

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, March 23, 2015

12:00 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. Waiver Update

Michelle Love, Director, Children & Family Services, Social Services Agency and Stacey Wooten, Acting Deputy Chief Probation Officer, Juvenile Division presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Title IV E Waiver.

The Title IV-E Waiver began in July 2007, with a five year agreement between the Federal, State, and County governments and captures the Federal/State money that would otherwise be lost to the system due to declining caseloads. The Waiver redirects this money to improve services for:

- Families at risk of entering the child welfare system;
- Children and families in the process of reuniting;
- Reduce the needs to place children in care
- Youth emancipating from the system.
- Initial waiver was continued for two “bridge” years while a new agreement was negotiated with the Federal government.
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An extension of the original waiver began on October 1, 2014 and the California Department of Social Services received approval from the Federal Department of Health & Human Services to extend the Waiver through September 30, 2019. There are nine (9) participating counties: cohort 1: Alameda & Los Angeles cohort 2: Butte, Lake, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara, and Sonoma Counties.

New Waiver Objectives

- Improve the array of services and supports available to children, youth and families involved in the child welfare and juvenile probation systems;
- Engage families through a more individualized casework approach, that emphasizes family involvement;
- Increase child safety without an over-reliance on out-of-home care;
- Improve permanency outcomes and timelines;
- Improve child and family well-being; and
- Decrease recidivism and delinquency for youth on probation.

New Waiver Interventions in the Probation Department

Parenting with Love and Limits – This program combines group family therapy and individual “coaching” sessions for parents with evidence-based programs for thirty (30) re-entry youth.

Collaborative Court – This program emphasizes family engagement with collaborative efforts with Seneca Family of Agencies, Probation, Court Stakeholders, Bay Area Legal Aid, to serve up to 60 youth in a dedicated court docket.

Purpose:

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

Recommendation: The Social Services Agency and the Probation Department will return to the Committee to report on outcomes of the new Title IVE Waiver objectives. .

II. **Medi-Cal Enrollment Update**

[Attachment](#)

Randy Morris, Assistant Agency Director, Alameda County Social Services Agency, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Medi-Cal Enrollment Update.

The key public partners with the Social Services Agency are the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency and Behavioral Health Care Services and monthly meetings are held to discuss issues around enrollment and access to care. In addition, the Social Services Agency attends quarterly meetings regarding policy changes with Board staff, the County Administrator’s Office and the Health Consortium. There are additional meetings held with community groups and legal advocates.

The Social Services Agency has faced technology challenges since the Medi-Cal Enrollment began. In addition, other the Agency continues to work on other challenges, including unanticipated volume of enrollments, hiring delays due to space constraints, and client frustration due to backlog other issues.

Open enrollment has been extended to April 30, 2015, and the agency has collaborated with multiple clinics and schools to outreach to all eligible.

The Agency has had enrollment successes, within an increase in Medi-Cal enrollment since the Affordable Care Act began in January 2014.

Purpose:

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

III. **CalFresh Outreach Update**

[Attachment](#)

Danielle Flewellen, Program Specialist, Alameda County Social Services Agency, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Agency’s outreach efforts to persons eligible for CalFresh benefits.

The Agency has identified approximately 152,000 people potentially eligible for CalFresh, excluding SSI recipients and undocumented noncitizens.

Recently approved legislation has beneficial impacts to CalFresh applicants and recipients, including:

SB 1041 – Work Incentive Nutritional Supplement Program (WINS); provides \$10 monthly cash supplement to certain working households.

SB 855 – Modified Categorical Eligibility (MCE) for households with income below 200% of FPL; waives asset test.

AB 1468 – Drug Felon Ban Repeal; effective April 1, 2015, no person can be denied CalFresh benefits due to a drug felony conviction. Currently impacts 1,100 persons who are excluded from an active CalFresh household.

Other recent achievements include simplified reporting, streamlined application process, and interview requirement waivers.

Outreach Efforts

The Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) Partnership Program contracts with eleven (11) community based organizations to provide CalFresh outreach and application assistance for hard to reach populations.

Other outreach efforts include:

- CalFresh Enrollment Clinics
- CalFresh Super Enrollment Clinics staffed by SSA eligibility workers
- Direct mail campaign
 - 76,115 mailers sent to Medi-Cal households
 - 9, 060 mailers sent to WIC households
- Targeted door hanger campaign to 50,000 Medi-Cal only households
- Trainings for outreach and application assistance providers and partner agencies
- ACCFB submits on average 292 CalFresh applications to SSA per month

The Agency continues to work to address challenges with the CalFresh Program, including timeliness and error rates in addition to negating myths about CalFresh eligibility requirements.

Purpose:

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

IV. General Assistance Update

Lori Cox, Director, Social Services Agency gave an oral presentation on the County’s General Assistance Program.

Highlights the average monthly caseload is 8,755, which is two percent (2%) higher than originally estimated.

Monthly grant increase from \$281 to \$334 due to two (2) policy changes, 1) the elimination of the good cause finding and the elimination of the basic needs grant, which has increased the General Assistance budget by approximately \$6.5 million.

The Social Services Agency will begin working with Intelegy Inc., to assist the Agency in their strategic planning process, as a result of the General Assistance Program Evaluation completed last year.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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