



## Human Services Commission Minutes

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### Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA March 3, 2021 - 6 p.m.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chairperson Rubino-Brumm.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

#### Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Joe Carlucci, Varsha Clare, Harshkumar Gohil, Susan Hayes, Kelsey Lem, Meera Parikh, Patty Powers, and Chairperson Rubino-Brumm.  
(Michael Sedlak joined the meeting late)

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Jay Ingram, Recreation Manager, Steve Hernandez, Housing Manager, Zack Silva, Recreation Supervisor, and Edith Caponigro, Recording Secretary.

#### **AGENDA AMENDMENTS**

None.

#### **MINUTES**

##### **1. Approve regular meeting minutes of February 3, 2021.**

A motion was made by Commissioner Carlucci, seconded by Commissioner Hayes, to approve the minutes of the February 3, 2021. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

#### **MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

##### **2. Public Comment from the audience regarding items not listed on the agenda.**

None

## **MATTERS FOR THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW/ACTION/INFORMATION**

### **3. Review and Allocate Housing and Human Services Grant Funds for fiscal year 2021/2022 and Recommend City Council Approval**

Chairperson Rubino-Brumm advised that because she is a non-paid Board Member for Sunflower Hill she had checked with the city's legal department to determine that she is allowed to make funding recommendations on all of the agency requests.

Mr. Ingram reviewed with commissioners the process for reviewing and considering the grant applications. He advised that a total of 27 applications had been received, 20 of which to be reviewed and considered by the Human Services Commission and seven to be reviewed and considered by the Housing Commission with a total of \$451,690 in funding being available. Mr. Ingram advised that seven speakers have been scheduled to present to the commission and provide information about their projects and representatives from other agencies are available to answer any questions that members of the commission may have.

Chairperson Rubino-Brumm opened the meeting for agency presentations at 6:16 p.m.

Assistance League of Amador Valley (Assistance League of Amador Valley), Denise Barr and Victoria Gordillo – informed commissioners that the Assistance League of Amador Valley is a chapter of the National Assistance League. Volunteers of the League provide over 6,000 hours of assistance to the over 4,000 residents they serve. She offered details about some of the services they provide which has included providing: 1) over 400 students in need with clothing and school supplies, 2) care to the elderly retired population, 3) a foster kids programs, 4) a food for families program, and 5) working with other organizations.

Commissioner Parikh asked about children identified as 'Title One' students and whether it was only students from Valley View School. She was advised that it was for students from any school identified under Title One and in need of assistance. Commissioner Parikh confirmed that teachers from all schools are aware of the program.

Commissioner Powers had questions about the League purchasing clothes for students from Kohl's and was advised by Ms. Barr that the League receives a 20% discount from the store.

Commissioner Carlucci questioned whether clothes were purchased last year and Ms. Barr informed him that they were not purchased because they were unable to take students into the store because of the pandemic so funds were used to purchase noise-cancelling head-sets for the students as had been requested by the teachers.

CityServe of the Tri-Valley (Homeless Prevention and Family Stabilization Program), Christine-Beitsch – advised that this is not a new program but has been set up differently and is providing case-management. Ms. Beitsch advised that 312 families were admitted into the program in 2020 and CityServe is working with individuals and families to help them set goals. She noted that many of those needing help in Pleasanton are Spanish speaking.

Commissioners were advised by Ms. Beitsch that funds requested would be used to provide a wrap-around program that would allow CityServe to continue to provide services in Pleasanton. She noted that CityServe is working with the three Tri-valley cities to be able to provide the prevention portion of the program.

Goodness Village (Goodness Village Laundry Facility), Karen Abbruscado – provided information about the Goodness Village program of buying tiny homes to provide homeless people with some permanent housing and help to get them fully functioning in a small community. Commissioners were advised that individuals would receive training in gardening and other functions that will enable them to become fully functioning and eventually self-supporting. Staff is working to try and get people in the tiny homes by April.

Commissioners were advised that caseworkers working for Goodness Village would be paid positions.

Commissioner Powers questioned if the village would have a community kitchen for those living in the tiny homes and Ms. Abbruscado advised that there would be a community center for this and work is taking place to put in an outdoor barbeque.

Commissioner Power was provided information about funding that Goodness Village had already received.

Hively (Strengthening Families Through Trauma Informed Care), Kelly O’Lague Dulka – advised that two out of three children in struggling families are experiencing problems and trauma and the statistics are alarming. Ms. Dulka provided information about Hively workshops and stated that it is critical for children to be successful that intervention and strengthening takes place early. Hively staff members have received extensive training and the program has developed to allow them to get to work with families early.

Commissioner Parikh asked about the workshops and whether they were being directed to adults and caregivers or if children were also involved. Ms. Dulka provided information about a Hively parent/child interaction model being used.

Commissioner Hayes questioned how many families were being served and if an increase has been noted within the last couple of years. Ms. Dulka advised that no funding has yet been received for the proposed program but research shows that the work is needed within these working families.

Narika (Self-Empowerment and Economic Development Program for Survivors of Domestic Violence and Pleasanton Residents), Sanjay Singh and Bindu Fernandez – Mr. Singh advised that Narika came to the commission for funding two years ago and did not receive funding, since then research has been conducted on local cases and they are now hoping to establish a relationship with the community.

Ms. Fernandez provided information about the Narika organization and how they have seen a three-fold increase in cases and are hoping to provide services for 50 Pleasanton Asian

community cases along with one-on-one job training. She advised that Narika has provided services to 120 Pleasanton residents over the past two years.

Commissioner Carlucci indicated that when reviewing the Narika application he had questions about intervention services that they had provided. Ms. Fernandez advised that people who contact Narika trust them and the language access is important. She noted that people who contact them are not just job-seeking clients they also have trauma issues. Ms. Fernandez advised that Narika also partners with religious organizations.

Chairperson Rubino-Brumm confirmed with Ms. Fernandez that Narika is based in Fremont and questioned if Pleasanton clients need to travel to them or if they visited with the clients. Ms. Fernandez advised that most services are provided virtually, but in some instances funds are provided for food and transportation. Mr. Singh noted that most cases start with a call and if necessary a place to meet in Pleasanton is determined.

Sunflower Hill (Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch Program), Pamela Zielske – thanked the commission for their past support and advised that funds are being requested for a Residential Programs Manager at the Sunflower Hill Irby Ranch location. Ms. Zielske commented on the importance of providing support to the individuals with disabilities who are learning to live alone, shop, cook, and develop friendships, etc. for the first time.

Tri-City Health Center (East County Street Health Care Outreach – SUD Services), Katherine Haley – advised that Tri-City Health has merged and the new name is Bay Area Community Health Center. Ms. Haley advised that 10% of the funds needed for a Substance Abuse Counselor are being requested from Pleasanton and other funds are being sought from other sources. She advised that drug and alcohol abuse is on the rise and support is needed to provide the health care services to these individuals that they have been providing for a number of years in other areas.

Commissioner Carlucci questioned how follow-up services would be conducted after they had contacted people by going out into the field. Ms. Haley provided details on how they perform these services in other areas and how their staff builds up relationships with the individuals. Commissioner Carlucci asked about medications being provided to the individuals and was advised that one of four people provided services is a Registered Nurse.

Commissioner Parikh asked Ms. Haley who was contacting her agency about homeless people in Pleasanton and was advised that a lot of outreach has come from Abode who has been working on this challenge for a long time. Commissioner Parikh questioned whether a greater need for care has been identified in Pleasanton and was advised that such has been determined by Abode.

**Chairperson Rubino-Brumm closed the meeting for agency presentations at 7:01 p.m.**

Mr. Ingram reviewed with commissioners the CDBG and City General funding amounts available totaling \$435,269 for them to consider when making their funding allocation recommendations.

Commissioners agreed to review all funding requests, consider staff recommendations and adjust/modify as they agree.

Commissioner Carlucci commented on the importance of having agency representatives speak to the commission about the programs for which they are requesting funding. He indicated that after listening to the presentation from Tri-City Health Center he would like to revisit the staff recommendation to see if partial funding could be considered by the commission.

Commissioner Parikh noted she felt that the staff recommendation was based on Tri-City Health providing a program that was duplicative of services being provided by other organizations. Mr. Ingram advised that staff has been working with other groups on how the Tri-City Health program will ramp up in the Tri-Valley. He advised that staff was interested in seeing how the program works out and this was a factor used by them not recommending funding at this time. Commissioner Parikh indicated she understood staff's concern but agreed with Commissioner Carlucci that the commission should revisit staff's funding recommendation for this agency.

Mr. Hernandez commented on CityServe funding request also for a homeless intervention program that will be considered by the Housing Commission.

Commissioner Hayes questioned if the Tri-City program was an extension and consolidation of a program being conducted by Abode. Mr. Ingram advised that Abode's program is different.

Commissioner Sedlak questioned if Abode had asked this for the Tri-City organization to join them as a partner and the possibility of more agencies coming to the city for future funding.

Ms. Haley noted that Abode had contracted with Tri-City. Commissioner Sedlak expressed his concerns about "double-dipping" and felt agencies should present to the commission separately.

Mr. Ingram was informed by Ms. Haley that program services would likely be provided in Pleasanton for 2-days per week and a total of 5-days per week for all three Tri-Valley cities.

Commissioner Carlucci discussed with Mr. Ingram the current program between the Police, CityServe and Abode. Mr. Ingram advised that the program is working well currently.

Commissioner Clare felt the commission should consider making funding recommendations based on amounts that had been recommended the previous year. Mr. Ingram reminded everyone that because of the COVID pandemic agencies had been provided 100% of the funds they had requested.

Commissioner Hayes agreed with Commission Clare but felt consideration should also be given to the number of Pleasanton residents that will be served from an agency program.

Commissioner Carlucci also agreed with Commissioner Clare's suggestion, but felt it would be difficult to look at number of people served because of the differences in the programs.

Chairperson Rubino-Brumm suggesting commissioners consider reducing the Spectrum amount of funding and moving those funds to one of the smaller funded agencies. Commissioner Hayes agreed, and felt the additional CDBG funds could be allocated to some of the smaller agencies and not Open Heart Kitchen.

Commissioners questioned Mr. Johnson from Tri-Valley Haven about the services provided at the Sojourner and Shiloh facilities. He advised that Sojourner is the only shelter in the Tri-Valley area and Commissioner Clare noted that if it were not available local people would be sent to other areas by the county.

Mr. Johnson informed Commissioner Lem that clients are allowed to stay for about 105 days and after this time Tri-Valley Haven assists individuals with looking for other places to transfer.

Commissioner Sedlak had questions on how the funding would be used by Legal Assistance for Seniors and was provided information on how the organization was needing to spend more time with clients providing assistance virtually because of the pandemic. Commissioner Clare felt there would be a big demand for the services this organization provides once the Senior Center opens. Commissioner Parikh had concerns about the services being duplicative of those provided by Hively.

Mr. Ingram noted that commissioners had not given Legal Assistance for Seniors a high ranking when reviewing the application in Zoomgrants.

In reviewing the Chabot-LP projects commissioners were advised by Ms. Holtzclaw that the agency is seeing an influx of people requesting services because there has been an increase in the number of companies hiring. She noted that the grant funds would be targeted for use with people who do not speak English.

Commissioners Powers questioned how the agency was getting clients and Ms. Holtzclaw advised that Chabot-LP is part of the college district and information is available on campus' and also on their website, additionally they are doing a marketing concept with funds received from another source.

Ms. Beitsch-Bahami answered questions about the CityServe Homeless Prevention program advising the program has expanded help people stay in their homes and prevent homelessness.

Chairperson Rubino-Brumm questioned if Hope Hospice people had been able to provide in-home services during the pandemic and was advised about the difficulties experienced because volunteers have not been able to do this has meant additional work for staff.

Commissioner Sedlak questioned Mr. Ingram if the staff funding recommendation for Hope Hospice was based on the recommendations input by commissioners in Zoomgrants.

Commissioner Carlucci was provided additional information about the Hively Strengthening Families Through Trauma Informed Care program. Ms. Dulka advised that services to help with stress, etc. would be provided by interns who will be overseen by clinicians.

In discussing the Narika request Commissioner Clare commented on the changes in demographics within the City of Pleasanton and felt commissioners should consider providing some funding for this program. Commissioner Hayes agreed and Commissioner Power felt the Narika representatives had listened to comments made by commissioners the previous year.

After reviewing and discussing all funding requests commissions came to an agreement on funding allocations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Sedlak, seconded by Commissioner Carlucci, recommending City Council approve the following funding allocations for Human Services Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2021/2022:

\$ 25,211	City of Pleasanton (Section 108 Loan Payment – Axis Health)
\$ 0	Tri-City Health Center (East County Street Health Outreach)
\$ 45,203	Open Heart Kitchen (Pleasanton Senior Meals)
\$ 27,200	Spectrum Community Services (Meals on Wheels more than a meal)
\$ 15,000	Tri-Valley Haven (Food Pantry)
\$ 10,000	Tri-Valley Haven (Shiloh Domestic Violence Shelter and Services)
\$ 11,000	Tri-Valley Haven (Sojourner House Homeless Shelter Program)
\$ 6,000	CALICO Center (Pleasanton Child Abuse Intervention Program)
\$ 6,000	Legal Assistance for Seniors (Legal & Supportive Services for Older Adults)
\$ 15,500	Tri-Valley Haven (Counseling and Legal Services)
\$ 0	Sunflower Hill (Sunflower Hill at Irby Ranch Program Support)
\$ 11,749	Sunflower Hill (Program for Adults with Developmental Disabilities)
\$ 3,000	Assistance League of Amador Valley (Assistance League of Amador Valley)
\$ 5,500	ChabotLP/TV One Stop (Pleasanton Community Job Support)
\$ 4,000	ChabotLP/TV One Stop (Pleasanton EITC Support Program)
\$ 49,000	CityServe of the Tri-Valley (Homeless Prevention and Family Stabilization)
\$ 8,000	Hively (Hively Community Resources)
\$ 12,000	Hively (Strengthening Families Through Trauma Informed Care)
\$ 6,000	Hope Hospice (Grief Support Center and Hope Hospice Volunteer Program)
\$ 6,000	Narika (Self-Empowerment and Economic Development Program)
<u>\$ 72,537</u>	City of Pleasanton (Administration of CDBG/HHSG Program)
<b>\$338,900</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

AYES: Commissioners Carlucci, Clare, Gohil, Hayes, Lem, Parikh, Sedlak, and Chairperson Rubino-Brumm

NOES: None

ASBENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

#### **4. Review and Comment on the Library and Recreation COVID Response Report for July – December 2020**

Mr. Silva reviewed the COVID Response Report for July-December 2020 with commissioners providing information and details about Library Services, virtual and in-person programs and

essential services. He commented on the number of participants for library and aquatic programs, field rental reservations to co-sponsor sports groups, contract classes held, and the number of children who registered for Lil Camp P-Town.

Commissioners were also provided details about Pleasanton Paratransit Services, staff assistance with Meals on Wheels, Senior Meal Curbside Pickup and supporting seniors by conducting friendly calls to seniors. Mr. Silva noted that the Firehouse Arts Center hosted five virtual concerts and the library's weekly Live Virtual Storytimes garnered 8,619 views and the Firehouse LIVE shows drew 7,702 views. A total of 316 people also participated in weekly RADD Friday Zoom sessions.

Chairperson Rubino-Brumm and commissioners thanked staff for all their hard work during the difficulties of COVID.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:29 p.m.