Assmaa Elayyat, HHSA
Adriana Ramirez, HHSA
Allison Boyer, HHSA
Jeannie Hufford, HHSA
Janelle Jones-Phillips, HHSA
Yenissa Salgado, HHSA
Alberto Garcia, HHSA
Claudia Gurrola, HHSA
Yessenia Ojeda, HHSA
Ismael Lopez, HHSA
Michael Schmidt, HHSA
Patty Baker, HHSA
Nina Olivas, HHSA

Guests

Lindsey Wade, Hospital Assoc. of SD & Imperial Counties
Stephanie Phann, Hospital Assoc. of SD & Imperial Counties
Jack Dailey, 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
Virginia Casey, San Diego Hunger Coalition
Dan Castillo, SEIU
Kimberly Smith, HHSA Staff

1. Meeting called to order at 9:33 by Chair, Vino Pajanor.
2. The December 11, 2024 Meeting Minutes were approved, with 8 Board Members voting yes and 1 abstention.
3. Public Comments:
 - No public comment
4. **Action Item:** Nomination and Selection of the 2025 SSAB Chair and Vice-Chair. Vino Pajanor was re-elected as 2025 Chair (9 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain). Jan Spencley was re-elected as 2025 Vice Chair (9 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain).

5. **Discussion Item:** SSAB Member Sharing, Comments, and Topics of Interest: All Social Services Advisory Board Members. Vice Chair Jan Spencley suggested discussing the Governor's budget at the next meeting. Robin Maxson raised concerns about new County park parking fees and suggested a pass to encourage healthy activity. Phil Thalheimer and Greg Anglea emphasized promoting healthier eating for CalFresh recipients and exploring best practices for future discussions.
6. **Presentation Item:** Introduction and Updates, Health & Human Services Agency: Dr. Kimberly Giardina, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA). Dr. Giardina shared an introduction on her background as a San Diego native and her 24 years at the County, including her previous position as the Director of the Child and Family Wellbeing department. She shared her main priorities for the Health & Human Services Agency, which includes: a strong focus on equity and inclusion by addressing systemic disparities in child welfare, housing, and health services. Efforts to reduce poverty are underway through guaranteed income programs aimed at supporting at-risk families, with ongoing evaluations to improve their effectiveness. She also shared that mental health remains a priority, with initiatives to support workforce well-being and the promotion of the HOPE framework. In the areas of housing and homelessness, Dr. Giardina mentioned that strategies will be data-driven, emphasizing prevention and expanding affordable housing. Lastly, strengthening emergency preparedness and response efforts is a key focus to enhance crisis coordination and readiness.
7. **Information Item:** Review of Forecast of Federal Legislation and Proposed Rule Changes: Assmaa Elayyat, Deputy Director, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Ms. Elayyat shared that the California State Legislature has begun a new two-year legislative cycle in 2025, with a deadline of February 24 to introduce new bills, and temporary federal appropriations for programs such as SNAP and TANF are in place through March. She shared an update regarding the incoming federal administration, with the potential regulatory changes, executive orders, and the use of legislative tools like the Congressional Review Act may impact existing policies. Ms. Elayyat shared that the potential impacts include reduced humanitarian protections, cuts to SNAP and Medicaid, withheld disaster aid, civil service vacancies, hiring freezes, \$2 trillion in federal spending cuts, as well as a policy eliminating 10 regulations for every new one may also be implemented.
8. **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 shared data from the new monthly Medi-Cal failure-to-provide report: in December, 44% of applications were denied, with 265 due to missing information. For ongoing cases, 18,000 were discontinued (3.4% of total), with 60% for the same reason. She stated that higher volumes were due to open enrollment and Covered California transitions and processing efforts increased to utilize temporary federal waivers, though their future is uncertain.
9. **Action Item:** Proposed Meeting Location for the February 12, 2025 SSAB Meeting: Chula Vista Live Well Center, 690 Oxford Street Chula Vista, CA 91911: All Social Services Advisory Board Members. Mr. Rick Wanne shared with the Members that the Chula Vista Live Well Center, one of the Self-Sufficiency Services' locations, had recently undergone a significant renovation and proposed to host the next meeting there along with a tour of the building. All Board Members present voted yes, to hold the February 12, 2025, SSAB Meeting at Chula Vista Live Well Center.

ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28 a.m. Next regular meeting will be held on February 12, 2025.