

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, March 24, 2014

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 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. General Assistance Program Update

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

The presentation included programs and services offered such as CalFresh to purchase food, Community Housing and Shelter Services (CHASS) that issues vouchers for housing and shelter and the Job Club, which provides services to those seeking employment. In addition the presentation included General Assistance caseload data and costs and revenues associated with the program.

The Social Services Agency has contracted with the Roots Community Health Innovations to evaluate the Agency's General Assistance Program.

Dr. Noha Aboeleta and Daniel Muhammad presented a PowerPoint presentation on their evaluation of the General Assistance Program.

The presentation included results from a survey that sampled 274 General Assistance clients, either currently receiving or previously (within the last three years) received General Assistance. The survey asked clients about their overall experience, current needs and how a client survives on \$336 per month.

Speakers

Lauryn Levy requested the elimination of the three-month time limit for General Assistance clients.

Brian Geiser, Oakland Tenants Union, supports the elimination of the three-month time limit.

Ed Barnes and Jan Ellen O'Hara requested the elimination of the vendor pay portion of the General Assistance program, where the Agency pays landlords directly.

John Wilson, Alameda County Food Bank, supports the elimination of the three-month time limit for General Assistance and asked that the General Assistance Program support the cost of living.

Ecaterina Burton, Alameda County Food Bank, submitted and read a letter from various non-profit organizations that support elimination of the three-month time limit.

Otis Winters supports the elimination of the three-month time limits for the General Assistance program.

Blythe Raphael, East Bay Refugee Forum, supports the elimination of the three-month time limit for General Assistance and better mental health assessment for refugees.

Steve Weiss, Bay Area Legal Aid, supports the elimination of three-month time limit for General Assistance. Other costs associated with three month time limit, value of investing in better program.

Katie Powell, Homeless Action Center, supports the elimination of the three-month time limit for General Assistance.

Luann Hunyh, East Bay Community Law Center, supports the elimination of the three-month time limit for General Assistance.

Lynette Burris stated that she applied for General Assistance after her unemployment insurance expired and has found barriers to participating in the Job Club.

Purpose:

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

Recommendation from the Social Services Committee: The Social Services Agency will bring back to the Committee in April, funding estimates for General Assistance costs for a one-year time limit. Within six months the Social Services Agency will return to the Committee with additional recommendations to redesign the General Assistance Program.

II. K to College – Basic Material Needs for Homeless and other Low-Income Kids

Benito Delgado-Olson, Executive Director, K to College presented a PowerPoint presentation on the K to College Program.

K to College is a California nonprofit public benefit corporation that provides free resources to homeless and other low-income children and youth. Since 2010 K to College has distributed over \$14,500,000 of school and dental supplies to approximately 230,000 youth.

In the State of California there have been approximately 200 school districts and county offices of education have signed distribution agreements. A Memorandum of Understanding (distribution agreement) has been executed with all Alameda County School Districts to distribute learning kits for each student.

2014-2015 Goals for Alameda County

- 4,000 school supply kits and dental kits to homeless children & youth
- 400 school supply kits and dental kits to children residing in domestic violence shelters
- 600 school supply kits and dental kits to homeless preschool children
- 14,600 school supply kits and dental kits to children & youth in high need school sites/neighborhoods

Purpose:

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

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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