

**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/88360814295>

**SSAB Meeting Minutes  
March 12, 2025**

**Members Present**

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

**Members Absent**

Dana Toppel  
Daniela Murphy

**Staff Present**

Alberto Banuelos, HHSA  
Assmaa Elayyat, HHSA  
Adriana Ramirez, HHSA  
Jeannie Hufford, HHSA  
Janelle Jones-Phillips, HHSA  
Yenissa Salgado, HHSA  
Alberto Garcia, HHSA  
Claudia Gurrola, HHSA  
Eric Rubio, HHSA  
Bianca Graciano, HHSA  
Ismael Lopez, HHSA  
Patty Baker, HHSA  
Nina Olivas, HHSA  
Allysa Geluz, HHSA

**Guests**

Lindsey Wade, Hospital Assoc. of SD & Imperial Counties  
Jack Dailey, Legal Aid Society of San Diego  
Daniel Benson, Legal Aid Society of San Diego  
Tina Bae, Legal Aid Society of San Diego  
Christopher Khabbaz, Legal Aid Society of San Diego  
Adrian Carstens, 2-1-1 San Diego  
Jessica Peter, 2-1-1 San Diego  
Dawn Schultheis-Musselman, HHSA Staff  
Jenny Doig

1. Meeting called to order at 9:35 by Chair, Vino Pajanor.
2. The January 8, 2025 meeting minutes were approved and there was acknowledgement of no meeting minutes available for the February 12, 2025 meeting, due to the lack of quorum, with all Members present voting yes.
3. Public Comments:
  - No public comment
4. **Discussion Item:** SSAB Member Sharing, Comments, and Topics of Interest: All Social Services Advisory Board Members. The Members did not have any comments or discussion at this time.

5. **Presentation Item:** Departmental Overview, Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs (OIRA): Justine Kozo and Ghina Perez-Hall, Chiefs, Self-Sufficiency Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Ms. Perez-Hall shared that California had over 10 million immigrants in 2022, and over 5,000 refugees were resettled in San Diego during FY 2023–2024. She provided background on the Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, highlighting its mission to connect immigrants and refugees to resources, benefits and services to support individuals and families. She also discussed the Refugee Support Services (RSS) Programs and the Immigrant and Refugee Welcome Centers in National City and Escondido. Ms. Kozo shared updates on migrant support funding and outlined collaboration efforts at the local, state, and federal levels.
6. **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 data on the number of California residents utilize the State programs such as: Medi-Cal, CalWORKs, SSI, cash assistance, etc. She shared that one-third of the County's population utilize the programs and can be affected by the anticipated federal cuts. Ms. Elayyat stated that currently, over 400,000 individuals are enrolled in CalFresh, with over 550,000 assisted in the past year. Additionally, the CalWORKs program has about 3,000 active participants, but nearly 74,000 were assisted over the past 12 months. Medi-Cal serves almost 900,000 people currently, with a total caseload of 1.3 million in the past year. She also shared a Federal Update letter provided by the California Welfare Directors Association (CWDA), and explained that on March 14, 2025, Congress will face a deadline to pass a budget to prevent a government shutdown, with discussions that will include extending funding, but outcomes remain uncertain.
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 the new EBT chip-tap card, rolled out by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) along with California's EBT vendor Fidelity Information Services (FIS). She confirmed that all counties have received the new printers and cards. Ms. Elayyat shared that San Diego County successfully tested the machines, and there were no operational impacts despite a defective printer from the State and a statewide technical issue with printing and pinning, both of which have been resolved.

**ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. Next regular meeting will be held on April 9, 2025 at 5055 Ruffin Road, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, San Diego, CA 92123.