



*County of Santa Barbara*  
105 E. ANAPAMU, SANTA BARBARA  
**HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION**

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**ANNUAL RETREAT MEETING - ACTION SUMMARY**

Date: Thursday, September 8, 2016  
Time: 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.  
Place: Marriott, 555 McMurray Road, Buellton CA

**Call to Order:** Commission Chair Mickiewicz called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

**Roll Call**      **Members Present:** Chair Mickiewicz, Commissioners Cawthon, Keater, Siegel, Lindner, Solomon, Sepulveda, Tade, and Fairfield  
**Absent:** Commissioners Jensen, Ramirez and Aceves  
**Staff Present:** Terri Maus-Nisich, Susan Foley

**Public Comment Period:** None

**Minutes to June 2, 2016 HSC meeting:** A motion was made by Commissioner Solomon to approve the meeting minutes. This was seconded by Commissioner Fairfield and passed by all in attendance.

**PowerPoint Discussion of FY2015-16 Performance and reporting on summer site visits:** Ms. Foley shared a lengthy PowerPoint outlining the outcomes of the FY15-16 mini grants. She noted the successes of each organization in strengthening their capacity through increased volunteerism, equipment purchases or database improvements. She also shared the full fiscal year-end report on all grants with the Commission in their packets. The PPT emphasis was on mini grants and overall performance reporting concerns tied to the best practices and basic services grants. All grantees met or exceeded their targets but half of the 20 basic services and a couple of the best practices grantees exceeded some of their targets significantly. Ms. Foley brought this to the attention of the Commission because of concerns over the value of reporting if the targets aren't realistic.

Ms. Foley stated that she reached out to a number of other non-profits such as the Fund for Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Foundation, Hutton Parker and the City of Santa Barbara to obtain input on how they conduct performance reporting and monitoring. She added that a group of them were going to get together to discuss common reporting concerns soon. Ms. Foley said she would take Commission Chair Mickiewicz along to the meeting. The one item all funders have in common is a strong application that is meant to depict (upfront), agency and staff capacity, experience, track record, fiscal strength and innovation. If funders obtain strong information on the front end, the thinking is that there will be strong outcomes. The Santa Barbara Foundation requires anecdotes, life-changing stories and photos to tell the stories of success. Commissioner Tade put some of this in place when she worked there. Commissioner Solomon pointed out that First 5 has a singular focus on children 0-5 vs. the Commissions broad reach to all sectors.

There was discussion about how to reflect on the accomplishments of the new 3-year cycle program at the end of the 3-year cycle. The Commission will tabulate results and prepare an end of cycle report and presentation to the BOS. Ms. Foley suggested having a nice handout such as a summary sheet, poster or brochure.

Ms. Foley went over the summer best practices site visits and highlighted each agencies evidence-based practices materials. She obtained copies of all templates including intake, case management materials, EBP assessments from the agencies and offered to share copies upon request. Commissioner Fairfield noted her concern with CALM clients having to wait 3-4 months after intake to talk with a counselor. Commissioner Keator suggested that is a problem for an agency providing emergency services. She further questioned what role the Commission should play in service issues of grantees. Commissioner Fairfield stated there is a shortage of therapists countywide. Other Commissioners reported good outcomes from the site visits. Commissioner Siegel shared that PATH clients are starting to work again in Vons grocery stores.

Commissioner Mickiewicz recommended that the Contract Compliance committee meet to discuss new reporting ideas. Ms. Foley suggested this wait until after the meeting with the other funders about reporting. Commissioner Keator offered to chair Contract Compliance until a meeting is held and a chair selected. The committee will need to eventually prepare the end of cycle report as well.

The Allocations Committee is scheduled to meet at 9:30 a.m. October 6, 2016 (before the regular HSC meeting), to discuss the federal CDBG/ESG November NOFA for FY17-18 in addition to the mini grant NOFA. After some discussion it was decided to send out the mini grant NOFA in November perhaps at the same time as the HCD NOFA but with an earlier deadline of mid-December.

Commissioner Mickiewicz reviewed the budget expansion that went before the Board in June. All Commissioners expressed support for continuing with the new cycle program until we get through a full cycle and can analyze accomplishments. All agreed the shift to evidence-based practices and mini grants were good moves. New supervisors and ongoing supervisors will need briefings about the program and about the need for increased funding to keep up with the cost of living (vs. as a budget expansion).

**Guest:** PATH CEO Joel Roberts and Ron Fox (board member). Lunch guests shared the history and story of the transition of Casa Esperanza to PATH. Mr. Howard had been involved in PATH before moving to Santa Barbara County where he became involved with Casa Esperanza. Before leaving PATH Mr. Howard participated in the hiring of Mr. Roberts to the PATH organization. Staying in touch, they eventually worked together to bring PATH to Santa Barbara. The focus is on shelter plus services vs. having a huge day center like Casa Esperanza had and trying to be all things to all people. PATH is located in 24 jurisdictions from San Diego to San Jose and they continue to grow. One of their successes is working well with the communities and neighborhoods surrounding their shelters. Mr. Roberts said that each facility is focused on staying small and efficient, with a local advisory board and outreach teams. The challenge is to stay on top of the changing priorities for homeless clientele as new programs come into light and old philosophies fade. One example he shared is today's focus on health care issues. PATH has hired a consultant and staff to address the new focus. The strongest support PATH Santa Barbara receives is from the faith-based community. They serve chronically homeless, veterans, families. The biggest challenge is affordable housing. Approximately one-third of clients are mentally ill.

Commissioner Tade presented the Commission with their new website. She had been working throughout the summer with County IT staff and Ms. Foley and Chair Mickiewicz to revamp the HSC website. Pictures from non-profits supported by HSC were a delightful addition. They will continue to be collected by staff and be rotated on the website. Commissioners had pictures taken for the website at the retreat. The final website is expected to be in done before October. The Commission has its own URL (approximately \$250): [SBCountyhumanservices.org](http://SBCountyhumanservices.org)

Ms. Nisich suggested Commissioners in D1 and 3 write a letter expressing desire to stay on the Commission with new Supervisors.

Ms. Nisich provided updates on C3H and the County 211 program. C3H has received awards as a model of coordination and evolved into outreach and service provision (more street outreach). The 211 program is up and running strong again. CAC is the host for the program and they have focused on updating the database. The 211 program is funded 80% by the county.

Commissioner Keator asked Ms. Nisich to elaborate on the process the county uses to evaluate an organizations fiscal strength. Ms. Nisich said that the county uses a risk assessment worksheet and financial review teams to try to ensure the strength of agencies the county funds. Also there is the quarterly reporting that staff oversees. Ms. Foley added that she conducts in person site visits if there is a concern, to meet with the full agency management staff.

The retreat adjourned at 2:00 p.m.