

**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, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room, San Diego CA 92123  
Phone (619) 338-2932 \* \* Fax (619) 338-2972**

**Public Video Viewing/Comment Option:  
<https://zoom.us/j/93327025309>**

**SSAB Meeting Minutes  
November 8, 2023**

**Members Present**

Vino Pajanor  
Jan Spencley  
Robin Maxson  
Daniela Murphy  
Buck Martin  
Greg Anglea

**Members Absent**

Rachel Morineau  
Keara O'Laughlin  
Phil Thalheimer

**Staff Present**

Rick Wanne, Director, Self-Sufficiency Services  
Alberto Banuelos, HHSA  
Assmaa Elayyat, HHSA  
Allison Boyer, HHSA  
Jeannie Hufford, HHSA  
Albert Garcia, HHSA  
Yenissa Salgado, HHSA  
Janelle Jones-Phillips, HHSA  
Karina Gallardo, HHSA  
Patty Baker, HHSA  
Gloria Garcia, HHSA  
Ismael Lopez, HHSA  
Gabriela Damian, HHSA  
Christopher Kaeg, HHSA  
Mathew Brown, HHSA

**Guests**

Stephanie Phann, HASDIC  
Jessica Peter, 2-1-1 San Diego  
Jack Dailey, Legal Aid Society of San Diego  
Alexondria Harris, HHSA Staff  
Iris Trammel, HHSA Staff  
Gerrell Howard, HHSA Staff  
Eduardo Gaeta, HHSA Staff  
Kimberly Smith, HHSA Staff  
Angel Wright, HHSA Staff  
Walter Olivas, HHSA Staff  
Yesenia Hidalgo  
Carlyn Obringer  
Mia Hall  
Bob Stonebrook

1. Meeting called to order at 9:36 by Chair, Vino Pajanor.
2. Buck Martin received a Recognition of Service award from Self-Sufficiency Services and the Social Services Advisory Board (SSAB).
3. The September 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes were approved, with all Board Members present voting yes.
4. Public Comments:

- No public comment

5. **Information Item:** Information Item: 2023 HHSA Sunset Review - General Relief Admin Code XV-C: Rick Wanne, Director, Self-Sufficiency Services, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Mr Wanne shared a two Board of Supervisor meeting change, to remove and replace the word “Alien” from the Administrative Code for the General Relief program in accordance with the Welfare Institution Code, previously in sections 264 and 265. This was the only update during the 2023 Sunset Review, no updates to the program’s eligibility, enrollment or participation were made.
6. **Presentation Item:** Leave No Veterans Homeless Initiative: Mathew Brown, Chief, Agency Operations; Homeless Solutions and Equitable Communities, Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA). Mr. Brown provided the SSAB with an overview of the status of Veterans' Homelessness and their goal to achieve Functional Zero, the nationwide concept that homelessness will be rare, brief, and non-recurring.
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 an update on the bills that the SSAB sent Advocacy Letters for, including the codified AB 843 on EBT skimming and scamming, along with an update of FNS’ recent approval of California’s plan for benefit replacement. She also shared the status of AB 274, SB 600 and AB 991, which are currently being held.

A public comment was made by Mauricio Medina, Public Affairs Manager of San Diego Hunger Coalition stated that AB 843 according to his notes was vetoed by the governor, however a lot of meat and substance of the bill were included in this year’s budget, \$76.5M for technology and EBT card upgrades and the reimbursement for skimmed cards was \$42M. He is also looking forward to hearing the County’s advocacy plans around the continued resolution, appropriation bills coming forward and the Farm Bill, such as weighing in on WIC and strengthening the Farm Bill through marker bills.

8. **Information Item:** Update on 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 updates on program flexibilities and PHE unwinding waivers for CalFresh along with a heavier focus on Medi-Cal updates, and no changes on the CalWORKs program. She shared the various features of a brand new EBT phone application, which will help facilitate self-service for customers as well as provide greater security against skimming and scamming.

A public comment was made by Jack Dailey, Director of Policy and Training of the Consumer Center for Health Education and Advocacy at Legal Aid Society of San Diego. He expressed credit to Assmaa for the concise and comprehensive overview of a myriad of changes happening in the Medi-Cal program. In relation to a prior question on what people can do to if they experience a disruption of care, including their rights to file complaints and grievances with their Managed Care Plans and ability to facilitate the managed health care help center, he stated that Legal Aid Society provides a free consumer advocacy service to help and represent people navigate these procedures to ensure that people don’t experience disruption to care. They are also advising all San Diegans about these transitions and educating them about their rights in

the process. Mr. Dailey also expressed his gratitude for the relationship that Legal Aid Society has with the County and the Human Service Specialists who are continually referring customers to them, to provide additional clarification and information on the changes in the Medi-Cal eligibility rules.

***ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:***

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m. Next regular meeting will be held on December 13, 2023.