



County of Santa Cruz

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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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JANET K. BEAUTZ
FIRST DISTRICT

ELLEN PIRIE
SECOND DISTRICT

MARDI WORMHOUDT
THIRD DISTRICT

TONY CAMPOS
FOURTH DISTRICT

JEFF ALMQUIST
FIFTH DISTRICT

AGENDA: 1/29/02

January 22, 2002

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 2001. I recommend that the Board accept and file this report and direct the Chairperson to thank the members of the Commission for their efforts on the County's behalf.

Sincerely,


JANET K. BEAUTZ, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors

JKB:ted

cc: Human Services Commission

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County of Santa Cruz

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HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

(408) 454-5459

FAX (408) 454-4642

1000 Emeline St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060

January 18, 2002

Jan Beautz, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors
County of Santa Cruz
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

2001 ANNUAL REPORT - HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Dear Chairperson Beautz:

The Human Services Commission is pleased to forward our 2001 Annual Report which was approved by the Commission at our regular meeting on January 16, 2001. The report summarizes our activities and accomplishments during reporting year 2001, and outlines our major goals and priorities for the upcoming year.

Very truly yours,

PHYLLIS WASSERSTROM, Chair
Human Services Commission

PW/GM
Attachment

cc: Cecilia Espinola, HRA Administrator

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION 2001 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 socio-economic 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 socio-economic 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 socio-economic 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 2001, regular meetings were held on the third Wednesday of each month, except for July, when the scheduled meeting was canceled, and September, due to the postponement of that meeting to October 3, 2001. The Commission's usual meeting location was the conference room of the United Way of Santa Cruz County, 1220 41st Avenue, Capitola. The February and August meetings were held in Watsonville, and the October 3, 2001 meeting took place in Santa Cruz. The Commission very much appreciates the United Way's generosity in making its facility available. The 2002 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 2001, the members of the Human Services Commission included: **First District:** Toni Campbell and Laura Grossman; **Second District:** Stephanie Camacho and Nancy Pringle; **Third District:** Marilyn Moore and Phyllis Wasserstrom (Commission Chairperson); **Fourth District:** Mary Carlon and Linda Mower; and **Fifth District:** Judi Sherman. One Fifth District seat is vacant.

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

Community Programs. In 2001, much of the Commission's energies were devoted to a review of Community Programs in order to better evaluate the types of services provided, the populations served, and whether the services address service goals which have been established by the community. To this end, the Commission reviewed and summarized six different published community goal statements, including the Community Assessment Project and the Latino Strategic Plan. With the assistance of HRA staff, the Commission generated data on the types of services provided by Community Programs and the populations served. For comparison purposes, in February the Commission received a report on the Proposition 10 Children and Families Commission funding process, and how priorities were determined and funding was awarded. In April and May, the Commission also participated in the review and evaluation of Latino Equity requests, and forwarded recommendations to the Board. In response to direction from the Board of Supervisors, the Commission assisted HRA staff in the development of materials for a Study Session on Community Programs to take place in November. The Commission devoted its fall meetings to this effort, and in August it held a panel discussion on the history of Community Programs. In October, the two meetings were held, the first focusing on the growth of funding to Community Programs over the last ten years, and the second identifying how Community Programs address community-wide social service goals. The information developed at this meeting was the basis of a model demonstration

and Power Point presentation, which was well received by the Board and public alike at the November 6th Board meeting. The Human Services Commission is committed to play an active role in Community Programs issues in 2002, and will make recommendations to the Board as appropriate.

Legislative Review and Recommendations. In 2001, the Human Services Commission considered a number of legislative proposals and suggested a position pro or con for the Board of Supervisors to consider. In March the Commission reviewed **AB 130** (Cardenas), the Family Panning Access and Treatment Program, and recommended its support. In April, the Commission supported a proposal put forth by the Cabrillo College Counselors to extend the time periods for CalWORKs participants to complete welfare to work related educational programs.

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 mandated 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 family day care homes. Applications were received in the fall of 2001 and the Commission anticipates making its recommendations to the Board of Supervisors in the February 2002 meeting.

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, Community Programs, and significant issues affecting disadvantaged people in the County. In 2001, the Commission received monthly reports on the ongoing progress of CalWORKs implementation from the HRA Administrator, as well as current funding and policy developments on the state and federal level concerning welfare reform. The Commission also received regular reports on the HRA's efforts to increase the wages of In Home Supportive Service (**IHSS**) workers, and the establishment of the Public Authority in Santa Cruz County. In May 2001, the Commission received a comprehensive report from the Adult Services Division on the status of services to **MSS** consumers, and the need for increased wage support for **MSS** workers to enhance the quality of care provided. Through monthly staff reports, the Commission also was advised of HRA outreach efforts to the low-income community to promote utilization of energy assistance programs, Healthy Families and Medi-Cal, nutrition services, and the earned income tax credit. Additionally the Commission was briefed on efforts to establish a Living Wage in Santa Cruz County, initiatives to promote transitional and affordable housing, as well as state and local social services budget proposals. In December, the Commission reviewed

revised General Assistance Regulations, and recommended their approval to the Board of Supervisors for FY 02-03.

VII. FUTURE GOALS

In 2002, the Commission expects to carry out activities including, but not limited to, the following:

- Ongoing monitoring of CalWORKs and the results of four years of welfare reform implementation, as well as the potential impacts of state budget reductions and federal TANF reauthorization in September, 2002;
- Encouraging outreach efforts and the expansion of available and underutilized social services programs such as Healthy Families, Medi-Cal, Food Stamps, and the earned Income Tax Credit;
- Providing advice and counsel to the HRA Administrator and senior management regarding best practices in the operation of the agency's programs, including review of General Assistance Regulations, Adults Services Program, and Foster Parent outreach;
- Continuing the Commission's role in review of the Child Care Developer Fees funding recommendations, and Community Programs funding allocation processes, including the development of funding guidelines for supplemental funding; and
- Continued review of issues affecting the low-income community, and consideration of strategies to respond to newly emerging and newly recognized service needs.

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HUMAN SERVICE COMMISSION ATTENDANCE FOR 2001

District - Commissioner	Jan. 17	Feb. 21	Mar. 21	Apr. 8	May 16	Jun. 20	July No Mtg. Held	Aug. 22	Sept. No Mtg. put over until 10/3	Oct. 3	Oct. 17	Nov. 28	Dec. 19
1 st Toni Campbell	X	X	A	X	X	X	No	X	No	X	X	X	A
1 st Laura Grossman	Vacant Seat			X	X	X	-	X	-	X	X	X	X
2 nd Stephanie Carnacho	X	X	X	A	X	A	M	X	M	X	X	X	X
2 nd Nancy Pringle	Vacant Seat			Resigned Seat			e	X	e	X	X	X	A
3 rd Marilyn Moore	X	X	X	X	X	X	e	X	e	X	A	X	X
3 rd Phyllis Wassestrom	X	X	X	X	A	X	t	X	t	X	X	X	X
4 th Mary Carlson	X	X	X	X	A	X	i	X	i	A	A	X	X
4 th Linda Mower	X	X	X	X	X	X	n	X	n	A	X	X	A
5 th Evelyn Hengeveld-Bidmon	A	X	A	X	A	X	g	A	g	Resigned Seat/Vacant			
5 th Ann Russell	A	X	X	A	Resigned Seat								
5 th Judi Sherman	Resigned Seat												

X - Present

* - Meeting adjourned due to lack of quorum

E - Excused Absence

A - Unexcused Absence

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