

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
SOCIAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD**

1700 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101-2417

Phone (619) 685-2265

Fax (619) 685-2298

SSAB Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2011

Members Present

Bob Brandenburg
Philip Thalheimer
Donald Stump
John Hughes
Linda Blair Forth
Sandy Pugliese

Staff Present

Kim Forrester, SPOSD, HHSA
Patricia Lopez, HHSA
Maria Sanders, HHSA
Angelina Young, HHSA

Members Absent

none

Guests

Maria Aceves, Joni Halpern,
Jennifer Tracy, Don Davis

1. Chair Phil Thalheimer called the meeting to order at 9:37a.m.
2. Ms. Linda Blair-Forth made a motion to approve the January 13, 2010 minutes. Ms. Sandy Pugliese seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.
3. Public Comments on Items on the Agenda:
 1. Joni Halpern began by reiterating the need for clarification of the process for pending cases. She raised the question of how many cases were pending over thirty (30) days and conveyed to the Board ongoing concerns about issues regarding VAWA. Ms. Halpern cited a case involving a client who is present to speak today where her case was closed three (3) separate times with the most recent including a Notice of Action (NOA) which she received today.
 2. Client 1 addressed the Board in Spanish and was assisted with translation. Ms. Cruz described her experience as brutal. She was trying to start a new life and had no means of acquiring food. She was asking for help with food and is fearful because she doesn't have anything for her daughter. She doesn't know what to do.
 3. Maria Aceves relayed the story of an individual who applied as disabled, had no transportation. An incorrect address caused her to miss her renewal and the case close. She reapplied on 1-12-11 with a 3-hour wait and her oldest daughter had to do finger-imaging again even though it had been done with the earlier application.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

4. **Discussion Item:** CalFresh (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program -SNAP) Work Group Update: Kim Forrester, Assistant Deputy Director, Strategic Planning & Operational Support, Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA): Ms. Forrester provided a handout titled "Timely Disposition" to explain the State's methodology for determining timely disposition of CalFresh applications. The County follows the State's methodology for determining timely processing and does track the number of cases that are pending and those that are pending over 30 days. Also provided was a copy of the DFA 296 and Instructions.
Ms. Forrester indicated that as of January 31, 2011 the number of CalFresh participants has increased to 216,743 and that timely processing had increased to 93%. SSAB requested a follow up summary on the case situations that have been brought forward to SSAB. They also requested that the Agency provide the total number of cases pending and those pending over 30 days.

5. **Action Item:** Recommendations for Improving the CalFresh Program (formerly-SNAP): Maria Sanders, Planning and Project Manager, Strategic Planning & Operational Support, HHSA. Ms. Sanders reported that in response to the Board of Supervisors receipt of the SSAB SNAP Work Group recommendations on December 7, 2010, a group was formed to complete the analysis. She introduced Dale Fleming, Director, Strategic Planning & Operational Support, who provided an overview of the report and analysis that the Agency will return to the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2011.
- The report includes an analysis of the feasibility, timeline for implementation and associated resources/costs. In summary, 55 of the 69 recommendations were feasible in whole or in part, some require additional study, and for one an alternative path is proposed.
 - Additionally, the report responds to the Board's January 11, 2011 request for a similar feasibility analysis of the Restaurant Meals Program that would allow seniors, disabled and homeless populations to use their CalFresh benefits at qualified restaurants while ensuring availability of low-cost, healthy options.

Ms. Sandy Pugliese made a motion to approve the proposed Board Letter. Ms. Linda Blair-Forth seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

6. **Information Item:** Agency Updates: Kim Forrester, Assistant Deputy Director, Strategic Planning & Operational Support, Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA): Ms. Forrester provided updates on the following:
- **Live Well, San Diego! Fostering Safe Communities:** Ms. Fleming recapped the HHSA's *Live Well, San Diego!* that includes three prongs: 1. Building Better Health which has previously been shared with SSAB, 2. Fostering Safe Communities, and 3. Self-Sufficiency-Thriving. The Fostering Safe Communities initiative is underway where "safety" refers to fostering communities where all individuals and families are connected, secure and protected. Some examples of how HHSA supports safety include; protecting children and seniors from abuse and neglect, providing basic needs assistance to families, protecting the community from emerging diseases. Similar to Building Better Health, HHSA is not developing a comprehensive plan for safety to integrate services, optimize resources, and increase collaboration with partners in support of safety.
 - **Staffing updates**
 - Donna Hand, Regional General Manager in North Regions, announced her retirement in May 2011
 - Dann Crawford, Assistant Deputy Director in North Regions, will retire in February 2011

7. **Information Item:** Fraud and Integrity Update: Kim Forrester, Assistant Deputy Director, Strategic Planning & Operational Support, Health & Human Services Agency (HHSA): No update.

8. **Information Item:** Post CalWORKs Services Discussion: None

ADJOURNMENT/SET NEXT MEETING:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

The next regular meeting will be held on **April 14, 2011, Tower 7, CAC Building, 7th Floor 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

The SSAB Minutes were written and submitted by David Brown.