

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, January 22, 2024
2:30 p.m.

Supervisor Nate Miley, Chair
Supervisor Lena Tam

Location: Board of Supervisors' Chambers – Room 512 – 5th fl
County Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612

Summary/Action Minutes

I. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: CalWORKs Public Service Trainee Program [Attachment](#)

Aishah Bashir, Administrative Specialist II, Workforce & Benefits Administration, Social Services Agency, presented a PowerPoint presentation on the CalWORKs Public Service Trainee Program.

The CalWORKs Public Service Trainee Program began as a pilot program in 2014 and it is in its tenth year. The program aims to provide comprehensive training and transitional jobs to help clients secure permanent employment within the county.

The program received over 400 applicants for cohort 10, leading to the hiring of 19 individuals. The program involves a 12-week classroom training covering job readiness, workplace skills, and personal development. Participants then undergo a two-week "waiting room" training before embarking on an 11-month apprenticeship in various county departments.

To date the program has hosted 198 participants, 52 of whom have secured full-time county jobs, with others finding employment outside the county or entering temporary roles. The program's success rate is noted to exceed goals, with participants earning higher starting wages compared to similar programs.

Challenges faced by participants transitioning from poverty to employment include the "cliff effect" where increased income results in the loss of essential benefits. The Agency has developed some strategies to address these barriers, including financial training, support for housing, and mental health services.

Purpose:

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

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

II. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: Refugee Assistance & Supportive Services Program Update [Attachment](#)

Rahman Zamani, Program Specialist, and Shane Rogge, Program Services Coordinator, Workforce & Benefits Administration, Social Services Agency presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Refugee Assistance & Supportive Services Program update.

The Refugee Assistance and Supportive Services Program in Alameda County serves qualified refugees and provides housing, medical and cash-aid services.

The presentation including information on who qualifies as a refugee, the responsibilities of the Social Services Agency in administering refugee programs, types of refugees, public assistance provided, refugee supportive services, and partnerships with community-based organizations.

The presenters discussed enrollment processes, contracts and funding, data on refugee applications and origins, employment services provided, projected refugee arrivals, and the launch of newcomer support websites.

Purpose:

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

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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