



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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JANET K. BEAUTZ
FIRST DISTRICT

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SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 2/6/01

January 30, 2001

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: ANNUAL, REPORT OF THE HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Dear Members of the Board:

Attached is the Annual Report of the Human Services Commission for calendar year 2000. I recommend that the Board accept and file this report and direct the Chairman to thank the members of the Commission for their efforts on the County's behalf.

Sincerely,

TONY CAMPOS, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

TC:ted

cc: Human Services Commission

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County of Santa Cruz

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

(408) 454-5459
FAX (408) 454-4642
1000 Emeline St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060

January 26, 2001

Tony Campos, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

2000 ANNUAL REPORT - HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Dear Chairperson Campos:

The Human Services Commission is pleased to forward our 2000 Annual Report which was approved by the Commission at our regular meeting on January 17, 2001. The report summarizes our activities and accomplishments during reporting year 2000, and outlines our major goals and priorities for the upcoming year.

Very truly yours,

Phyllis Wasserstrom

PHYLLIS WASSERSTROM
Chairperson

PW/GM
Attachment

cc: Cecilia Espinola, HRA Administrator

County of Santa Cruz
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

2000 Annual Report

January, 200 1

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
2000 ANNUAL REPORT**

I. ROLE OF THE COMMISSION

As established in Ordinance 4106, the Human Services Commission exercises the following responsibilities in its efforts to ensure the highest quality and maximum effectiveness of human services provided for the benefit of the citizens of the county:

- A. Guide long-term planning regarding meeting the socioeconomic needs of low income, disabled, disadvantaged, and at-risk people in Santa Cruz County;
- B. Advise the County Board of Supervisors on policies and priorities that affect the socio-economic needs of low income, disabled, disadvantaged, and at-risk people;
- C. Provide advice and counsel to the administrator and senior management of the Human Resources Agency on best practices in the operation of the agency's programs;
- D. Provide a forum for citizens affected by county human services programs and policies;
- E. Advise the Board of Supervisors on funding decisions affecting the socioeconomic needs of low income, disabled, and disadvantaged people, including county allocation of resources to county programs and community programs funding;
- F. Integrate efforts and initiatives affecting the socioeconomic needs of the poor which cross departmental, divisional, and interest group lines;
- G. Advise the Board of Supervisors on legislative matters concerning the County human services programs.

II. MEETING DATES, TIME AND LOCATION

During Reporting Year 2000, regular meetings were held on the third Wednesday of each month, except for April, August and December, when the scheduled meetings were canceled. The Commission's meeting location was the conference room of the United Way of Santa Cruz County, 1220 41st Avenue, Capitola, with the exception of the March and July meetings which were held in Watsonville at the One-Stop Career Center and La Manzana, respectively. The Commission very much appreciates the United Way's generosity in making its facility available. The 2001 regular meetings

will continue to be held monthly on the third Wednesday of each month (or the fourth Wednesday if the third Wednesday is a County-observed holiday) from 8 to 10 a.m. at the United Way Conference Room, unless another meeting site is designated.

III. COMMISSION STRUCTURE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Human Services Commission consists of 10 members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. As of December 2000, the members of the Human Services Commission included: **First District:** Toni Campbell; **Second District:** Stephanie Camacho; **Third District:** Marilyn Moore and Phyllis Wasserstrom (Commission Chairperson); **Fourth District:** Mary Carlon and Linda Mower; and **Fifth District:** Ann Russell and Evelyn Hengeveld-Bidmon. There remains a vacant seat in both the First District and the Second District.

IV. COMMISSION STAFF

The Commission was staffed by Cecilia Espinola, Human Resources Agency Administrator, and Gary McNeil, Senior Human Resources Agency Analyst, throughout the entire year.

V. ATTENDANCE

Roster attached.

VI. ANNUAL GOALS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Welfare Reform and Related Issues. In 2000, the Human Services Commission continued to play an ongoing role in reviewing and commenting on the latter stages of Santa Cruz County's implementation of welfare reform, which was initiated in January 1998. At the Commission's monthly meetings, staff reports were given on the progress of welfare reform legislation and planning, and its implications for the State of California and the County of Santa Cruz. Commissioners discussed these issues in detail at each meeting, and provided the HRA Administrator with their thoughts and ideas regarding the implementation of welfare reform in our community. At the Commission's March meeting the Commission reviewed and approved the draft Workforce Investment Plan for implementation of the Workforce Investment Act in the County. In June, a subcommittee of the Commission sponsored a community wide planning meeting regarding the County's Community Service Program. The suggestions of the planning group were quite instrumental in the development the County's Community Service Plan, which was approved by the state in November. At the October meeting, the Commission was given a report by the Cabrillo LADDERS Project, regarding its initiative to provide job training related literacy services to limited English speaking CalWORKs participants.

Community Programs and Latino Equity. In the spring of 2000 the Commission continued its role in assisting the Board in assuring culturally appropriate services to **Latino** families under 200% of poverty level. The Commission participated in the County's ongoing efforts to improve funding and services to **Latino** residents of the County, working with HRA and the **Latino** Affairs Commission to develop recommendations for the allocation of **Latino** Equity funds. Commissioners utilized an objective criteria for rating applications for **Latino** Equity funding and incorporated changes into the review process which had been suggested the year before. The Commission was pleased to note that, during the June budget hearings, the Board allocated more than \$200,000 in new funding for services to the **Latino** community.

The Human Services Commission will continue to play an active role in Community Programs and **Latino** Equity issues in 2001, and will make recommendations to the Board as appropriate.

Child Care Developer Fees Loan Evaluations and Recommendations.

The Commission is charged with developing recommendations to assist the Board of Supervisors in allocating child care fees collected under the Child Care Fees and Exactions Ordinance. A working committee including members of the Human Services Commission, members of the Children's Commission, and County staff, reviews and evaluates the applications based on the guidelines and criteria approved by the Board. Based on the committee's evaluations, the Human Services Commission develops recommendations which are presented to the Board of Supervisors and utilized by the Board in making its decisions for distribution of the funds to child care centers and day care homes. Applications were received in the fall of 2000 and the Commission anticipates recommending an allocation of \$111,000 to six child care programs. It is anticipated the recommended loans will be approved by the Board of Supervisors in early 2001.

Ongoing Review and Input on Human Services Programs & Issues. On a regular basis, the Commission receives reports and briefings in order to stay informed concerning Human Resources Agency programs, human services community programs and significant issues affecting disadvantaged people in the County. In 2000, the Commission received monthly reports on welfare reform from the HRA Administrator, as well as a number of briefings by various HRA staff regarding specific aspects of welfare reform. In May 2000 the Commission sponsored a panel discussion on Gaps in Healthcare for low income members of the community. The Commission heard from representatives of the Health Services Agency, the Central Coast Alliance for Health, the Human Resources Agency, and Dientes. After the presentations, the Commission formulated a list of goals for closing these healthcare gaps, which have been considered in determining the group's ongoing work plan. Also in May, the Commission reviewed the revised General Assistance Regulations, and recommended their approval to the

Board of Supervisors. In July, the Commission heard from the directors of HRA's Adults and Families Division, and the CareerWorks Divisions regarding current initiatives and challenges facing the agency.

VII. FUTURE GOALS

In 2001, the Commission expects to carry out activities including, but not limited to, the following:

- Continuing active participation in the final stages of welfare reform implementation planning and evaluation;
- Encouraging the expansion of available and underutilized social services programs such as Healthy Families, Medi-Cal and Food Stamps;
- Actively participating in other initiatives which will coordinate with HRA services, such as implementation of the Workforce Investment Act and the efforts of the Children and Families (Proposition 10) Commission;
- Continuing the Commission's role in the Child Care Developer Fees and Community Programs funding allocation processes, including the development of funding guidelines for supplemental funding;
- Continued review of **Latino** Equity issues and consideration of strategies to respond to newly emerging and newly recognized service needs; and
- Continued consideration of the outlook and issues for human services programs in the coming decade.

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