

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, July 26, 2021

12:30 p.m.

Supervisor Nate Miley, Chair
Supervisor Richard Valle

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

Summary/Action Minutes

I. Guaranteed Basic Income Overview

[Attachment](#)

[Attachment](#)

[Attachment](#)

Matt Vander Sluis, Director of Policy and Planning, Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative (BARHII), presented a PowerPoint presentation on Guaranteed Basic Income.

BARHII has partnered with Rise Together, the region's coalition of non-profit and community partners, joined the agency as a community arm focused on economic opportunity. The new coalition broadened the reach of both organizations and deepened our ability to address the root causes of social and economic inequities in the region. There are several Guaranteed Income Pilot Programs in the bay area, including San Francisco, Santa Clara and Alameda counties.

Melanie Moore, Chief Executive Officer, Oakland Thrive, Aly Bond, Economic Policy Manager, Oakland Thrive, presented a PowerPoint presentation on Oakland Resilient Families Guaranteed Basic Income Pilot Project.

East Oakland Neighborhood Impact

Three hundred (300) randomly chosen families living with low- incomes in concentrated area are given \$500 per month with no limitations on its use. This advances strategies to eliminate racial disparities in economic stability, mobility, and assets and invest in families.

Anissa B.-Villarreal, Assistant Agency Director, Government & Community Relations, Social Services Agency and Valerie Kane, Management Analyst, Government & Community Relations, Social Services Agency presented a PowerPoint presentation on the various Guaranteed Basic Income Programs in the County.

II. Advancing Careers for Low-Income Families

Brittany Birken, Principal Adviser, Community and Economic Development, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta presented a PowerPoint presentation on Advancing Careers for Low-Income Families.

The Atlanta Fed's Advancing Careers initiative works to improve economic mobility and resilience by identifying how benefits cliffs and other structural barriers create financial disincentives to career advancement. Conducting research, developing tools, and analyzing solutions on mechanisms for reducing barriers to economic mobility and resilience. Engaging in partnerships to support community and state efforts to improve economic security for families.

Purpose:

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

This item was informational only and required no Committee action.

III. Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Update

[Attachment](#)

Sylvia Soublet, Executive Program Manager, Social Services Agency and Charles Sanchez, VITA Program Coordinator presented a PowerPoint presentation on the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program.

For the 19th consecutive year, Alameda County Social Services operated a successful tax season. Over 69 volunteers from throughout the County participated in assisting low to moderate income individuals and families with preparation of their tax return. In addition, our program successfully assisted Santa Rita incarcerated tax-filers file a tax return to obtain stimulus payments they were entitled to. All services are free of charge.

In total, our volunteers contributed over 3695 hours to VITA while braving a pandemic and weathering significant changes to the tax code mid-season. This is equivalent to 92 full-time work weeks (40 hours). While operating using a considerably different service model consisting of a virtual preparation process, the VITA program was able to e-file 2,276 federal tax returns and 1,943 state returns. This resulted in over \$7 million of federal refunds and credits returned to our communities and over \$1 million from the state tax board. Overall, the team filed 47.9% more returns compared to last year.

Purpose:

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

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PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

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