

Human Services Commission Minutes

City Council Chamber - 200 Old Bernal Avenue, Pleasanton, CA
March 4, 2020 – 6 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Sedlak called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Harshkumar Gohil; Susan Hayes, Kelsey Lem, Meera Parikh, Patty Powers, Janeen Rubino Brumm and Chairperson Mike Sedlak.

Commissioners Absent: Commissioners Joe Carlucci and Varsha Clare.

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

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

Change approval of regular meeting minutes of December 5, 2020 to February 5, 2020.

MINUTES

1. Approve minutes from regular meeting on February 5, 2020

Motion made by Commissioner Powers, seconded by Commissioner Hayes, to approve the February 5, 2020 meeting minutes. **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 BEFORE THE COMMISSION

3. Recommend City Council award an Agreement for Service to Axis Community Health (5925 W.Las Positas Blvd.) for behavioral health care services using

Housing and Human Services Grant Funds for an annual amount of \$35,000 for up to five years and not to exceed \$175,000

Mr. Silva and Mr. Ingram reviewed a PowerPoint presentation with commissioners and advised that in the Human Services Commission Strategic Plan, the commission recommended the strategic action *Revise Human Services Commission Grant-making Protocols/RFP's including exploration of multi-year contracts with core safety-net service providers.*

Mr. Ingram informed commissioners that this agenda item was to consider awarding a multi-year Agreement for Services to Axis Community Health for them to provide Behavioral Health Services for \$35,000 per year for up to five years and not to exceed \$175,000.

Sue Compton, Axis Community Health – thanked the commission for considering this item to award the Agreement to Axis Community Health for behavioral health care services and indicated the funds will make a big difference to health of many in the valley.

Commissioner Hayes thanked staff for putting together the RFQ as well as all of the agencies that applied for this long-term funding opportunity. She noted that Commissioner Carlucci had been a member of the panel that recommended Axis Community Health to receive this award.

A motion was made by Commissioner Gohil, seconded by Commissioner Hayes, recommending City Council award an Agreement for Services to Axis Community Health for behavioral health care services using Housing and Human Services Grant funds for an amount of \$35,000 for up to five years and not to exceed \$175,000.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Gohil, Hayes, Lem, Parikh, Powers, Rubino-Brumm and Chairperson Sedlak.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Carlucci and Clare

ABSTAIN: None

4. Review and Allocate Housing and Human Services Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2020/2021 and Recommend City Council Approval

Commissioner Rubino Brumm informed everyone that as an unpaid board member for Sunflower Hill she had discussed the matter with the city attorney's office and had been informed that she was able to consider and make recommendations for the Housing and Human Services Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2020/2021. Commissioners were advised by Mr. Ingram that a total of six agencies had been requested to provide a presentation at this meeting because they are a new agency, or an agency requesting funding for a new project.

Mr. Hernandez commented on the number of applications received for Housing and Human Services Grant Funds and the applications that would be reviewed by the Housing Commission.

Chairperson Sedlak opened the meeting for scheduled agency presentations at 6:24 p.m.

Axis Community Health / Dental Care for Low-Income Residents – Sue Compton – advised that the dental clinic had been open for about a year and provided information on the number of people that already received services and the number that are on a waiting list. Ms. Compton advised that 38% of the individuals seen have no coverage which means that Axis receives no funds at all for providing services which is why the grant funds requested are important.

Chairperson Sedlak confirmed with Ms. Compton that the dentists providing services are all fulltime. Ms. Compton noted they are paid dentists and not volunteers.

Commissioner Powers was advised by Ms. Compton that patients are mainly from the Tri-Valley area although about 10% seen are from Contra Costa County.

Chairperson Sedlak questioned Ms. Compton on the anticipated wait time for those people on the waitlist. He was informed that it is anticipated to be approximately six months.

Ms. Compton confirmed for Commissioner Hayes that the funding request was to assist with providing uncompensated dental care and helping those people on the waiting list. She also informed Commissioner Rubino Brumm that approximately two dentists see approximately 15 to 17 patients each day.

CityServe of the Tri-Valley / Christine Beitsch & Adriana Alegre – Facility Build Out – provided information about their funding request and advised they were looking for a location from which their people could work. Ms. Beitsch advised that a free space has been provided to them in Livermore but is in need of renovation and they would love to have it opened by mid-summer so they can provide the needed services. Ms. Alegre noted that approximately one-third of people they serve come from Pleasanton and CityServe is working with Tri-Valley cities to coordinate issues, but it is hard for CityServe when they don't have a place to work. Ms. Beitsch indicated that CityServe will continue to outreach in Pleasanton when they have an office in Livermore.

Chairperson Sedlak asked about the total Pleasanton residents served by CityServe and the total overall. Ms. Beitsch and Ms. Alegre indicated it was difficult to provide this information because of the different aspects served.

Commissioner Hayes questioned whether the idea of CityServe was to have an office location in Livermore was to provide privacy. Ms. Beitsch indicated that it was, but they would continue to work to provide services in Pleasanton and will maintain the space they currently have at Inklings Coffee. She informed Commissioner Rubino Brumm of the difficulties serving clients in Pleasanton because of the space they use located at Inklings Coffee.

Hively / Community Closet – Vanessa Dilks – commented on their funding request and requests received for basic necessities. Ms. Dilks indicated that Hively has received a number

of donations but have a lot of people going to them requesting donations. She indicated that the needs are great and Hively hopes to be able to provide people with what is needed. Ms. Dilks provided commissioners with a number of client stories and noted that Hively has become a trusted partner in the community.

Commissioner Parikh discussed with Ms. Dilks how Hively advertises their services to the community. She also reviewed with Ms. Dilks the hours of operation for Hively and the location of the Community Closet.

Chairperson Sedlak confirmed with Ms. Dilks that if awarded the grant would be used for salaries and supplies.

Commissioner Gohill was provided information by Ms. Dilks on how the services provided by Hively was different that those provided by Goodwill.

Commissioner Lem advised that as a member of NCL she has volunteered with Hively on several occasions.

Narika / Counseling & Economic Empowerment Programs - Sanjay Singh and Bindu Fernandes – Mr. Singh advised that as a board member of Narika he had learned much more about domestic violence. Ms. Fernandes commented on services and workshops Narika provides indicating that funding would be helpful in helping them provide services to more people in the community and allow for community outreach and partnerships with other organizations. Commissioners were advised that Narika is working on the stigma about domestic violence, providing counseling and job mobility programs, and helping with religious and cultural issues by serving about 50 clients per week.

Commissioner Parikh was provided details about the weekly series provided by Narika and the number of sessions in each series.

Commissioner Rubino Brumm was advised by Ms. Fernandes that Pleasanton clients would be provided travel, food, and childcare vouchers to help them get to programs in the City of Fremont. Commissioner Hayes was informed by Ms. Fernandes that Pleasanton residents would learn about Narika through community events, meet and greets, partnerships, etc.

Partners for Change Tri-Valley Poverty Alleviation / Partners for Change – Annie Corbett – Commissioners were provided information about the efforts of Partners for Change and their work to help bridge financial class lines. Ms. Corbett commented on the 18-month program, the goal setting, achievements and long-term issues provided to help clients. She advised the program looks to address poverty through a whole family and helping them get out of poverty.

Commissioner Lem asked Ms. Corbett about the demographics of the 30 people she had indicated are being served in the program. Ms. Corbet indicated they are primarily people of color and they have three families living in motels and others that are close to eviction.

Sunflower Hill / Accessible Signage for Adults with Developmental Disabilities – Edie Nehls – commented on the opening of their new facility at Irby Ranch and hopes to be able to have commissioners visit within the next few weeks. Ms. Nehls advised that funding requested would be used for accessible signage they would like to add to the project. She provided information about the smart-board idea that will provide information to users once it is touched.

Commissioner Powers questioned whether the signage had been seen in use in other areas and was advised by Commissioner Hayes she had seen it in use in a memory care facility and Ms. Nehls indicated she had seen it used in a Livermore furniture store.

Commissioner Gohil was informed by Ms. Nehls that the warranty for this type of equipment is five years but the equipment is expected to last for 10-years or more.

Chairperson Sedlak closed the meeting for scheduled agency presentations at 7:05 p.m. and opened it for other presentations at 7:06 p.m.

NAMI Tri-Valley / National Alliance on Mental Health – Gwen Lewis & Rosemarie Thorne – provided details about the mental health programs evidenced as a best program run by peer groups for mental illness. They advised that their group meets weekly for 90-minutes, is led by two facilitators who receive a small stipend, attendees have doubled for receiving this free service, and this is the only program like this in the Tri-Valley.

Ms. Thorne provided an update on the program for which they received funding the prior year and advised that the current funding request would allow for them to continue providing this service to Pleasanton residents.

Commissioners were advised that meetings are provided on a scheduled date and time, last for 90-minutes each time, and are peer-to-peer services with a facilitator. Demographics of attendees are 20, 30 and 40-year-olds and people with low-incomes and suffering with bipolar, anxiety and many other issues.

Chairperson Sedlak was informed that funding would be used to advertise the program, provide stipends for facilitators, provide refreshments to meeting attendees, pay for liability insurance and rent to the church where meetings are held.

Commissioner Rubino Brumm questioned how people were being referred to NAMI and Commissioner Hayes asked about other funding sources.

Commissioner Parekh commented on similar services being provided by Bay Area Community Services.

Chairperson Sedlak closed the meeting for presentations at 7:23 p.m.

Commissioner Powers discussed with Mr. Hernandez the line item funding amount designated for Administration of the CDBG / HHS Program. She also indicated she would like to see more funding allocated for item #3 – Axis Community Health / Triage Call Nurse.

Commissioner Hayes stated she would like more funding allocated for item #2 – Axis Community Health / Dental Care for Low-Income Residents, noting this was a program built by the City of Pleasanton and should be supported by the commission to help provide services to the many people on the waiting list. Commissioner Parikh agreed.

Commissioner Powers commented on the low number of people served by Tri-Valley Haven’s Shiloh Domestic Violence Shelter and suggested the funding recommendation be reduced.

Chairperson Sedlak asked staff to justify the funding recommendation for Partners for Change Tri-Valley Alleviation Program. Mr. Ingram advised that staff tries to recommend funding if it is a Tri-Valley organization.

Commissioner Powers commented on the number of resources available to help people find jobs and was concerned about the funding recommendation for Chabot-LP/TV One Stop Career Center. Commissioner Parikh agreed and noted that the recommended amount was 50% of the requested amount.

Commissioner Rubino Brumm indicated she would like to provide some support to Narika (item #19) because of the cultural aspect.

Chairperson Sedlak expressed concern about funding #18 NAMI Tri-Valley because of non-professionals providing services.

Commissioner Parikh had questions pertaining to the funding percentage for item #9 CityServe and felt it should be less than the 60% recommendation.

Commissioners asked for comments and information from representatives for Tri-Valley Haven Shelters (Ralph Johnson), and Chabot LP /Tri-Valley One Stop Career Center (Sarah Holtzclaw) on the funding requests for their organizations.

After considering all of the grant fund applications, commissioners made their funding recommendations.

A motion was made by Commissioner Parikh, seconded by Commissioners Hayes, recommending City Council approve the following Housing and Human Services Grant Funds for Fiscal Year 2020/2021:

- \$ 23,184 - City of Pleasanton / Annual Section 108 Loan Payment (Axis Clinic)
- 16,907 - Sunflower Hill / Accessible Signage for Adults with Developmental Disabilities
- 30,000 - CityServe of the Tri-Valley / Facility Build Out
- 6,600 - Axis Community Health / Triage Call Nurse
- 6,500 - Axis Community Health / Dental Care for Low-Income Residents
- 13,000 - Open Heart Kitchen / Hot Meals & Children’s Bag Lunch Program
- 50,000 - Open Heart Kitchen / Pleasanton Senior Meals Program
- 14,000 - Spectrum Community Services / Meals on Wheels for Homebound Pleas. Srs.

14,000 - Tri-Valley Haven / Food Pantry
 18,000 - CityServe of the Tri-Valley / Crisis Resource and Education Program
 16,000 - Tri-Valley Haven / Shiloh Domestic Violence Shelter and Services
 32,000 - Tri-Valley Haven / Sojourner House Homeless Shelter Program
 -0- - Partners for Change / Tri-Valley Poverty Alleviation
 7,000 - CALICO Center / Pleasanton Child Abuse Intervention Program
 5,500 - Legal Assistance for Seniors / Legal and Supportive Services for Older Adults
 12,000 - Tri-Valley Haven / Counseling
 10,000 - Sunflower Hill / Horticulture Teaching Support for Adults with Disabilities
 4,000 - Chabot LP/TV One Stop Career Ctr / Pleasanton VITA 2020-21
 4,000 - Chabot LP/TV One Stop Career Ctr / Pleas.Career & Employer Services 2020-21
 6,741 - Hope Hospice, Inc, / Volunteer Services for Grief Support Program
 6,500 - Hively (formerly Child Care Links) / Early Literacy Diaper Pantry
 10,000 - Hively (formerly Child Care Links) / Community Closet
 -0- - Narika / Counseling and Economic Empowerment Programs
 3,900 - NAMI / NAMI Tri-Valley
68,442 - City of Pleasanton / Administration of CDBG/HHSG Program
\$378,274 - TOTAL

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Gohil, Hayes, Lem, Parikh, Powers, Rubino Brumm and Chairperson Sedlak.

NOES: None

ABSENT: Commissioners Carlucci and Clare

ABSTAIN: None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Senior Program Advisory Committee – No report
- B. Pleasanton Paratransit Task Force – No report
- C. Ptownlife Resource Network – No report
- D. Alameda County Advisory Commission on Aging – No report.
- E. Tri-Valley Anti-Poverty Collaborative – No report
- F. CityServe of the Tri-Valley – no report.

MATTERS INITIATED BY THE COMMISSION

None.

STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Ingram advised: 1) Pam Zielske of Sunflower Hill has offered to give commissioners a tour of the new Sunflower facility at Irby Ranch, and 2) a new meeting location needs to be found for the April meeting and staff is suggesting the Remillard Room at the Operations Center on Busch Avenue.

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

None discussed.

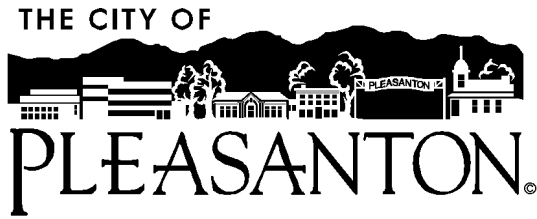
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

March 4, 2020

DRAFT



Human Services Commission Minutes

Zoom Webinar – Pleasanton, CA October 28, 2020 - 7 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Joe Carlucci, Varsha Clare, Susan Hayes, Kelsey Lem, Patty Powers, and Chairperson Michael Sedlak.

Commissioners Absent: Commissioners Harshkumar Gohil, Meera Parikh, and Janeen Rubino Brum.

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

AGENDA AMENDMENTS

None.

MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

None

MATTERS BEFORE THE COMMISSION REVIEW/ACTION/INFORMATION

2. **Review of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Reports (CAPER) for Fiscal Year 2019-2020**

Mr. Hernandez provided information about the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD) requirements that the City hold a public hearing to review fiscal year 2019-2020 CDBG-funded program accomplishments and prepare and submit a final Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

Commissioners were advised by Mr. Hernandez that because of the COVID pandemic HUD has extended the deadline for submitting the CAPER to year-end and reduced the public comment period to 5-days, however, because of upcoming holidays the City of Pleasanton will be submitting the report early November.

Mr. Hernandez reviewed with the commission a PowerPoint presentation that:

- listed the agencies that had received funding for 2019-2020
- provided demographic, race/ethnicity, and household characteristic data, and
- income breakdown of the more than 4,500 individuals assisted

Mr. Ingram commented on the CAPER process for agencies to submit reports and noted that the period they are reporting on is for July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

At this time the meeting was opened up for agency comments.

Axis Community Health (Triage Call Nurse 2019-2020) – Sue Compton – Ms. Compton thanked the City of Pleasanton and commission for providing funding for the Triage Nurse. She noted that because of the COVID pandemic this turned out to be one of the most important staff positions for Axis. The nurse was kept very busy because the call volume and work with asymptomatic patients exploded. Over 1,300 inbound and 2,000 outbound phone calls from Pleasanton residents were handled.

CALICO Center (Child Abuse Intervention) – Erin Harper – Thanked commission for supporting their program. Ms. Harper advised that CALICO was on-track with their goals until COVID hit. In April their numbers were down, but by August of 2020 their numbers had increased by over 30% - children not having access to teachers and others was a big driver in the increase. She advised that COVID has required the agency to install safety measures and mobile equipment.

Commissioner Carlucci questioned Ms. Harper on how CALICO was handling and conducting Zoom interviews with children. Ms. Harper advised that keeping at a safe distance a staff member is able to be in the room with the client.

Chairperson Sedlack commented on how critical the services are that CALICO provides to the community. He asked if children are able to reach CALICO through social media. Ms. Harper advised that the agency is currently not reaching children through social media but have been reaching out to teachers and partnering with the DA's office on the distribution of printed material on how to report abuse. She commented on difficulties experienced because so many clients are children from low-income families.

Chabot-LP/One Stop Career Ctr (Pleasanton Job Initiative) – Sarah Holtzclaw – expressed thanks for the support. Ms. Holtzclaw noted that July 2019 through February 2020 was business as usual with 25+ people a day receiving help, and then the pandemic hit. Virtual workshops have been offered since March 2020 helping people with the CARES Act and unemployment insurance issues.

Commissioner Carlucci confirmed that since March 2020 the agency has been assisting people with unemployment matters and questioned if they have also been able to help people find jobs. Ms. Holtzclaw advised that some jobs are still available in the tech area, but low-income people looking for service positions are having difficulty.

Chairperson Sedlak asked about the impact to services the agency provides due to closure of the office. Ms. Holtzclaw commented on the issue with people who came to the office to use computers, how staff double-downed on job searches so they could provide information to clients.

Chairperson Sedlak indicated that he and the commission would like to receive a report on the number of Pleasanton residents being served. Ms. Holtzclaw advised that in March 2020 only 8 residents were being served and that number is now in the 21+ range.

Chabot-LP/One Stop Career Ctr (Pleasanton VITA) – Sarah Holtzclaw – Ms. Holtzclaw noted that while COVID happened during the tax season, the agency volunteers had all been trained by January 2020. She advised that the agency's goal is always to increase the number of tax returns filed, but by March 16 they had to close their doors. Volunteers worked out a way to still help clients virtually and having the tax filing date extended helped – approximately 80 clients were helped.

CityServe (Crisis Intervention) – Christine Beitsch – provided thanks for support and advised that the program was launched to provide intervention services and case management. Ms. Beitsch commented on the services they have been able to provide, the restructuring and management that was required, and the demand for rentals increased due to the pandemic.

CityServe (Facility Build Out) – Christine Beitsch – Ms. Beitsch noted that the design and build-out of their office location in Livermore was delayed because of COVID, but it is hoped that staff will be able to move-in by February 2021. The need for a location in Pleasanton, other than Inklings, has also been determined. A lot of work is still being conducted remotely.

Commissioner Clare was provided information about the delay in opening the Livermore location by Mr. Hernandez. He advised that HUD has been informed about the delays caused by COVID and funds for the project being carried over till the next grant funding year.

CityServe (Homeless Street Outreach) – Christine Beitsch – commissioners were advised that CityServe had been working with homeless individuals on a weekly basis until the pandemic hit, they then went out to educate the homeless about COVID and provide them with information about available services and obstacles they could be facing. They identified people who were medical high-risk individuals and placed them in shelters and reached over 25 people in Pleasanton and moved them into available housing with Abode.

Chairperson Sedlak questioned with COVID had any other opportunities for providing help and Ms. Beitsch commented on collaboration with other organizations and establishing strong relationships.

Easter Seals Bay Area (Kaleidoscope Community Adult Program) – Zach Lupton & Doris Evans – advised that they work with young adults with learning disabilities and have added one additional person from Pleasanton. They have been running virtual camps and socialization programs related to COVID. Camps include money-management, use of masks and gloves, etc.

Commissioner Carlucci discussed with Mr. Lupton what would be needed to reopen so clients could attend in person. Mr. Lupton indicated they would need locations that would allow them to have groups of 12 meet at safe distances. He advised that when schools open in a safe manner that Easter Seals would try to follow but need to be sure things are safe for clients and staff.

Chairperson Sedlak was advised that a total of six Pleasanton clients have been served and everything currently being provided is being done remotely, including cooking programs.

Hively (Behavioral Health Care Services) – Kelly O’Laque Dulka – Ms. Dulka advised that the program serves the lowest-income individuals in the Tri-Valley and have been providing behavioral and mental health services. Ms. Dulka indicated they saw an increase in support needed and the materials they were providing.

Commissioner Carlucci questioned how Hively has been managing financially. Ms. Dulka indicated the organization had raised over \$250,000 by fundraising and begging. She noted that Pleasanton families need help and the staff at Hively are working the extra hours to provide needed services.

Commissioner Carlucci gave kudos to Hively and commented on mental health professional being unrecognized.

Commissioner Powers questioned whether Hively was still accepting donations of household items and clothing. Ms. Dulka advised that since COVID storefront owners are more willing to rent to organizations like Hively, which has allowed them to rent a store that will hopefully open by December 1 and allow them to begin accepting donations.

Chairperson Sedlak indicated to Ms. Dulka that the commission was listening to the needs of Hively.

Hively (Diaper Pantry) – Vanessa Dilks – advised the commission that Hively distributed over 223,000 diapers, books, baby needs, etc. to many families in need. Ms. Dilks provided information about the distribution of these items and that Hively has been discussing increasing the timeframe for the diaper distribution.

Commissioner Carlucci questioned if Hively was in need of volunteers to assist with the distribution of diapers, etc. Ms. Dilks stated that because of COVID restrictions Hively has been trying to keep the number of volunteers low.

Hope Hospice (Grief Support Center & Volunteer Services) – Jennifer Pettley – thanked everyone for supporting Hope Hospice. Ms. Pettley advised that Hope Hospice provides bereavement support for families at no cost and provide services that help lift-up families caring for someone who is ill. She advised that 22% of the 600+ patients served were Pleasanton residents and due to the expansion of need another Grief Support Specialist has been put in place. Commissioners were informed that 2020 is the 40th anniversary of Hope Hospice.

Chairperson Sedlak asked about the use of volunteers and was informed that because of COVID volunteers have not been able to make visits.

Legal Assistance for Seniors (Medicare Counseling and Community Education) – Edita Mercado – thanked the commission for their support and advised that Legal Assistance provides legal advice and advocacy to Medicare beneficiaries and education on legal topics. Ms. Mercado advised they were forced to close their physical office because of COVID but have been able to provide services online. Assistance on legal matters was provided to 17 Pleasanton seniors, many of whom were low-income.

Commissioner Powers asked about sources of funding received by Legal Assistance. Ms. Mercado advised that it is received from the Federal Government, County, and private funding.

Chairperson Sedlak was provided information by Ms. Hernandez and what is meant when an agency references the number of “units” that are served. In the case of Legal Assistance, it is the number of hours provided.

NAMI Tri-Valley (NAMI Tri-Valley) – Rosemarie Thorne – thanked the commission for their support that was used to provide services for people living with serious mental illness in Pleasanton. Ms. Thorne advised that the service is provided free to all through continual free weekly drop-in programs. The biggest issue for NAMI is training facilitators and providing them with a monthly stipend. In January they only had two remaining facilitators and needed to train more which was an expense of \$1,800 for each.

Ms. Thorne advised that NAMI has been able to provide some virtual support via Zoom since the onset of the pandemic and individuals are stating they feel connected through participating in the program. The number of participants has increased and people have been asking for the program to expand.

Commissioner Carlucci questioned whether facilitators are individuals who have participated in the program and whether they volunteer to help or are asked to assist in the program. Ms. Thorne advised that they are from the program and are asked if they would like to help others.

Chairperson Sedlak was advised by Ms. Thorne that during the first six months a total of 32 people received services and during the last six months a total of 47 received services. Ms. Thorne noted that some numbers in the report are duplicated.

Chairperson Sedlak felt some of the reporting was misleading and suggested that next time NAMI report more accurately.

Open Heart Kitchen (Hot Meals-Children's Bag Lunch) – Denise Bridges – thanked the commission for supporting the Open Heart Kitchen Hot Meals and Bag Lunch Program. Ms. Bridges provided information about the number of meals served and how programs have needed to be consolidated because of COVID and nine staff members had to be hired. She acknowledged partnerships with CityServe, Alameda County Food Bank, and Tri-Valley Haven.

Commissioner Clare discussed with Ms. Bridges changes to the Children's Bag Lunch program. Ms. Bridges advised that OHK relied heavily on parent volunteers for the program and was forced to make changes because of COVID and work with the Food Bank. She also advised that the Congregate Meal program was changed to curbside pick-up.

Commissioner Powers expressed her concern about a comment that indicated a change for seniors on a fixed income because of COVID. Ms. Bridges provided details noting that many of these seniors have been unable to go out because of COVID and have been relying on OHK for meals.

Chairperson Sedlak provided details about information he had provided to the Pleasanton Weekly for an OHK article.

Spectrum Community Services (Meals on Wheels) – Lara Calvert – thanked the city for their support and commented on how everyone is stepping up to help take care of everything. Ms. Calvert advised that in December 2019 Spectrum realized they were serving double the number of people and meals that had been anticipated. Then in February 2020 Spectrum received extra funding from the County that has allowed them to meet the need caused by the pandemic and continue to meet the needs.

Commissioner Carlucci thanked Ms. Calvert for the work of Spectrum and indicated he was proud to be a member of the commission that is helping organizations like Spectrum. Ms. Calvert stated Spectrum is pleased that they have been able to accommodate needed changes to meet all the needs.

Commissioner Powers noted she was able to volunteer with Spectrum a few weeks ago and was very impressed in how well things were being done.

Sunflower Hill (Special Needs Horticulture Teaching Support) – Pamela Delski – gave thanks for the support provided to Sunflower Hill for their horticulture program. Ms. Delski advised that the program began serving about 50 individuals, but their in-person programs came to a halt in March, however, Sunflower has been able to provide various virtual programs that allowed clients to continue with a sense of routine and connection. A total of 115 videos have been created for viewing by program participants and others in the industry. Ms. Delski advised that Sunflower Hill was able to donate over 400 pounds from their garden to other groups and this past month have been to open the garden to small groups.

Tri-Valley Haven (Capital Facility Rehab Project) – Ann King – advised that after many delays because of problems with the architect and needing to go out to bid for a second time a contractor has been chosen.

Commissioner Clare had questions about the use of funds that have been accrued for this project. Mr. Hernandez advised that \$249,000 has been accrued and HUD has been kept aware of the delays for this project. He noted that once a contractor has been formally selected the project is free to move forward and funds can be used. He noted that HUD understands that construction projects are often delayed but he has been communicating with them to keep them informed.

Tri-Valley Haven (Food Pantry) – Ann King – Ms. King advised that over 2,000 unduplicated individuals have been served, 930 of which were from Pleasanton. She advised that groceries are now boxed up and distributed to clients outside, which unfortunately means clients are not getting to choose items, seniors have been getting groceries from the Food Pantry delivered.

Ms. King provided Commissioner Powers additional information on how COVID has affected seniors on fixed incomes. She also informed the commission that the Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to help with distributing groceries at the Alameda County Fairgrounds.

Commissioner Hayes questioned whether this would be a good opportunity for high school students who needed to complete community service. Commissioner Lem felt that many high school seniors would consider this a good opportunity to help and be willing to volunteer.

Tri-Valley Haven (Shiloh Domestic Violence Shelter) – Ann King – commissioners were advised the Shiloh facility has 30 beds and two were provided to Pleasanton residents, many others in need of help were put into motels. Tri-Valley Haven has been spending \$15,000 per month on hotels and has been looking at getting a 6-bedroom house.

Commissioner Clare asked about the care provided for the two Pleasanton residents and Ms. King commented on them being kept at Shiloh for safety reasons.

Tri-Valley haven (Sojourner House Homeless Shelter) – Ann King & Joe Maguigad– provided information about the policies that have been put in place to keep Sojourner House safe with the pandemic. Ms. King advised that the number of people being served had to be reduced in order to maintain social distancing. Overall, 48 were served and three of them were from Pleasanton.

Mr. Maguigad provided information about the number of crisis calls Tri-Valley received that included anonymous calls.

Chairperson Sedlak thanked Tri-Valley Haven for providing such well written reports. Commissioner Hayes agreed and commented on the importance of providing good information in reports.

Mr. Ingram advised that staff has been working closely with agencies during the pandemic and thanked them for doing such a great job. He indicated that he and Mr. Hernandez would work with NAMI to help them with their next report.

A motion was made by Commissioner Clare, seconded by Commissioner Hayes, to approve the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for fiscal year 2019-2020 together with the presented agency reports.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Carlucci, Clare, Hayes, Lem, Powers, and Chairperson Sedlak.
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioners Gohil, Parikh, and Rubino-Brumm.
ABSTAIN: None

3. Consider Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2021/2022 Housing and Human Services Grant (HHSO) Program Statement of Priorities and Evaluation Criteria

Mr. Ingram advised that the commission annually considers funding priorities for the Housing and Human Services Grant (HHSO). He asked that they review and consider the Statement of Priorities and Evaluation Criteria for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 of the program and make a recommendation.

Commissioners reviewed with Mr. Ingram the alphabetically listed Priority Needs and the Service Delivery list which showed projects that addresses populations and/or program areas.

Commissioner Hayes commented on increased operating costs that agencies are facing and the need for them to do more fundraising in order to meet funding requirements. She asked Mr. Ingram about other resources that may be available for the grant program. Chairperson Sedlak suggested this might be something that would unfold as things moved forward and more needs become clear.

Commissioners agreed they did not want to make any changes to the Priority Needs and Service Delivery for the Fiscal Year 2021/2022 HHSO Program.

A motion was made by Commissioner Hayes, seconded by Commissioner Clare, to approve the Priority Needs and Service Delivery emphasis areas as outlined in Attachment 1 and reviewed by the commission.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Carlucci, Clare, Hayes, Lem, Powers, and Chairperson Sedlak.
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioners Gohil, Parikh, and Rubino Brumm.
ABSTAIN: None

Commissioners were asked by Mr. Ingram to also review and consider the evaluation criteria for HHS applications as outlined in Attachment 2 to determine if any amendments are deemed necessary.

Commissioners reviewed the item and determined that no changes were required.

A motion was made by Commissioner Carlucci, seconded by Commissioner Hayes, to approve the Evaluation Criteria as provided in Attachment 2 and reviewed by the commission.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYES: Commissioners Carlucci, Clare, Hayes, Lem, Powers, and Chairperson Sedlak.
NOES: None
ABSENT: Commissioners Gohil, Parikh, and Rubino Brumm.
ABSTAIN: None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Ingram thanked commissioners for their patience during the pandemic and assured the commission that our grantees are doing an amazing job serving our community during the pandemic.

Chairperson Sedlak questioned the feasibility of limiting meetings for this commission since so much of what they do is closely connected to what has been taking place with COVID-19 and the agencies involved. He felt it would be helpful if the commission could at least meet on a bi-monthly basis.

Mr. Ingram commented that during this pandemic our services have been focused on safety and emergency services first and foremost. All public meetings are on-line, and this has put a burden on the IT Department who is working on a limited bases due to the pandemic.

There being no further business a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:

To be decided.