



Human Services Commission Minutes

City Council Chambers, 200 Old Bernal Ave, Pleasanton, CA
September 7, 2022 - 7 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairperson Carlucci.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Mary Jane Bedegi, Melanie Hayes, Susan Hayes, Kirstin Litz, Meera Parikh, Janeen Rubino-Brumm and Chairperson Joe Carlucci

Commissioners Absent: Patty Powers

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 August 3, 2022.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rubino-Brumm, seconded by Commissioner Parikh, to approve the August 3, 2022 minutes. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

2. Introductions/Awards/Recognitions/Presentations

None.

3. Public Comment from the audience

None

MATTERS FOR THE COMMISSION'S REVIEW/ACTION/INFORMATION

- 4. Review the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports (CAPER) for Fiscal Year 2021/22.**

Chairperson Carlucci commented on the Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report process. Mr. Ingram discussed the requirement for reviewing the Community Development Block Grant Performance and Evaluation Reports for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.

Mr. Hernandez provided information about U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD) requirement for the city to provide Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports (CAPER) available for public comment and review. He noted that the CAPER is due by September 28, 2022 and is only for programs that received CDBG funds.

Chairperson Carlucci opened the meeting for agency presentations.

Assistance League of Amador Valley / Operation School Bell – Denise Barr – thanked the commission for the grant and indicated that funds received had been used for Operation School Bell, which is a project that supplies school clothing, supplies, footwear gift cards to students. Over 350 students were helped with 150 of them being Pleasanton students.

A “Books of my Own” program provided many 1st and 2nd grade students with their first books and over 566 books were distributed and a total of 919 children from the Tri-Valley benefitted from the program.

CALICO Center / Pleasanton Child Abuse Intervention – Erin Harper – provided a handout about the services provided. It was noted that of 14 clients served, seven children and seven caregivers, received forensic interviews, family advocacy, and multidisciplinary coordination. One hundred percent of caregivers surveyed stated that CALICO answered all their questions and felt they knew what to expect with situations facing them and their child. A hundred percent of youth survey stated CALICO staff listened to them and cared for them a lot.

Ms. Harper noted that during the year CALICO lost two interviewers but was able to hire one, a greater need for resources was experienced, and abuse reports continued to be impacted by the pandemic. CALICO provided training for law enforcement officers on talking to children and to date over six hundred officers in Alameda County have been trained.

Commissioner Bedegi discussed the reporting rate and tracking with Ms. Harper who commented on the reporting rate for 2–5-year-old and teenagers, noting that lower numbers could be an indication that the teacher/student during COVID has not been available. Chairperson Carlucci also commented on the substantial number of teacher turnovers during this time.

Chabot-Las Positas/TV One Stop / Pleasanton Community Job Support / Pleasanton EITC Support Program – Alcian Lindo – advised that guidance and training was provided for the Job Support project through one-on-one case management, job fairs, etc., for Tri-Valley residents with 258 Pleasanton residents being tracked and served in the new Pleasanton center and over 1,500 clients served online. Ms. Lindo noted that one of the job fairs focused on veterans and an additional program including forklift training.

The EITC Support Program provided free tax services to 419 Tri-Valley residents, 97 of which were from Pleasanton with 49 of them being very low income. Ms. Lindo noted that even with the number of volunteers working this program being much lower Chabot-Las Positas was able to achieve getting over one-half million dollars refunded to Pleasanton residents.

Chairperson Carlucci commented on the 1,500 clients they were able to reach online and what the organizations plans are for the future. Ms. Lindo advised that Chabot-Las Positas will continue to offer services online.

Commissioner Bedegi questioned whether the agency played a role in people learning about tax credits and Ms. Lindo stated they can refer clients to available discount programs and are planning to offer a workshop.

Commissioner Melanie Hayes asked for additional information about the Forklift Training Program and Ms. Lindo advised that over 60 people signed up for the program, but they were only able to take the first nine. She noted that Chabot-Las Positas is now planning to do a certified nurse assistant training program and is hoping to continue providing these types of services.

Commissioner Susan Hayes questioned whether the agency had coordinated with the CARPENTER's group when providing the forklift training. Ms. Lindo advised that the agency is associated with the OSHA Training Center and has a Director of Apprenticeship.

CityServe of the Tri-Valley / Homelessness Prevention and Family Stabilization Program- Margaretann Fortner – thanked the City of Pleasanton for providing funding and noted that the goal for last year was to serve 180 households and 318 households were served with between three and five persons in each household most of which were Spanish speaking, and many were low income.

Commissioner Rubino-Brumm asked about the CityServe merger with Senior Support and the hiring of staff. Christine Beitsch-Bahmani advised that CityServe personnel have met with Senior Support staff, and it is planned for all current programs to continue.

Hively / Community Resources / Strengthening Families Through Trauma Informed Care – Mary Hekl – stated she was grateful for the partnership that Hively has with the City of Pleasanton. Ms. Hekl provided information about the Community Resources Center the agency established in Dublin and the items they supply. She advised that clients were surveyed to determine the best hours of operation to serve them and the types of items that were needed. Individuals and families are now able to select clothing and food that they need, and many diapers are selected.

Ms. Hekl advised that more than 116 Pleasanton residents regularly visit the center most of whom are extremely low or low-income residents.

Through Trauma Informed Care Ms. Hekl informed commissioners that 179 Pleasanton residents were aided and learned skills. Staff partnerships were expanded, and cost savings were realized. A total of \$6,843 was unused from the grant awarded.

Commissioner Rubino-Brumm asked about donations received by Hively for their Community Resources program and Ms. Hekl provided information about partnerships the agency has with many other organizations and companies.

Commissioner Melanie Hayes was informed by Ms. Hekl that representatives from other agencies attend the Trauma Informed Care program and Chairperson Carlucci was advised that the training is an identification piece showing basic techniques.

Hope Hospice / Grief Support Services and Volunteer Program – Jennifer Pettley – thanked the commission for the funding they received and the opportunity to share information about their program. She advised that since 1980 Hope Hospice has been providing care for terminally ill patients and Hope teams work with families. The grant receive supports both the Grief Support and Volunteer programs. Ms. Pettley advised that support is provided at no charge and with the help of 110 volunteers no one is left alone.

Legal Assistance for Seniors / Legal and Supportive Services for Older Adults – James Treggiari thanked the City of Pleasanton for their support and the grant. He noted that while the number of people services is lower the number of hours of service provided has increased. He discussed how the agency has been reaching goals through a hybrid model but also continuing to provide many services online. He discussed being a provider for the county Medicare program that is a heavy counselor training program.

Chairperson Carlucci noted that the online services provided by Legal Assistance did not appear to be as strong as online services provided by other agencies. Mr. Treggiari indicated they have been working to establish people with online services and will continue to do what they can to improve this.

Narika / Self-Empowerment and Economic Development (SEED) Program – Shailaja Dixit – noted that Narika is based in Fremont. Ms. Dixit commented on the high number of services provided for the year and provided information about the services provided by the agency. She advised that grant funds received enabled the agency to provide workshops and online presentations. Narika worked with other organizations and was able to serve nine Pleasanton residents. Ms. Dixit advised that not all funds were used but the agency hopes to continue being able to provide services for Pleasanton residents.

Chairperson Carlucci questioned if Narika was trying to make this a long-term project and Ms. Dixit confirmed that was their goal and that Narika was working closely with all the Tri-Valley cities and now seeing a rise in the need for their services.

Open Heart Kitchen / Pleasanton Senior Meals / Vineyard 2.0 Project – Heather Greaux- advised that OHK provides meals for the Pleasanton community at the Senior Center and Ridgeview Commons. She noted that 165 seniors are served daily and 57% report dining with OHK 4-5 days/week. Ms. Greaux indicated that many report not being able to provide their own foods and the senior meal service and dining rooms are a wonderful place for them to meet.

Ms. Greaux reported on the Vineyard 2.0 Project in Livermore and the services that OHK will be able to provide from that location. She discussed fundraising projects and support from the State and noted that the Community Resource Building will provide a location for people to receive mail, take a shower, and have a meal. Construction for this facility to expected to be completed by the Fall of 2023.

Spectrum Community Services / Meals on Wheels for Homebound Pleasanton Seniors – Carrie Oldes – noted that Spectrum anticipated serving 110 seniors with the funding received but served 165. Ms. Oldes notes that hot meals are provided every day except Wednesday when a light cool meal is provided. She commented on additional services provided with the help of local youth groups who provide birthday cards and Christmas gifts for the seniors.

Ms. Oldes commented on the special service provided by Spectrum volunteers and Commissioner Susan Hayes provided information about recently joining Spectrum as a volunteer. Ms. Oldes noted that word of mouth was an effective way to encourage people to become a volunteer and discussed how Spectrum collaborates with other organizations. Commissioner Rubino-Brumm commented on the great collaboration there is between so many of the agencies.

Sunflower Hill / Irby Ranch Program Support / Support for Adults with Development Disabilities Program – Jen Leonard-Benson – thanked the commission for supporting Sunflower Hill programs. She noted that 38 clients were supported in the Irby Ranch Support program by helping them to build life and social skills. Ms. Leonard-Benson discussed the challenges experienced due to COVID and commented on the cooking and game nights that are provided as well as physical activities.

During their Support for Adults with Developmental Disabilities program a total of 53 Pleasanton residents participated in the garden program and were taught gardening skills three days a week as well as cooking classes. Ninety percent of the produce grown in the garden is donated to other local agencies. Chairperson Carlucci questioned if any of the produce was sold, and Ms. Leonard-Benson advised that a small amount is sold but most is donated.

Tri-Valley Haven / Counseling and Legal Services / Food Pantry / Shiloh Domestic Violence Shelter and Services / Sojourner Homeless Shelter Program – Christine Dilman – provided information about counseling clinic in Pleasanton noting that the number of Pleasanton residents participating in the program has increased. Ms. Dilman commented on the services provided in the program that also includes a counselor joining the client in court appearances. She noted that some clients are still being seen on Zoom.

The Food Pantry program continues to be busy and over 500 Pleasanton residents visited. Ms. Dilman noted that Tri-Valley Haven was able to find a larger facility for the Food Pantry that allowed them to improve the program and allows people to choose more produce and less canned food items. She advised that much of the Food Pantry items are donated by local stores.

Ms. Dilman provided information about the Shiloh Domestic Violence Shelter noting that services are provided every year to between one- and two-family households from Pleasanton. She noted that services include trying to get clients to understand why they are at the shelter and working through issues, providing transitional housing, and helping with rent payments through their Linkages Program.

Commissioners were provided information about the plans for a new domestic violence shelter by Ms. Dilman who provided them with invitations to attend a fundraising event on October 22nd entitled “Thrive & Rebuild”.

Ms. Dilman commented on Tri-Valley Haven’s Sojourner Homeless Shelter Program noting that many sent to the home by the county have some connection to the Tri-Valley area and need the services the program provides.

Ms. Dilman discussed with Commissioner Rubino-Brumm the Domestic Violence Shelter program and the services provided noting that this was the only shelter in the Bay Area that will take teenage boys and are also a confidential shelter.

Commissioner Bedegi was advised that residents can stay up to six-months in the Shiloh Shelter and staff tries to make it is as empowering as possible. She was also advised that the Shelter sent people to the Goodness Village and Tri-Valley Haven has provided food to the village.

Ms. Dilman informed Chairperson Carlucci that not being self-sufficient meant people did not have jobs and Tri-Valley Haven provides programs and assistance to help them become self-sufficient.

Commissioner Bedegi was advised by Ms. Dilman that more than fifty percent of people assisted by Tri-Valley Haven program are from the area. She provided additional information about the location of the Food Pantry, the mobile food pantries that visit Pleasanton, and the 70-hours of training required by counselors providing counseling and legal services.

A motion was made by Commissioner Susan Hayes, seconded by Commissioner Melanie Hayes, to accept the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Annual Performance Reports (CAPER) for Fiscal Year 2021/22 and request staff compile the information and finalize the required CAPER document for submittal to HUD.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Bedegi, Melanie Hayes, Susan Hayes, Litz, Parikh, Rubino-Brumm, and Chairperson Carlucci.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioner Powers

ABSTAIN: None

MATTERS INITIATED BY THE COMMISSION

None.

COMMISSION REPORTS

None.

STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Ingram noted that this was to be the last meeting for Commissioner Susan Hayes whose term on the commission had come to an end. He thanked her for being a pillar of support to him and the commission and thanked her for her leadership.

Other members of the commission also thanked Commissioner Hayes for her support and Commissioner Rubino-Brumm thanked her for her mentorship and her uncanny ability to make decisions from her head and heart. Chairperson Carlucci noted that Commissioner Hayes was a large part of his becoming a member of the commission.

Commissioner Hayes stated that it has been an amazing experience being a member of the Human Services Commission and has enjoyed her time working with all the commissioners and staff.

Mr. Ingram noted that new members for the commission will be sworn in at the October City Council meeting and retiring commissioners will be honored.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

Establish Housing and Human Services Grant Program Priorities and Evaluation Criteria.

Commissioner Susan Hayes questioned whether the commission would be revising requirements for organizations requesting grants, noting many have had recent staff turnovers. She felt it would be beneficial to know about their board development programs and discussed workshops being provided by the Tri-Valley Alliance. Mr. Ingram requested he be provided information about the workshops.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: October 5, 2022
