

**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/81131077849>

**SSAB Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2025**

Members Present

Vino Pajanor
Jan Spencley
Robin Maxson
Lori Brown
Rachel Morineau
Andrea Gonzalez
Daniela Murphy

Members Absent

Phil Thalheimer
Greg Anglea
Dana Toppel

Staff Present

Alberto Banuelos, HHSA
Assmaa Elayyat, HHSA
Adriana Ramirez, HHSA
Jeannie Hufford, HHSA
Brenda Vargas-Ramirez
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
David Sagaz, HHSA
Ricardo Hernandez, HHSA

Guests

Lindsey Wade, Hospital Assoc. of SD & Imperial Counties
Jack Dailey, Legal Aid Society of San Diego
Tina Bae, 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
Richard Rushton, Vista Hill
Lucas Robinson, SD Union Tribune
Kimberly Smith, HHSA Staff
Hassan Abdirahman, Somali Family Service
Smith Sirisakorn, United Domestic Workers of America
Jenny Doig

1. Meeting called to order at 9:33 by Chair, Vino Pajanor
2. The March 12, 2025 meeting minutes were approved, with 5 Members present voting yes and 1 abstention.
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:** 25/26 Proposed Operational Plan Budget Presentation: Maryneesa Moraleja, Assistant Group Finance Director, Financial & Support Services Division, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Ms. Moraleja provided economic updates on the unemployment rate, inflation, and statewide sales tax. She also discussed the State and Federal budgets, noting that the proposed HHSA budget includes over \$1 billion in federal revenue. Ms. Moraleja reported that the County Budget Outlook for FY 2025–2027 will prioritize core services and programs while addressing regional needs amid ongoing uncertainty. She stated that the FY 2025–2026 CAO Recommended Budget will total \$3.5 billion, with a net reduction of 168 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions. Additionally, she shared information on upcoming County budget events.
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 several signed advocacy letters from Matthew Parr, Director of the Office of Economic Development and Government Affairs; Rick Wanne, Director of Self-Sufficiency Services; and Vito Pajanor, Chair of the Social Services Advisory Board. She also presented a memo outlining key federal actions on Health and Human Services, Immigration, and Housing that impact counties, in connection with a letter Mr. Parr sent to Representative Juan Vargas. The Members voted unanimously to form an Ad Hoc group—comprising Robin Maxson, Jan Spencley, and Rachel Morineau—with County staff assistance, to draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors prior to the June 9th Budget Hearing.

There was a public comment by Smith Sirisakorn, Political Coordinator for the United Domestic Workers of America (UDW). Mr. Sirisakorn expressed that he opposes proposed work requirements and cuts to Self-Sufficiency Services, citing the strain on IHSS providers and recipients. He shared a personal caregiving experience, noted ongoing provider shortages, and emphasized coalition efforts to protect Medicaid. He also expressed the urge for the Board to consider the broader economic impacts and maintain service accessibility.

7. **Information Item:** Update on Medi-Cal Renewals, PHE Lift for Public Assistance Programs, Waivers, Enrollment, Service Delivery, Data: Claudia Gurrola, Chief, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). The scheduled presentation was postponed due to time constraints. However, Ms. Gurrola highlighted that May is CalFresh Awareness Month, during which the County and its community partners host various events offering in-person assistance to customers.

ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m. Next regular meeting will be held on June 11, 2025 at 5055 Ruffin Road, 2nd Floor Conference Room, San Diego, CA 92123.