



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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Executive Director
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Commission Secretary
TINA PHAN

SPECIAL MEETING TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

Thursday, June 18, 2020
500 West Temple Street, Room 374-A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Please note this is a summary of the meeting not a “verbatim” transcription.

Roll Call/Commissioners Present:

Booker Pearson (Chair)
Yvonne Chan
Frank G. De Balogh
Raúl Estrada
Sue ElHessen
Joe Brown

Adele Andrade-Stadler (Vice-Chair)
Michael Flood
Mary Galvan Rosas
Lori Stein
Veronica Lewis
Paige Pelonis

Commissioners Excused:

Egerton Forster

Michael Bloom

1.0 CALL TO ORDER / ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Booker Pearson, Chair

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. and proceeded informationally. A quorum was established at 10:05 a.m.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Antonia Jiménez, DPSS
Julia Almanzan, County Counsel
Jonathan Taylor, NAEJA

Commission Staff:

La France Toliver
Tina Phan

Chairperson Pearson welcomed Commissioner Paige Pelonis to the PSS Commission. Ms. Pelonis provided a brief bio on herself and stated she was happy to be apart the Commission.

2.0 REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 20, 2020 COMMISSION MEETING

Booker Pearson, Chair

MOTION: Commissioner Stein moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Chan seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: A. Andrade-Stadler – Y; R. Estrada – Y; M. Flood – A; B. Pearson – Y; Y. Chan – Y; M. Galvin Rosas; L. Stein – Y; V. Lewis – A; S. Elhessen – Y; P. Pelonis – A; J. Brown – A; and F. De Balogh – Y.

ACTION: The February 20, 2020, PSS Commission Minutes were approved by majority vote (8) Yeas and (4) Abstentions.

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT (Non-Agenda Items)

Booker Pearson, Chair

Ms. Toliver read one (1) email comment submitted by Mr. Jonathan Taylor a justice advocate from the National Association for Equal Justice in America (NAEJA) Civil Rights Association. “He wanted to address the commission regarding two letters to the Department in reference to work conditions at Special Office #08.” This email was received on June 17, 2020 at 1:45 p.m. No further information was provided before the 5 p.m. deadline on June 17, 2020.

4.0 DIRECTOR’S UPDATE

Antonia Jiménez, Director

Ms. Jiménez provided Departmental updates on the following topics:

County/State Budget; State and Federal Waivers/Policy Changes; Implementation of EBT On-Line Purchasing; Issuance of Provisional Emergency Allotments; Issuance of Pandemic Emergency Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) State Program; Impact on Unemployment Insurance benefits (UIB); CalWORKs/CalFresh/Medi-Cal Applications Received; Meeting Increased Demands; DPSS’ Role with Project Roomkey, Updates on the DPSS Strategic Plan, ABAWDS and the development plan for reopening DPSS offices.

Follow up Actions: Department to provide an update on TSE program. Will it be subject to budget cuts? The Department will share data on whether Child Care funds are being accessed by the community since there is an increase in funding and Child Care facilities are struggling due to closure (Commissioner Lewis).

Follow up Actions (Cont.)

- Department to provide a list of Trailer Bills are that will impact the Department (Commissioner Chan).
- How much funding was set aside for Immigrant Seniors? (Vice-Chair Andrade-Stadler).
- The Department to provide data on new applications: processing time, approved, denied, approval rate by programs. Applications approved/denied by ethnicity. (Commissioner De Balogh). Department to send May At-a Glance (Commissioner De Balogh/Brown). Request for P-EBT data from the State and website link for families that wish to file (Commissioner Brown).
- Request for the Department to host a call with homeless services providers. There was a request to know if DPSS has released a public statement concerning the civil protests to the community/or to its employees (Commissioner Lewis).
- Requested agenda item for the next meeting on Commission oversight of social services during the pandemic by establishing an ad-hoc committee to systematically review data provided to the commission by the Department (Commissioner De Balogh).
- Request to discuss Commission By-laws and procedural processes (Commissioner Lewis).

Ms. Jiménez recognized Commissioner Flood and his organization, the Regional Food Bank, for all their efforts to supply the community with needed food during this pandemic. “He has provided enormous leadership and I want to publicly thank him and acknowledged his work.”

Chairperson Pearson concurred with Ms. Jiménez regarding Commissioner Flood and thanked the Department for their efforts assisting the LA County residents in need with CalFresh benefits.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT

This meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.