

**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/99928808557>**

**SSAB Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2023**

**Members Present**

Jan Spencley  
Robin Maxson  
Daniela Murphy  
Carol Lewis  
Keara O'Laughlin  
Rachel Morineau  
Andrea Gonzalez

**Members Absent**

Vino Pajanor  
Phil Thalheimer  
Greg Anglea

**Staff Present**

Rick Wanne, Director, Self-Sufficiency Services  
Alberto Banuelos, HHSA  
Assmaa Elayyat, HHSA  
Adriana Ramirez, HHSA  
Allison Boyer, HHSA  
Albert Garcia, HHSA  
Yenissa Salgado, HHSA  
Janelle Jones-Phillips, HHSA  
Michael Schmidt, HHSA  
Ismael Lopez, HHSA  
Bianca Sosa-Graciano, HHSA  
David Sagaz, HHSA  
Patty Baker, HHSA

**Guests**

Stephanie Phann, HASDIC  
Jack Dailey, Legal Aid Society of San Diego  
Daniel Benson, Legal Aid Society of San Diego  
Jessica Peter, 2-1-1 San Diego  
Mauricio Medina, San Diego Hunger Coalition  
Alexondria Harris, HHSA Staff  
Kimberly Smith, HHSA Staff  
Anna Silva, HHSA Staff  
Walter Olivas, HHSA Staff  
Dawn Schultheis-Musselman, HHSA Staff  
Samantha Brown

1. Meeting called to order at 9:33 by Vice Chair, Jan Spencley.
2. The January 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes were approved, with all Board Members present voting yes.
3. Public Comments:
  - No public comment

4. **Action Item:** 2023 SSAB Annual Report: Dr. Alberto Banuelos, Assistant Director, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHS). Dr. Banuelos presented a draft of the 2023 SSAB Annual Report for the Board's review and approval. The report contained background of membership as well as focus and oversight. He shared that in 2023, the primary focus areas were the local response to the COVID-19 emergency for all public assistance programs, waivers, service delivery and our efforts in reducing barriers to enrollment as well as transparency and access, resulting from the Enrollment Task Force (ETF) recommendations. Various self-sufficiency topics discussed by the Board in 2023 were also listed in the report. The 2023 SSAB Annual Report was approved, with all Board Members present voting yes.
  
5. **Action Item:** SSAB 2024 Priorities and Strategic Goals: All SSAB Members. Ms. Assmaa Elayyat and Dr. Alberto Banuelos presented the list of suggestions for the 2024 priorities and strategic goals for the Board's feedback and approval. Mr. Banuelos and Ms. Elayyat shared that Self-Sufficiency Services will be supporting the Social Services Advisory Board Members in delivering any message that they would like to communicate to their respected Board Office, in their work with Community Based Organizations and their elected officials, in the same way the Board has supported the department. As the state and County heads toward more dire budget times, Self-Sufficiency Services is hoping to provide advocacy efforts to maintain programs and services in the community. The Board's vice-chair Jan Spencley and Member Keara O'Laughlin suggested to create an overarching goal: "To continuously improve and support Self-Sufficiency Services to increase access for the clients we serve."

**To continuously improve and support Self-Sufficiency Services to increase access for the clients we serve:**

- Continue State and Federal Legislative Advocacy
- State Budget Advocacy
- Continue Community Outreach Efforts
- Promote Increased Use of Technology Automation and Customer Self Service
- Support SSAB Members for Increased Elected Officials and Community Education Regarding Self-Sufficiency Services
- Enrollment Task Force (ETF)

A public comment was made by Mauricio Medina of the San Diego Hunger Coalition, stating that he would like to echo the comments made by SSAB Member Keara, hoping that the SSAB in 2024 continues to delve in and see how it can meet the goals and recommendations outlined in the Enrollment Task Force Ad Hoc Committee and with the recommendations voted and approved unanimously by the Board of Supervisors.

The 2024 priorities and strategic goals listed above are approved, with all Board Members present voting yes.

6. **Presentation Item:** HHSA Response to Historic Floods: Alberto Garcia, Chief, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Mr. Garcia provided an overview of the County of San Diego's and Self-Sufficiency Services teams' efforts in providing numerous services to members of the community as well as providing support to the Local Assistance Centers. These plans resulted from the January 22, 2024 historic floods. The Live Well Mobile Office team provided outreach, as well as resources at two pop-up sites (National City, Jackie Robinson YMCA) and shared best practices with visiting agencies such as CalFire, City of San Diego, City and County of San Francisco's Office of Emergency Management.
  
7. **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 that there are new bills being introduced into the legislature, in which the Self-Sufficiency Services team has been busy reviewing for the SSAB would be interested in reviewing, in relation to priorities and expanding great service, access to benefits and care for our customers. She also shared that the process will be similar to last year, from reviewing bills to creating legislative advocacy letters submitted through our legislative office, to the Board and floating up to Sacramento.

A public comment was made by Mauricio Medina of the San Diego Hunger Coalition, thanking Assmaa and team for putting together the legislative slate for last year and for incorporating their request to advocate for AB 712 for CalFresh. He also expresses that as the County, the SSAB Members puts together their priorities for this year's State legislative cycle, he recommends for all to consider bills that increase the CalFresh benefit, improve access for college students with low income, cut red tape and remove barriers of access to government administered food assistance programs, eliminate harmful policies that disproportionately harm people of color, strengthen access and delivery of school meals and support for our food banks. He would also make a request to hear more of the County's budget advocacy.

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 provided quick updates for CalFresh and CalWORKs programs, focusing mainly on Medi-Cal Renewal updates and reports.

**ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m. Next regular meeting will be held on March 13, 2024.