

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, October 27, 2014

12:30 p.m.

Supervisor Nate Miley, Chair
Supervisor Richard Valle

Location: Board of Supervisors' Chambers – Room 512 – 5th Floor
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Update on General Assistance

Lori Cox, Director, and Andrea Ford, Assistant Agency Director, Workforce and Benefits Administration, Social Services Agency presented a PowerPoint presentation to update the Committee on the General Assistance Program.

The Social Services Agency engaged Roots Community Health Clinic to conduct an independent, comprehensive evaluation of the General Assistance Program in 2013.

The Agency has adopted Results Based Accountability (RBA) which is a new way of thinking about the Agency's programs. RBA is simple and creates a common language so that everyone can contribute.

The Agency has created a Vision statement and a set of Values; Selected and prioritized Goals and Performance Measures; Identified an Action Plan with key strategies and implementation tasks; Created an accountability and Monitoring Structure; Clarified data gathering requirements and outlined a Data Development Agenda

General Assistance Goals:

- 1) Clients are connected to safety net programs and comprehensive services that meet basic needs and promote well-being.
- 2) Employable clients find employment with livable wages and benefits.
- 3) Eligible candidates moved to Supplemental Security Income (SSI).
- 4) Clients have stable housing.
- 5) Clients receive excellent customer service and feel supported, respected, and empowered.
- 6) Staff members feel supported, confident, and that they are making a difference.
- 7) General Assistance program maintains adequate and stable funding.

Next Steps

The Social Services Agency plans to hire a project manager and develop a work plan. Leverage and improve upon existing efforts, contracts and operations. Identify funding resources needed for implementation. Review and implement strategies.

Purpose:

- Report progress
 Advocacy or Education

- Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
 Other:

Recommendation from the Social Services Committee: This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

II. Update on CALWORKS

Teri Donnelly, Division Director, Workforce and Benefits Administration, presented PowerPoint presentation on the CALWORKS update.

- a. Inner City Advisors Pilot - Martha Hernandez, Managing Director, Inner City Advisors
Simone Harvey, Talent Acquisition Manager, Inner City Advisors
- b. Roots Emancipation Initiative Pilot – Dr. Noha Aboelata, Executive Director, Roots

Dr. Noha Aboelata, Chief Executive Officer and Aquil Naji, Program Director of ROOTS Community Health Center, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the ROOTS Emancipator Initiative.

The Emancipators Initiative was broadly conceived and a concept paper developed in 2008, with the inception of Roots Clinic. Problems were identified, such as: 1) lack of basic skills to gain employment 2) Criminal records decrease chances of employment; 3) Cost of doing business – employers prefer not to take risks with “difficult to employ”; 4) Most employment and or reentry program do not have a sustainability model built into them.

Solutions were identified:

- Instilling basic skills and provide on-the-job training
- Remove as many barriers to long-term stabilization as possible
- Forming relationships with outside employers willing to hire job-ready candidates despite criminal record history
- Create a social enterprise: as sustainable mechanism for creating employment opportunities

The Emancipation Initiative began with eight (8) participants who received basic skills training and were assisted in having barriers removed.

Participants in the program after barriers removed, the results are as follows:

- Total = 6 participants (2 released)
- 0% on General Assistance
- No parole or probation violations
- One (of six) with active child support order (current) – all others resolved
- One (of six) with current DMV hold
- One (of six) working on resolving County Collection Order – all others resolved
- All three with restitution orders have satisfied these orders

There are currently sixty-five people on the waiting list to join the Emancipation Initiative due to the success of the program.

Purpose:

- Report progress
 Advocacy or Education
 Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
 Other

Recommendation from the Social Services Committee: This item was informational only as it was already approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Purpose:

- Report progress
- Advocacy or Education
- Request Social Services Committee Recommendation or Position
- Other:

Recommendation from the Social Services Committee: Approve, unless there are objections by the Information Technology Department. Move to the full Board of Supervisors.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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