

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, September 28, 2015

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 Fathers Corps and Fatherhood Initiative Activities

[Attachment](#)

Kevin Bremond, Father Corps Administrator, First Five Alameda County and Gary Thompson, Fatherhood Initiative Manager, Public Health Department, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Father Corps and Fatherhood Initiative activities.

The Fathers Corp goals include:

- To increase the number of fathers with knowledge of the healthy development of children from birth to 5 years
- To increase awareness of father specific services
- Support the adoption and implementation of Fathers Corps Father Friendly Principles into family service programs, so that programs/agencies are more father friendly
- Create a trained pool of male Father Engagement Specialists

The Father Corps leadership team was assembled through a collaborative effort between the County Public Health Department, Social Services Agency, Probation Department, Department of Child Support Services, First 5 Alameda County, Through the Looking Glass and UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital of Oakland.

Over the last two years the Fathers Corp program has accomplished the following:

- Acquired 50 male service providers from 25 agencies from across Alameda County
- Trained 37 Father Engagement Specialists and 9 Father Engagement Mentors
- Hired a full-time Fathers Corps Administrator, funded by Social Services and Health Care Services Agencies
- The Board of Supervisors adopted the Father Friendly Principles and Districts 2, 4 and 5 funded Father Engagement focus groups

Upcoming activities of Fathers Corps include two focus groups, one for African American males and the other for Latino males, who did not have father engagement, in order to understand their needs. In addition, Fathers Corp will survey over 100 service providers to determine the needs of providers and the needs of fathers. The Fathers Corps program has an extensive training calendar of various topics for providers.

Purpose:

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

Recommendation from the Social Services Committee: The Social Services Committee will host a screening of the film “Fatherhood 101” for service providers and members of the public interested in Fatherhood Initiatives.

II. CalFresh Update

[Attachment](#)

Andrea Ford, Assistant Agency Director, Workforce and Benefits Administration and Lisa Forti, Policy Director, Social Services Agency, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the CalFresh Program, the State’s food supplement program.

California has ranked 49 out of 50 states in CalFresh enrollment. California has approximately 63% of eligible households in enrolled in CalFresh, compared to 83% nationwide. Some of the barriers to enrollment in the State include misinformation about the program, stigma and misinformation in immigrant communities.

The State has made several policy changes to the CalFresh program in recent years to address the low enrollment. One of the policy changes was the repeal of the felony drug ban, which allows persons with a felony drug conviction to apply for CalFresh benefits. Other policy changes included:

- Online applications
- Elimination of fingerprint and photo requirements
- Implementation of semi-annual reporting
- Simplified recertification forms
- Gross income limit raised to 200% of the federal poverty level

Administrative Challenges

Alameda County’s CalFresh program has a high and growing error rate for processing applications, at eighty-eight (88%) percent, which is the highest in the State. Errors refer to errors made while processing an application. To reduce errors, the Agency has re-trained 400 Eligibility Workers in recertification and renewal processes.

Alameda County has taken steps to reduce churn, which is defined as households which are discontinued and refile new applications within a 90 day period. The Agency now has Eligibility Workers stationed at call centers to intercept calls for clients are already in the system and can submit recertification documents instead of reapplying.

The Medi-Cal expansion has had a significant impact on staff, with record number caseloads and technology challenges. To address the record number of caseloads the Agency upgraded Eligibility Technicians to Eligibility Service Technicians and will retrain them in all agency programs, which will reduce caseloads. In addition the Social Services Agency’s Enterprise Office will become a self-sufficiency center and clients will be able to apply for all programs as opposed to Medi-Cal only.

The Agency has variety of outreach strategies to encourage enrollment in the CalFresh program, including, partnering with the Alameda County Food Bank for a direct mail campaign, enroll clients at CalFresh Super Clinics and contracting with community-based organizations to increase dual enrollment of Medi-Cal and CalFresh.

Purpose:

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

Recommendation from Social Services Committee: The Social Services Agency will provide quarterly update on CalFresh.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.