

**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/88082348153>

**SSAB Meeting Minutes
May 13, 2026**

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Phil Thalheimer
Greg Angela
Robin Maxson

Staff Present

Adriana Ramirez, HHSA
Jeannie Jones, HHSA
Brenda Vargas-Ramirez
Alberto Garcia, HHSA
Eric Rubio, HHSA
Michelle McGeary, HHSA
Bianca Graciano, HHSA
Ismael Lopez, HHSA
Ricardo Hernandez, HHSA
David Sagaz, HHSA
Gabriela Damian, HHSA
Nina Olivas, HHSA
Justine Kozo, HHSA
Karina Flores, HHSA

Guests

Adrian Carstens, 2-1-1 San Diego
Raychel Sager, 2-1-1 San Diego
Jack Dailey, LASSD/ HCA
Virginia Casey, HHSA Staff
Lindsey Wade, Hospital Assoc. of SD & Imperial Counties
Tina Bae, LASSD/ HCA
Rebecca Jauregui-Vargas, HHSA Staff
Kimberly Smith, HHSA Staff
Heather Summers, HHSA Staff

1. Meeting called to order at 9:34 by Chair, Vino Pajanor
2. The April 08,2026 meeting minutes were approved, with all Members present voting yes.
3. **Public Comments:** Susanne Boston made a public comment regarding FRC customer service, expressing concerns about her interactions with FRC staff. She requested the County review customer feedback & identify opportunities to improve customer service.
4. **Discussion Item:** SSAB Member Sharing, Comments, and Topics of Interest: All Social Services Advisory Board Members. Rachel Morineau highlighted The Million Meals Event, noting its role in bringing community members together to provide meals and support to individuals and families in the community.

5. **Presentation Item:** CalFresh Awareness Month: Ricardo Hernández and Ismael Lopez, Human Services Program Managers, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Mr. Lopez provided an overview of CalFresh Awareness Month and the benefits of program enrollment. Reported that the County is promoting awareness through a calendar of more than 65 events, outreach activities, Live Well Mobile Office visits, and targeted outreach materials. Mr. Hernández noted that a CalFresh Awareness Month memo was distributed to eligibility staff to communicate countywide efforts aimed at increasing awareness and supporting enrollment. An overview was provided on a partnership with college campuses to support student success through dedicated on-campus staff who assist with enrollment, program navigation, and connections to Self-Sufficiency Services (SSS) that has assisted in increasing enrollment.
6. **Presentation Item:** New Changes for CalFresh College Students: Ricardo Hernández and Ismael Lopez, Human Services Program Managers, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Mr. Hernández reviewed the CalFresh student eligibility policy and exemption requirements. Effective June 1, 2026, all associate and bachelor's degree programs offered through California Community Colleges, California State University, and University of California campuses are automatically recognized as LPIE programs, streamlining the CalFresh approval process and increasing student access to benefits. Student liaisons help support referrals, raise awareness of available programs and serve as a point of contact, provide information and services offered by SSS.
7. **Information Item:** County Legislative Advocacy Efforts: David Sagaz and Ricardo Hernandez, Human Services Program Managers and Brenda Vargas-Ramirez, Deputy Director, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Mr. Sagaz provided a recap of letter of support presented by Edga Team that supports assembly bills to implement federally required modifications to Medi-Cal eligibility and reduce loss of coverage. Ms. Vargas-Ramirez shared Lemon Grove facility is moving to a new facility, opening on Monday, 05/18. Access sent out a message to the community, flyers were handed out, school districts were notified. The Family Resource Center will be the only one at the new location offering the same programs. Mr. Hernández reviewed some Self-Sufficiency report numbers sharing that eligibility in all programs is down. The changes with H.R. 1 have had an impact leading to the decrease. Self-Sufficiency Services is addressing this through proactive communication and outreach efforts.

ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m. Next regular meeting will be held on June 10, 2026 at 5055 Ruffin Road, 2nd Floor Conference Room, San Diego, CA 92123.