

**SAN FRANCISCO HUMAN SERVICES NETWORK**  
**Compilation of HSN updates sent by e-mail**  
**January through April 2009**

---

**HSN member meeting 1/16 and other important upcoming dates**  
**January 13, 2009**

**(A) JANUARY 16 MEMBER MEETING**

Please join us for HSN's first member meeting of the year! This will be an important meeting, and we hope to see as many of our member organizations represented there as possible. The meeting is on **Friday, January 16, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 214 Van Ness (x-Hayes), 1st floor conference room.**

We have two important agenda items at this meeting:

(1) We will host our newly-elected District 9 **Supervisor David Campos**. (Since HSN did candidate forums in the districts of the three other freshmen Supervisors, Sup. Campos is the only new Board member who has not yet been to an HSN meeting.)

(2) We need your presence for a crucial discussion focused on the health and human service nonprofit sector's **strategy for this year's budget process**. HSN's Steering Committee has been discussing the impacts of a potential 30% cut to city funding for services, and how to protect as many services as possible for the vulnerable populations that depend on them.

While we continue to advocate for protection of vital safety net services, some cuts are inevitable. With the city facing a general fund deficit of half a billion dollars, it would not be a stretch to say that between the mid-year and next fiscal year cuts, we could lose \$70 million in city funding for our services. What will our service system look like if this happens? How should we approach this? Is there a better approach beyond either cutting entire modalities or making across-the-board cuts? What can our sector do to mitigate the impact of the cuts? What should the guiding principles be? And should we wait for the city to tell us what they are cutting, or come up with a plan of our own?

Please join this conversation! We all need to bring the wisdom, experience and power of our sector together as we move forward into this challenging year!

(One final note about the member meeting. In the past, we have always had refreshments at our monthly meetings. Unfortunately, we no longer have the capability to take on the catering tasks that are involved in putting out that spread of food! We thank the LightHouse for doing all the hard work for the past few years, and they will continue to put on a pot of coffee for us. Otherwise, perhaps in the spirit of the new austerity, please *bring your own breakfast!*)

**(B) OTHER IMPORTANT DATES**

Please see the HSN calendar at [http://www.sfhsn.org/news\\_calendar.htm](http://www.sfhsn.org/news_calendar.htm) for other upcoming dates.

Most importantly, Commissions are beginning to hold public hearings on the proposed FY 2009-10 budgets. So far, we have dates up for the Department of Human Services and the Department of Aging and Adult Services. **The DHS Commission will hold its first hearing on Wed., January 14, 9:30 a.m. at Born Auditorium, 170 Otis.** Budgets are due to the Mayor's Office by February 20.

---

**Board hearing to reverse mid-year cuts 1/27, and other dates this week**  
**January 23, 2009**

There are a lot of important hearings this week, as the Board of Supervisors tries to reverse mid-year cuts to crucial safety net services, and departments begin holding hearings on proposed FY 2009-10 budgets.

**(1) BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Tuesday, January 27, 2 p.m., City Hall, Board Chambers**

The full Board will hold a public hearing (with public comment) and vote on whether to adopt a "negative supplemental" ordinance that will provide funding to create a Safety Net Stabilization Reserve. (For background information, see the HSN update page on our website at [http://www.sfhsn.org/news\\_newsupdate.htm](http://www.sfhsn.org/news_newsupdate.htm).) They will also vote on whether to hold a special election in June, which would provide an opportunity for the voters to weigh in ballot measures to increase revenues.

*This is our last and best chance to stop the mid-year cuts to public health and human services!*

The Coalition to Save Public Health will hold a rally on the City Hall steps at 1 p.m.

The hearing starts at 2 p.m. We need to **turn out and speak up** to save services! (Please let me know if you plan to go.)

We also encourage you to identify yourself as a member of the Human Services Network when you speak.

**(2) HSN PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE, Wed., 1/28, 10 a.m., Progress Foundation, 368 Fell St. (x-Octavia)**

This meeting is open to all current members of HSN. We will continue our discussion of budget strategy.

**(3) COMMISSION HEARINGS ON THE BUDGET THIS WEEK**

Commission on the Status of Women, Wed., 1/28, 5 pm, City Hall, Rm. 408

Human Services Commission - Thurs., 1/29, 9:30 a.m., Born Auditorium, 170 Otis

Juvenile Probation Commission, Th. 1/29, 5:30 p.m., City Hall, Rm. 408  
(Discussing both the mid-year cuts and the FY 2009-10 budget)

**(4) NEW HSN WEB PAGE: BUDGET CENTRAL**

I've just launched a new page on the HSN website. You'll find "Budget Central: FY 2009-10" at: <http://www.sfhsn.org/Budget2009-10.htm>

This page is a centralized resource for all budget information related to health and human services, including hearings, department memo's, advocacy documents, and more.

---

**Hearings, etc. this week; DAAS and DPH budget memos and hearings  
February 2, 2009**

**(1) BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: Tuesday, February 3, 2 p.m., City Hall, Board Chambers**

Last week, the Board sent the negative supplemental back to the Budget and Finance Committee for further consideration. The lack of action on the proposal means that it cannot pass in time to stop the mid-year budget cuts on February 20. However, it may be helpful to address any further mid-year cuts to community-based services, so we will continue to watch it.

The Board passed legislation on first reading that calls for a special June election and revenue measures. The measure passed with eight votes. They must vote again at this week's meeting on February 3 (items

10-12 on the agenda, posted at [http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs\\_page.asp?id=97666](http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_page.asp?id=97666)). The proposed legislation (<http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/bdsupvrs/bosagendas/materials/090106.pdf>) includes a long list of potential revenue measures, and the Board must make its final decisions for the ballot by March 6.

## **(2) COMMISSION HEARINGS ON THE BUDGET THIS WEEK**

DAAS Finance Committee: Tu. 2/3, 2 p.m., 1650 Mission St., 5th Fl.

Consideration of the FY 2009-10 budget. (Full Commission 2/11 and 2/18.)

See HSN Budget Central web page for Finance Committee documents (budget memo and impacts on service delivery). These documents summarize the proposed DAAS cuts, with more detail expected on 2/11.

Health Commission: Tu. 2/3, 4 p.m., 101 Grove St., 3rd Fl.

Finance Commission will meet at 2 p.m. in Room 220 or 302 to discuss budget principles.

See <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/hc/HCFinance/agendas/HCA02032009.pdf>.

Full Commission will hear a presentation on the budget and begin discussion.

See <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/hc/HCAgen/HCAgen2009/HCA02032009.pdf> (agenda).

See <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/budget/files/FY2009-101stBudgMtg/DirMsgySum200910Budg.pdf> (budget memo).

DPH must cut about \$100 million in general fund spending. This first memo identifies new revenues, inflationary and regulatory increases, structural budget issues, and \$18.7 million in reductions (including significant cuts to behavioral health contracts), but addresses only the first \$21 million of the target. Additional reductions will be proposed at the 2/17 hearing.

DCYF Commission: Wed. 2/4, 5:30 p.m., 1390 Market St. #318 - discussion only.

See [http://www.first5sf.org/commission/09\\_020409a.pdf](http://www.first5sf.org/commission/09_020409a.pdf).

DCYF Citizen's Advisory Committee (advises DCYF on the use of the Children's Fund): Th. 2/5 5:30 p.m., 1390 Market St. #900 - discussion and action on the FY 2009-10 budget. See <http://www.dcyf.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=3498>.

## **(3) BUDGET CENTRAL**

Keep an eye on HSN's Budget Central web page for updates. I've been posting things almost daily whenever I receive them.

See <http://www.sfhsn.org/Budget2009-10.htm>.

## **(4) GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR BUDGET REDUCTION STRATEGIES**

HSN has developed a set of recommended principles as the City moves to address the projected \$576 million deficit. These guidelines apply to the short-term crisis, while calling for a longterm strategy to ensure the longterm sustainability of our service system. The document is available at [http://www.sfhsn.org/documents/hsn\\_iss\\_budg\\_hsnprinc\\_02-02-09.pdf](http://www.sfhsn.org/documents/hsn_iss_budg_hsnprinc_02-02-09.pdf).

---

### **City budget updates**

**February 10, 2009**

#### **(1) Budget hearings and documents**

Budget hearings this week:

DAAS Commission: Wed. 2/11, 9:30 a.m., 170 Otis, Born Auditorium

Juvenile Probation Commission: Wed. 2/11, 5:30 p.m., City Hall Rm. 408

DHS Commission: Th. 2/12, 9:30 a.m., 170 Otis, Born Auditorium

DCYF Citizen's Advisory Committee: Th. 2/12, 6 p.m., 1390 Market #900

I've updated the HSN Budget Central web page at <http://www.sfhsn.org/Budget2009-10.htm> with links to agendas, and any available budget memo's (including new documents for DAAS and DCYF). The DHS documents for 2/12 are not available yet, but there's a link where you can check for it.

The Health Commission will hold its second budget hearing on Tues. 2/17, 4 p.m. at 101 Grove, 3rd Floor. The budget documents are usually posted on Friday night before the hearing, but sometimes as late as Monday. Check for them at <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/budget/>.

## (2) Status of the city budget

Greg Wagner of the Mayor's Budget Office presented an update to the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee last week.

They have closed the current year shortfall with about \$115 million in mid-year cuts, including 712 city layoffs. This brings the projected FY 2009-10 budget deficit down from \$576 million to \$460 million.

He presented a snapshot of the plan so far to address the deficit, though he acknowledged it is full of uncertainties:

Baseline budget cuts (12.5%)	\$144 million
Contribution requested from labor	\$90 million
Use of Rainy Day fund	\$49 million

This leaves a remaining gap of \$177 million. The Mayor has asked departments to propose an additional \$144 million in contingency cuts. Other solutions would involve revenues, efficiencies, and additional mid-year cuts.

There are a lot of wild cards in the scenario, including the loss of state funding (the projected deficit includes a \$72 million placeholder, but this could change), labor unions' willingness to forgo raises included in their MOUs, and the economy (the Controller's 6-month report should be out this week).

## (3) Board Budget Committee

The Board Budget Committee will meet on Wed. 2/11 at 10 a.m. in the Board Chambers to hear additional budget updates. They will also consider several revenue measures for the June special election. See the agenda at [http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs\\_page.asp?id=98101](http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_page.asp?id=98101).

## (4) HSN February member meeting and Public Policy Committee

Our monthly member meeting is on Friday, February 20, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 214 Van Ness. This month, we are hosting a panel of department heads: Dr. Mitch Katz of DPH, Anne Hinton of DAAS, Noelle Simmons (HSA Policy and Planning Director, attending for Trent Rhorer), and Maria Su (DCYF).

Since Trent can't attend, he will join us for a conversation at our Public Policy Committee meeting, which takes place on Wed. February 25, 10 a.m. at the Progress Foundation, 368 Fell St.

## (5) HSN member dues

The annual dues letter and membership form are now posted on our website at [http://www.sfhsn.org/getinvolved\\_membership.htm](http://www.sfhsn.org/getinvolved_membership.htm). The dues form can also be used for personal contributions. We thank you all for your support!

---

**City budget hearings and calendar items this week  
February 17, 2009**

## (1) CITY BUDGET HEARINGS

The **Health Commission** meets at 4 p.m. today at 101 Grove St., 3rd Floor. The agenda is posted at <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/hc/HCAgen/HCAgen2009/HCA0021709.pdf>. They will consider approval of the baseline budget for FY 2009-10. The budget memo with the second round of reductions is posted at: <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/budget/files/FY2009-102ndBudgMtg/DirMsgySum200910Budg02.pdf>.

The **Dept. of Aging and Adult Services Commission** voted to forward the proposed budget to the Mayor at their 2/11 meeting. They will not meet on 2/18, as previously announced.

Last week's **Juvenile Probation Commission** meeting was cancelled due to lack of a quorum. Their Finance Committee will meet on Wed. 2/18, 2 pm at 1375 Woodside, Rm. 247 (agenda at [http://sfgov.org/site/juvprobation\\_page.asp?id=97997](http://sfgov.org/site/juvprobation_page.asp?id=97997)). The full Commission will hold a special meeting to approve the budget on Thursday, 2/19, 5:30 pm at City Hall, Rm. 263 (agenda at [http://sfgov.org/site/juvprobation\\_page.asp?id=98853](http://sfgov.org/site/juvprobation_page.asp?id=98853)).

## (2) AT THE BOARD THIS WEEK

The Board Budget Committee will meet on Wed. 2/18 at 11 a.m. in the Board Chambers. The agenda is available at [http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs\\_page.asp?id=98672](http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_page.asp?id=98672). It includes continuing discussion of possible revenue measures (gross receipts tax, and an increase in the vehicle license fee should the state pass legislation that would allow local governments to submit this tax to the voters). However, it appears likely that the proposed June election will be delayed.

In addition, the Committee will hear budget updates, and the Controller will present the 6-month budget status report, which you can find at [http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/controller/reports/FY\\_2008-09\\_6-Month\\_Report-FINAL.pdf](http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/controller/reports/FY_2008-09_6-Month_Report-FINAL.pdf).

On Thursday, the Board's Rules Committee will consider several proposed Charter Amendments for the ballot: allowing the city to use more of the Rainy Day Fund (Daly), requiring that one-time revenues be used only for one-time uses (Elsbernd, Chu), and reforming set-asides by setting a dollar cap, authorizing reductions during fiscal shortfalls and waiver during emergencies, and other changes (Mirkarimi, Chiu and Elsbernd). The agenda is at [http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs\\_page.asp?id=98826](http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_page.asp?id=98826).

## (3) HSN MEMBER MEETING THIS WEEK

Our monthly member meeting is on **Friday, February 20, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 214 Van Ness**. We are hosting a department head panel with Dr. Mitch Katz (DPH), Anne Hinton (DAAS), Maria Su (DCYF), and Noelle Simmons (DHS, attending for Trent Rhorer).

Since Trent can't attend, he will join us for a conversation at our Public Policy Committee meeting on Wed. 2/25, 10 a.m. at the Progress Foundation, 368 Fell St.

---

## **HSN Public Policy Committee 2/25, other dates February 23, 2009**

### (1) HSN Public Policy Committee

The Public Policy Committee will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, 2/25, 10 am to 12 noon at the Progress Foundation, 368 Fell St. Meetings of this Committee are open to all HSN members that paid dues in 2008 or 2009. These meetings provide members with an opportunity to discuss current issues in greater depth, and to bring new issues to HSN's attention. Please RSVP to [debbilerman@sfhnsn.org](mailto:debbilerman@sfhnsn.org) so we know how many are coming.

This meeting will feature a conversation with Human Services Agency Director Trent Rhorer, who will join us at 11 am.

## (2) Budget news

There are no major budget-related hearings this week. Most departments have approved their proposed budgets and sent them to the Mayor by the 2/20 deadline.

The Department of Public Health has held two hearings, and will need at least one (and possibly two) more. They will meet on Tuesday, March 3 at 4 pm, 101 Grove St., 3rd Floor. The agenda should be posted by the end of the week at <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/hc/nextMeeting.asp>. The third budget memo should also be posted in advance of the meeting (typically after 5 pm Friday, but sometimes earlier) on the DPH home page (<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/default.asp>), the budget page (<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/budget/default.asp>) or both.

New on the HSN Budget Central page (<http://www.sfhsn.org/Budget2009-10.htm>): a link to a summary of the state's 2009 Budget Act Package.

---

## **Budget updates and hearings for week of March 2-6 March 2, 2009**

### **(1) COMMUNITY BUDGET TOWN HALL -- TONIGHT!**

The Coalition to Save Public Health is holding a **Community Budget Town Hall on Monday, March 2, 6 to 8 pm** at the First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin Street (x-Geary). Board Budget Committee Chair John Avalos, other supervisors, city department heads, and community groups will discuss solutions to the city's fiscal crisis. This event is open to the public!

### **(2) DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

So far, DPH has developed proposals to address about \$60 million of its \$100 million budget reduction target. This proposal includes about \$27 million from a temporary increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage, and a long list of cuts. Together they comprise the \$50 million baseline budget cut and \$10 million towards the contingency target. Links to DPH budget documents can be found on the HSN Budget Central page at <http://www.sfhsn.org/Budget2009-10.htm>.

DPH will bring the \$40 million in remaining budget cuts to the Health Commission at their March 17 meeting. At the March 3 meeting, the Commission will review and approve the baseline budget. They will consider all proposed in view of revised budget reduction principles that they adopted on February 17.

See the principles at:

<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/hc/HCPinciples2Guide%20BudgReducRev02172009.pdf>

The **Finance Committee will meet at 2pm on Tuesday, March 3** at 101 Grove, Room 302 or 220. CFO Gregg Sass will present the budget package, and the Committee will discuss it in detail. See the agenda at:

<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/hc/HCFinance/agendas/HCF03032009.pdf>.

The **full Commission will meet at 4pm** in Room 300, and will consider a resolution approving the baseline budget. The agenda is at:

<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/hc/HCAgen/HCAgen2009/HCA03032009.pdf>.

### **(3) BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

The **Board Budget Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 4, 11 am** in City Hall Rm. 250 (Board

Chambers). The agenda ([http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs\\_page.asp?id=99759](http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_page.asp?id=99759)) includes budget updates and a hearing on health and human service department budget submission to the Mayor's Office -- including HSA, DPH and DCYF.

---

## **This week's city budget hearings and news March 9, 2009**

### **(1) Board of Supervisors**

The Board's Budget and Finance Committee began a hearing last week on health and human service proposed budgets (including the Human Services Agency, Public Health, and Dept. of Children Youth and Their Families), but the hearing was interrupted due to a suspicious package at City Hall. They have rescheduled the hearing for Wednesday, March 11, to be held at 1:30 p.m. by special order, in the Board Chambers, Room 250. See the agenda at [http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs\\_page.asp?id=100356](http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_page.asp?id=100356).

### **(2) Department updates**

The **Department of Children Youth and Their Families** sent their proposed budget reductions to the Mayor on February 20. They have posted two spreadsheets that list the proposed cuts:

Sorted by funded agency: <http://www.dcyf.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=3610>

Sorted by service area: <http://www.dcyf.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=3618>

The spreadsheets are very detailed, including separate line items and totals for each agency and service area; specific amounts for contract amount, Children's Fund reductions, general fund baseline cuts, and contingency cuts on each line; and shaded lines for services that will be subject to RFP in spring 2009.

The **Juvenile Probation Department** will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 5:30 p.m. in City Hall, Room 408. The agenda is at [http://sfgov.org/site/juvprobation\\_page.asp?id=100380](http://sfgov.org/site/juvprobation_page.asp?id=100380). It includes consideration of a budget letter to Mayor Newsom. Juvenile Probation's February 20 budget submission to the Mayor included only \$1.45 million of their \$7.8 million reduction target. Their budget memo stated that further reductions would dramatically jeopardize public safety.

The **Department of Public Health** will consider an additional \$40 million in proposed cuts to meet their \$100 million target. The Health Commission will meet on Tuesday, March 17, 4 p.m. at 101 Grove St., Room 300. The agenda should be posted by Friday at <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/hc/default.asp>. The budget memo detailing proposed cuts should also be posted by Friday, though it often goes up after 5 p.m. Look for a link either on the DPH home page (<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/default.asp>) or budget page (<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/budget/default.asp>).

### **(3) HSN Member Meeting 3/20**

HSN will hold our monthly member meeting on Friday, March 20, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 214 Van Ness. We have invited two speakers: Mayor's Budget Director Nani Coloretti, and Board Budget Committee Chair John Avalos. We do not yet have confirmation of availability from either speaker. We may also discuss possible endorsement votes on upcoming measures that will appear on the state's May 19 special election ballot.

---

## **City budget updates, week of 3/16 March 16, 2009**

## **(1) DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

The Mayor has given DPH additional time to submit its budget proposal for FY 2009-10. The Health Commission agenda for March 17 (<http://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/hc/HCAgen/HCAgen2009/HCA03172009.pdf>) does not include the budget. They will hear a report on Healthy San Francisco's cost and service data. At this time, it appears that they will take up the budget at their April 7 meeting, 4 pm at 101 Grove, 3rd Floor.

The department has a \$100 million general fund reduction target. After two previous hearings, the Commission sent their baseline budget to the Mayor, reaching about \$60 million of the target, with \$40 million to go. However, that budget proposal includes \$27 million in federal stimulus funds from a federal match of local expenditures for services to Medi-Cal patients (Federal Medical Assistance Percentages, or FMAP). We've heard that the Mayor may not allow DPH to use these funds to balance their budget, due to his belief that one-time funds should not be used for ongoing expenses. A similar issue has arisen in the Human Services Agency, where the Mayor has not allowed the use of about \$10 million in FMAP funds to be used in lieu of service cuts. If the Mayor disallows DPH's use of these funds and takes the money for other purposes, DPH will have to identify another \$67 million in budget cuts.

## **(2) BOARD OF SUPERVISORS BUDGET COMMITTEE**

The Board Budget Committee is holding hearings each week on different aspects of next year's budget. They began a hearing on health and human services on March 4, which was interrupted by a bomb scare. They moved it to March 11, but Mitch Katz and Trent Rhorer could not attend. So this hearing has been moved again, and will take place this Wednesday, March 18 in the Board Chambers, Room 250. The agenda is posted at [http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs\\_page.asp?id=100733](http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_page.asp?id=100733).

They will hold the Finance Committee portion of the agenda at 11 am, and begin the hearing on health and human service budgets at 1:30 pm (specific time set by special order). According to the agenda, they will hear about the HSA, DPH and DCYF budgets.

The Committee has established a tentative schedule for future hearings (though these dates could change). In general, they plan to do Finance Committee business at 11 am, and special hearings at 1:30 pm. March 25 is likely to include hearings on police, fire, public works, and the federal stimulus package. You should mark your calendar for April 1, when the Committee plans to hold a hearing on the status of nonprofit budgets. April 8 will focus on children's services and on revenue-producing proposals. April 15 is for criminal justice agencies (including juvenile probation); April 22 for supportive housing; and April 29 on the Children's Fund and the Public Education Enrichment Fund (Prop H).

## **(3) HSN MEETINGS**

HSN will hold our monthly member meeting this **Friday, March 20, 9:30 to 11:30 am at the LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 214 Van Ness Ave (x-Hayes)**, ground floor conference room. This meeting is open to members and to nonprofits interested in becoming members. Our guest speaker will be the Mayor's Budget Director, Nani Coloretti, who will give us an overview of the progress made so far in addressing the projected \$576 million deficit in next year's budget. (We also invited John Avalos, Chair of the Board's Budget Committee. He can't attend in March, but is scheduled for our April 17 meeting.)

We will also take a brief look at upcoming state ballot measures, but at this time, HSN does not plan on taking a position on any of those measures. However, we do plan to present a proposal to streamline HSN's ballot measure endorsement process so that we can increase our effectiveness by taking positions more quickly. After the meeting, the proposed change will go out to the main contact of our member agencies for a vote.

The HSN Public Policy Committee meeting will take place on **Wednesday, March 25, 10 am to 12 noon at the Progress Foundation, 368 Fell St.** This meeting is open only to HSN members who paid dues in 2008 or 2009.

#### **(4) HSN MEMBER DUES**

Speaking of dues-paying members, I would like to express our deep thanks to those of you who have renewed your organization's membership for 2009. Despite the threat of budget cuts and the challenging times we face, our members have come through with strong support for our work. So far, 49 members have renewed, and we have raised over \$32,000. We are hopeful that we will be able to at least match last year's totals of 98 paid members and \$59,000.

If you have misplaced your dues form, you'll find it on our website at [http://www.sfhsn.org/getinvolved\\_membership.htm](http://www.sfhsn.org/getinvolved_membership.htm). That page also includes a link to our annual letter summarizing our accomplishments in 2008.

---

#### **Budget and calendar updates, week of 3/23 March 23, 2009**

##### **(1) Mayor's Office**

Nani Coloretti, the Mayor's Budget Director gave a presentation on the status of the budget at HSN's March 20 general member meeting. A handout from Nani is posted at [http://www.sfhsn.org/documents/hsn\\_iss\\_budg\\_ncupdate\\_3-20-09.pdf](http://www.sfhsn.org/documents/hsn_iss_budg_ncupdate_3-20-09.pdf).

##### **(2) Board of Supervisors**

There are two hearings this week of interest to health and human service CBOs:

On Wednesday, 3/25, the Budget Committee will meet at 1:30 p.m. in Room 250 (Board Chambers). They will hear budget updates, hold a hearing on city utilization of federal stimulus funds, and finally resume their hearing on health and human service reductions in the HSA and DPH proposed budgets. (This has been delayed several times because Trent Rhorer and Mitch Katz were unavailable.) The agenda is available at [http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs\\_page.asp?id=101116](http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_page.asp?id=101116).

On Thursday, 3/26, the Government Audit and Oversight Committee will hold a hearing on last year's Civil Grand Jury report, "*The Homeless Have Homes, But They Are Still On The Street*". The agenda is at [http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs\\_page.asp?id=101072](http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_page.asp?id=101072), and the report is posted at [http://sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/courts/divisions/Civil\\_Grand\\_Jury/homeless.pdf](http://sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/courts/divisions/Civil_Grand_Jury/homeless.pdf).

The Budget Committee is scheduling a series of upcoming hearings, but some of the tentative dates I sent last week have already changed. Here's the latest version for April. All dates are subject to change. Hearings will probably begin at 1:30 p.m.

April 1 - Police and fire; the 3-year budget projection

April 8 - Revenue proposals; Dept. of Public Works

April 15 - MOCI/OEWD merger and CDBG budget allocation

April 22 - Cuts to supportive housing and homeless services; Budget Work Groups presentation (including the CBO report)

April 29 - Children's Fund, children's services, Public Education Enrichment Fund (includes DCYF, JPD, HSA, DPH, others)

##### **(3) City Departments**

The Health Commission will hold a Beilenson hearing at their April 7 meeting, 4pm at 101 Grove St. The hearing will cover only the most recent round of mid-year cuts, which consists of city layoffs that will take effect on May 1. The hearing notice and list of Department of Public Health cuts is posted at <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/budget/files/BeilensonNotice04072009.pdf>. Service cuts will impact

tuberculosis control, STD control and mental health clinics. In Community Behavioral Health Services, 8.3 positions are cut as DPH reduces administrative positions and consolidates its contracting functions to a central business office. Other layoffs involve nursing skill mix changes and HIV Prevention administrative reductions.

DPH has still not submitted the remainder of its contingency cuts, with a target of about \$40 million in additional reductions. The Health Commission will not hold a hearing on these cuts until their April 21 meeting.

The Commission on the Status of Women will hold a hearing this week on the impact of the current economic crisis on San Francisco's women and girls, and how fiscal stimulus dollars should be directed. They plan to submit a report to the Mayor and Board summarizing their findings, including public comment, and recommendations. The hearing will take place on Wed., March 25 at 4:30pm in City Hall, Rm. 408. See the agenda at [http://www.sfgov.org/site/cosw\\_page.asp?id=95555](http://www.sfgov.org/site/cosw_page.asp?id=95555) for a list of speakers.

#### **(4) City budget reform**

The Controller's Office has released its report on budget process reform. The document, "*Budget Improvement Project*", was presented to the Board and Mayor on March 16. See [http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/controller/BIP\\_Report\\_3-16-09\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/controller/BIP_Report_3-16-09_FINAL.pdf).

#### **(5) HSN Public Policy Committee meeting 3/25 and other updates**

The HSN Public Policy Committee will hold our monthly meeting on Wed., March 25, 10 am at the Progress Foundation (368 Fell St.). This meeting is open to all HSN members that paid dues in 2008 or 2009. These meetings provide members with an opportunity to discuss current issues in greater depth, and to bring new issues to HSN's attention.

See the HSN Current Issues Report, updated March 19, at [http://www.sfhsn.org/documents/hsn\\_iss\\_oth\\_issuertp\\_03-19-09.pdf](http://www.sfhsn.org/documents/hsn_iss_oth_issuertp_03-19-09.pdf).

The HSN calendar, [http://www.sfhsn.org/news\\_calendar.htm](http://www.sfhsn.org/news_calendar.htm), is updated with the April meeting schedule.

#### **(6) Other calendar items**

The Coalition to Save Public Health is organizing a "Big A\*\* March" to fight for services on Thursday, March 26, 5:15 pm, from the Powell Street BART (5th and Market) to City Hall.

The Center for Nonprofit Management has extended its deadline for the 2009 Compensation & Benefits survey to March 27. You can find the questionnaire online at <http://www.cnmsocal.org/2009survey/>. HSN members can take \$15 off your purchase of the survey report by using discount code CBS09SFHSN.

---

### **HSN updates, week of March 30, 2009 March 30, 2009**

#### **(1) Board of Supervisors**

Board Budget Committee, Wednesday, April 1, 1:30 pm, Rm. 250 (Board Chambers):

At this week's meeting, the Board of Supervisors Budget Committee agenda ([http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs\\_page.asp?id=101429](http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_page.asp?id=101429)) includes the following:

\* Hearing to consider the Three Year Budget Projection Report from the Controller, Budget Analyst, and Mayor's Budget Office. This "Joint Report" is not yet final, but should be posted when ready at [http://www.sfgov.org/site/controller\\_index.asp](http://www.sfgov.org/site/controller_index.asp) or [http://www.sfgov.org/site/controller\\_page.asp?id=1822](http://www.sfgov.org/site/controller_page.asp?id=1822).

The new report will be through FY 2011-12. It's an important milestone in the annual budget process because it updates the projections on the city's deficit for the coming fiscal year and two years following.

\* Hearing on Controller's Budget Improvement Project. This budget process reform report is available at [http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/controller/BIP\\_Report\\_3-16-09\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.sfgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/controller/BIP_Report_3-16-09_FINAL.pdf). Many HSN members attended a focus group several months ago to provide input to this report. HSN is working with several other organizations and coalitions as the new "Community Budget Reform Council" to develop our own recommendations.

\* Hearing to consider Public Safety Departments including the Police, Fire, Sheriff, District Attorney, Public Defender, Adult Probation and Juvenile Probation Departments' February 20, 2009 departmental budget submissions to the Mayor's Office, proposed mid-year reductions and layoffs, major changes to departmental budgets including plans for consolidation, new initiatives, proposed layoffs and service cuts, impacts to non-profit service delivery, fee increases and other options for increasing revenues.

City and School District Select Committee, Thursday, April 2, 3:30 pm, Rm. 250 (Board Chambers)

This Committee includes members of both the Board of Supervisors and the School Board. The agenda is posted at [http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs\\_page.asp?id=101458](http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_page.asp?id=101458). This week's meeting includes a hearing on programs available to homeless children and youth:

\* Hearing to review programs for and services available to homeless children and youth enrolled in San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD). Hearing will address current collaboration between the city, school district, and community partners to provide services for these students and their families, and recommend ways to better coordinate in the future. Hearing will also address homeless children and youth living in San Francisco who are not enrolled in school.

## **(2) City Departments**

The Dept. of Aging and Adult Services Commission will meet on Wednesday, April 1, 9:30 a.m. at City Hall, Rm. 416. The agenda includes an overview and public discussion of the stimulus funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

## **(3) Other budget news**

The Board Budget Committee held a hearing last week on city utilization of stimulus funds. Part of the stimulus provides an increase in the reimbursement rate for the Federal Medicaid Assistance Program (FMAP), which will bring about \$30-40 million/year to San Francisco through December 2010, and must be spent through the Department of Public Health and the Human Services Agency. DPH has included \$27 million of this funding towards its \$100 million reduction target for FY 2009-10. However, the Mayor's Office has not allowed the Human Services Agency to use FMAP funding to reverse proposed cuts, nor have they confirmed that they will limit the DPH cut to \$100 million. Many nonprofits and people that they serve spoke out at the Board hearing to urge the city to use these funds to avoid cuts to critical services, rather than using them to swap out general fund dollars for other budget-balancing actions. The Coalition on Homelessness distributed a flier about the FMAP issue at the hearing. It's posted on the HSN website at [http://www.sfhsn.org/documents/hsn\\_iss\\_budg\\_cohfmap\\_03-25-09.pdf](http://www.sfhsn.org/documents/hsn_iss_budg_cohfmap_03-25-09.pdf).

Last week also brought bad news on the state budget. California Treasurer Bill Lockyer announced his determination that the State will receive less than \$10 billion in General Fund offsets from the federal stimulus. Under the February budget deal, if this threshold wasn't met, a number of harmful budget cuts would take place. We face a major impact locally because the state's share of the cost of In-Home Supportive Services wages will be limited to \$9.50, while San Francisco pays IHSS workers about \$12/hour. The Mayor's Budget Office does not yet have a calculation on the impact, which could be tens of millions of dollars. Among other impacts are a \$20 reduction in individual SSI/SSP grants, a 4% cut to CalWorks grants, and the elimination of dental and eight other optional Medi-Cal benefits, effective July 1. (For ongoing info on the state budget, we recommend the excellent coverage and analysis on the

California Budget Project website at <http://cbp.org/>.)

#### **(4) Other calendar items**

On April 22 at 1:30 pm, the Board Budget Committee plans to hold a hearing on cuts to supportive housing programs and reductions in homeless services, particularly in shelters. Community Housing Partnership is holding a planning meeting to discuss an organized turnout for this hearing. It will take place on Wednesday, April 1, 1 pm at 280 Turk St.

#### **(5) Other updates**

Health Care Security Ordinance: The HCSO requires employers to provide health benefits to their San Francisco employees. It applies to nonprofits with 50 or more employees total (including any employees located outside of S.F.). Detailed information is available on the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement website at [http://www.sfgov.org/site/olse\\_index.asp?id=45168](http://www.sfgov.org/site/olse_index.asp?id=45168). The ordinance also has an annual reporting requirement beginning this year. The first report is due by April 30, 2009.

HSN dues: HSN membership dues are submitted on a calendar year basis. If your organization has not paid for 2009, you will find the dues form at [http://www.sfhsn.org/getinvolved\\_membership.htm](http://www.sfhsn.org/getinvolved_membership.htm).

For the first time, **HSN can now take credit cards**, both for dues and for individual donations! Our fiscal sponsor, Community Initiatives has set up a donation website at <http://www.cifunds.org/sfhsn.html>.

---

### **Budget news and updates for week of April 6 April 6, 2009**

#### **(1) Board of Supervisors**

The Board Budget Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 8 in Rm. 250 (Board Chambers).

11 a.m. meeting: Their morning portion of the meeting begins at 11 am. (See [http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs\\_page.asp?id=101750](http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_page.asp?id=101750)). The agenda includes proposed amendments to the Health Care Accountability Ordinance (HCAO), which requires city contractors to provide health insurance to employees working on the contract, or pay a fee to the city for each hour worked by a covered employee. Currently, the fee is \$2 per hour. The amendment will increase the fee to \$2.80 per hour, and provide for an automatic annual increase based on the rise in health insurance costs, rather than requiring Board approval every time it's increased. This amendment makes sense because if the cost of insurance exceeds the hourly fee, employers will choose the fee instead of offering benefits.

A second proposed amendment will benefit both workers and employers by increasing the number of hours a covered employee must work from 15 to 20 hours per week. When originally passed, the HCAO covered employees working 20 or more hours a week. This threshold was reduced to 15 hours per week after the first year. However, most insurance companies won't cover employees working 15 to 19 hours, so employers are forced to pay the fee to the city. The fees go to the Department of Public Health, while the employees receive no health benefits. Since that time, the Board has passed the Health Care Security Ordinance (HCSO), which requires all San Francisco employers to pay for health benefits for employees working 8 or more hours per week. If the HCAO is amended to exempt 15-19 hour/week workers, they would then be covered by the HCSO instead. This helps those workers by making them eligible for health benefits, and it helps employers because they will pay the HCSO rate (currently \$1.23/hour for nonprofits with 50-99 employees and \$1.85 for larger nonprofits) instead of \$2.80/hour.

1:30 pm meeting: The Budget Committee's afternoon session ( [http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs\\_page.asp?id=101751](http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_page.asp?id=101751)) begins at 1:30 p.m. The agenda includes a hearing on Municipal Transportation Agency work orders (many departments began work-ordering expenses to MTA after they received a large budget set-aside in last year's election; for example, DPH

began work-ordering the cost of caring for patients injured in MUNI accidents; transit advocates oppose these work orders on the grounds that they undermine the voters' intent to provide more public transit funding); a hearing on the impacts of the cuts to Department of Building Inspection, Housing Inspection Division on San Francisco residents living in substandard housing; and budget updates.

## **(2) City Departments**

The Health Commission meets on Tuesday, April 7 at 101 Grove St. The Finance Committee will meet at 2pm in Room 302 or Room 220. (See <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/hc/HCFinance/agendas/HCFA04072009.pdf>.) They will discuss cuts to crystal meth treatment services. The budget is also on their agenda, but it is expected that the agenda will not include the remainder of the DPH budget cuts until the April 21 meeting.

The full Health Commission will meet at 4 pm in Room 300, and will consider several items of interest to contractors. (See <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/hc/HCAgen/HCAgen2009/HCA04072009.pdf>.) The agenda includes presentations by the Controller's office on the city's 3-year budget projection report and their budget reform report (the Budget Improvement Project); discussion of federal stimulus funds and the impact on DPH; the Department of Children, Youth and Their Families Community Needs Assessment and Action Plan; and a Beilensen hearing on DPH staff layoffs made in the last round of mid-year cuts on February 27. The Beilensen notice listing those cuts is posted at <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/files/budget/files/BeilensonNotice04072009.pdf>.

## **(3) Other budget news**

Today, the City launched its website on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act at <http://recovery.sf.org/intranet/RecoverySF/>. The site will be a clearinghouse for information on federal stimulus funding for San Francisco, including funds that S.F. has applied for and received, and public hearings related to stimulus funding.

Last week, the Board held a hearing on the Three Year Budget Projection Report from the Controller, Budget Analyst, and Mayor's Budget Office, which is now available at [http://www.sfgov.org/site/controller\\_index.asp](http://www.sfgov.org/site/controller_index.asp). The report provides updated expenditure and revenue projections looking forward through FY 2011-12, assuming no changes to current policies and staffing levels. It estimates a deficit of \$438 million in the upcoming fiscal year, \$615 million in FY 2010-11, and \$746 million in FY 2011-12. To the extent the city adopts ongoing budget solutions in each year, that would reduce the deficit for the following year.

The projections are based on numerous assumptions around the length of the recession, receipt of stimulus funds, state budget cuts, labor's willingness to reopen current contracts, the COLA negotiated in expiring labor contracts, increases in health insurance costs, and more. See the report for details.

The next significant report in the budget process will be the Controller's nine-month budget status report in early May.

## **(4) HSN calendar items**

See the HSN calendar at [http://www.sfhsn.org/news\\_calendar.htm](http://www.sfhsn.org/news_calendar.htm) for this month's meetings. Board Budget Committee Chair John Avalos will speak at our April 17 member meeting. This month's Public Policy Committee meeting is April 29.

## **(5) Other updates**

After 25 years of service to the nonprofit management community, the USF Institute for Nonprofit Organization Management is closing at the end of March 2009, for financial reasons. (The Master of Nonprofit Administration program will continue.) As a final testimonial to their many contributions to our sector, they are leaving us with the results of one of their final projects: a report on the nonprofit sector in

San Francisco. The report is available at [usfca.edu/inom](http://usfca.edu/inom).

The Institute on Aging is proud to announce its third session for their latest professional educational series, "Cornerstones of Care". On Wednesday, May 13, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, they will present "Complexities of Clinical Care in the 21st Century". Visit IOA's education website at <http://education.ioaging.org/> for complete program details. The site also has info on their free monthly professional trainings. The next event, which focuses on elder abuse, will be on May 7 from 3 to 4:30.

The voter registration deadline for the May 19 special election is May 4. HSN's website has our paper on nonprofit voter registration drives (guidelines, logistics and rules) at [http://www.sfhhsn.org/documents/hsn\\_iss\\_elec\\_voterreg\\_04-02-09.pdf](http://www.sfhhsn.org/documents/hsn_iss_elec_voterreg_04-02-09.pdf).

---

## **Budget and other news for week of April 13-17 April 13, 2009**

### **(1) Board of Supervisors**

At the BOS Budget Committee on Wednesday, April 15 in Rm. 250 (Board Chambers):  
[http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs\\_page.asp?id=102205](http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs_page.asp?id=102205)

1:00 pm: Budget Updates from the Mayor's Office  
Discussion on Board of Supervisors 2009 Budget Priorities  
Approving the 2009 SF Juvenile Justice Local Plan

The third item is legislation to approve the 2009 San Francisco Juvenile Justice Local Action Plan, which identifies the citywide programs and approaches that have been demonstrated to be effective in reducing violence, crime and delinquency amongst young adults ages 11 - 25, and includes recommendations for how funding for local violence prevention and intervention strategies will be allocated for FY 2009-10.

3:00 pm: Hearing on the MOCI/ OEWD merger and impacts on service delivery  
Hearing to discuss changes in CDBG funding and impact on CBOs that provide services to small businesses  
Hearing on the Mayor's preliminary recommendations for CDBG allocation

These 3 items will be called together to provide for discussion on community concerns regarding the merger's impact on community development, possible policy shifts and general fund cost saving strategies that have resulted in cuts to agencies who have traditionally received economic development dollars.

The Office of Economic and Workforce Development has developed an [overview of the merger](#). The San Francisco Information Clearinghouse has issued a statement recommending OEWD undertake an open, community based process to determine the goals, strategy, priorities and allocation criteria for the restructured CDBG program, including the 2010/11 RFP. [SFIC's paper](#) states that the merger has dismantled a 30 year partnership between the Mayor's Office of Community Development, lower income community residents and the community based non-profits who carried out comprehensive community building programs in accord with community determined priorities and strategies.

The Budget Committee will continue to hold hearings on issues impacting vulnerable populations in the following two weeks:

Wednesday, April 22 at 1:30pm: Hearing on cuts to supportive housing and homeless services.  
Wednesday, April 29 at 1:30pm: Hearing on the Children's baseline, Children's Fund, and all departments funded by the baseline.

## **(2) City Departments**

The Health Commission will hold its next meeting at 4 pm on Tuesday, April 21, and is expected to address the remaining \$40 million of their budget reduction target at that hearing. I'll send more info about this next week. If there are budget documents that will go before the Commission, they should be posted by late Friday at either <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/default.asp> or <http://www.sfdph.org/dph/comupg/aboutdph/insideDept/budget/default.asp>.

The Human Services Agency (DHS and DAAS) has reorganized its website. After a quick look, it appears to be easier to read, better organized and very helpful. People seeking services should find it easy to use. It has special easy-to-find sections for Commissions and meetings, and for contractors doing business with HSA. Budget information is now listed in the section on "Data, Reports and Publications". Check it out at <http://www.sfhsa.org/index.htm>!

## **(3) Other budget news**

HSN's [Budget Central](#) web page has been reorganized to make it easier to read. I moved the advocacy section to the top, followed by information on the FY 2009-10 budget. The FY 2008-09 mid-year cut info is at the bottom of the page. Recently-added items are labeled prominently. I also added a new section for the Board of Supervisors.

The Coalition of Agencies Serving the Elderly (CASE), Senior Action Network, and Planning for Elders announce the [Silver Tsunami](#) rally to save senior and disability community services. Hold the date for May 12, 10:30 to 12:30 pm on the City Hall lawn. CASE has issued an [advocacy statement](#) opposing the \$7 million cut to senior and disability programs and the \$100 million cut to health.

## **(4) HSN calendar items**

HSN's Contract Reform Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 15 from 9:30 to 10:30 am at Larkin Street Youth Services, 701 Sutter (x-Taylor), second floor. If you are interested in joining this committee, contact Debbi at 668-0444 x-2.

HSN will hold our April member meeting on Friday, April 17, 9:30 to 11:30 am at the LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 214 Van Ness, first floor conference room. This meeting is open to all HSN members and any San Francisco health and human service nonprofit interested in joining. Our guest speaker will be Board Budget Committee Chair, *Supervisor John Avalos*.

The Review Appellate Panel, which oversees the implementation of the City/Nonprofit Contracting Task Force recommendations, will meet on Monday, April 20 from 2:30 to 4:00 pm at City Hall, Rm. 421. Both nonprofit and city department representatives serve on this panel. The agenda will focus on contracting issues related to the upcoming budget process. Meetings are open to the public.

HSN 2009 dues information is available on our website at [http://www.sfhsn.org/getinvolved\\_membership.htm](http://www.sfhsn.org/getinvolved_membership.htm). You may also make individual tax-deductible donations. And we now take credit cards!

## **(5) Other updates**

HCAO amendments: As reported last week, the Board Budget Committee held a hearing to consider changes to the Health Care Accountability Ordinance, which requires city contractors to provide insurance to employees working on the contract or pay a fee to the city. The Committee approved the amendments and forwarded them to the full Board. If the Board passes the legislation, the amendments could take effect as early as mid-May. The amendments will increase the fee for uninsured contract employees from \$2.00 per hour to \$2.80. They will also change the definition of a covered employee from one working 15 or more hours per week to 20 hours. However, those 15-19 hour per week employees will then be covered by the Health Care Security Ordinance instead. See the [Office of Labor Standards](#)

[Enforcement](#) website for info on these two laws.

The CBO Center invites you to their [3rd annual East Bay Policy Day](#) on April 29 from 8:30 am to 2:00 pm in El Cerrito. The theme is, "*Can You Hear Us Now? Nonprofit Advocacy in the Age of Obama*". The morning session will feature a panel discussion on the local impact of the federal economic stimulus package (including California Budget Project Executive Director Jean Ross). The lunch speaker is Nancy Amidei of the Civic Engagement Project. The afternoon features a choice of two workshops: *Advocacy 201* with Nancy Amidei, or *Using Web 2.0 to Educate and Advocate* with John Kenyon. Learn more and register on the [CBO Center](#) website.

[Conard House](#) will hold a public board meeting, community forum and reception on Thursday, May 7 from 4:30 to 8:00 pm at the First Unitarian Universalist Center on 1187 Franklin St. The event features an expert panel presentation and moderated discussion on "*Self-Management of Chronic Conditions in SF Health Services*". See <http://conard.org/publicmeeting/> for more info. Please RSVP to [carolv@conard.org](mailto:carolv@conard.org) or (415) 864-7833.

---

## HSN updates, week of 4/20-24

April 20, 2009

### (1) Board of Supervisors

The [Board Budget Committee](#) will meet at 1:30 pm on Wed., April 22 in Rm. 250 (Board chambers). The [agenda](#) includes a hearing on cuts to housing and homeless programs (including services such as mental health and substance abuse treatment):

\* Hearing to discuss the potential impact of budget cuts on programs that serve homeless and formerly homeless adults and families including supportive housing, shelters, drop-in centers, employment programs and other social services.

The Committee will also discuss the Youth Commission's recommended budget priorities, and the Board's 2009 budget process and policy priorities. The Committee will discuss a [proposed resolution](#) regarding the Board's process, including providing measurable policy priorities to the Mayor regarding Board priorities by May 10, holding budget town halls in supervisorial districts, and holding a public comment day on Saturday, June 20 to accommodate speakers that can't appear on weekdays. The supporting documents also include a draft of the Board's budget priorities, which include job creation and workforce development, community development, public education, protecting the social safety net, maintaining and expanding affordable housing and supportive services for families, and supporting public safety and violence prevention.

On April 29 at 1:30 pm, they will hold a major hearing on all funding for children's programs. Coleman Advocates has put together a [flier](#) urging people to turn out for this hearing.

The [Government Audit and Oversight Committee](#) [agenda](#) includes continuing discussion of last year's Civil Grand Jury report, "*The homeless have homes, but they are still on the street*". They meet on Thursday, April 23, 1 pm in Rm. 250.

### (2) City Departments

The [Health Commission](#) will again delay consideration of additional budget cuts for FY 2009-10. We have been told the Mayor's Office has allowed this delay while the city continues to negotiate with labor unions to reopen their contracts. This is very hopeful news, but no guarantee that further cuts will be avoided, as the city still has a significant budget gap to fill. If there are more cuts, they will be discussed at the May 5 meeting. The Commission will meet on Tuesday, April 21, and the [agenda](#) includes a budget update and status report, and the 3rd quarter financial report.

The [Human Services Commission](#) meets on Thursday, April 23, 9:30 am at Born Auditorium, 170 Otis. The [agenda](#) includes consideration and possible action relative to Stimulus Funding. Community-based organizations have questioned why the Human Services Agency has not used increases to Federal Medicare Assistance Percentages to reverse proposed budget cuts. (See the Coalition on Homelessness' [FMAP paper](#) posted on HSN's website.)

### **(3) Other budget news**

There are a number of actions coming up in the next few weeks where you will have the opportunity to speak out against budget cuts:

A coalition of housing and homeless service providers announce the Grand Opening of the [City Hall Sidewalk Service Center](#) on Wednesday, April 22, 11:30 am to 2 pm on the Polk St. side of City Hall. This event coincides with the Board Budget Committee's hearing on proposed cuts that would close life-saving services to the community.

The Coalition of Agencies Serving the Elderly (CASE), Senior Action Network, and Planning for Elders will hold the [Silver Tsunami](#) rally to save senior and disability community services on May 12, 10:30 to 12:30 pm on the City Hall lawn. For fliers in multiple languages, contact James Chionsini at 703-0188 x-304 or [james@planningforelders.org](mailto:james@planningforelders.org).

Finally, **HOLD THE DATE FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10 AT 3 PM!** The Budget Justice Coalition, which includes HSN and about a dozen other coalitions and advocacy organizations, are planning a major rally on this date! We will need the commitment of every health and human service organization for a major turnout to stop cuts to vulnerable populations and to push for progressive revenue measures on the November ballot. More info coming soon!

### **(4) HSN calendar items**

The [Review Appellate Panel](#), which oversees the implementation of the [City/Nonprofit Contracting Task Force recommendations](#), will meet on Monday, April 20 from 2:30 to 4:00 pm at City Hall, Rm. 421. Both nonprofit and city department representatives serve on this panel. Meetings are open to the public.

The agenda will focus on contracting issues related to the upcoming budget process. It's important that budget reductions and staff changes and layoffs do not lead to reversals in our streamlining gains, that the HSA and DPH mega-RFPs are managed to ensure timely processing of large numbers of contracts, and that the city take steps to ensure timely approval and payment at a time when the economy is creating cash-flow problems for CBOs.

The [HSN Public Policy Committee](#) will meet on Wed., April 29 from 10 am to 12 pm at the Progress Foundation, 368 Fell St. This meeting is open to all HSN members that paid dues in 2008 or 2009. These meetings provide members with an opportunity to discuss current issues in greater depth, and to bring new issues to HSN's attention.

HSN 2009 dues information is available on our website at [http://www.sfhsn.org/getinvolved\\_membership.htm](http://www.sfhsn.org/getinvolved_membership.htm). You may also make individual tax-deductible donations. And we now take credit cards!

### **(5) Other announcements**

**Stimulus Webinar:** *Overview of the Federal Stimulus Package and Its Implications for Low-Income Californians*

Monday, April 27, 3:00-4:30 pm

In an attempt to counteract the economic downturn, Congress is infusing \$787 billion via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act into the U.S. economy. Three-quarters of these funds will be spent within

the next 18 months, and a significant portion will flow directly to households through tax credits or aid programs. Intended to assist service providers and advocates in effectively informing their low-income clients about new aid opportunities, this 90 minute webinar will provide a comprehensive introduction to the multiple provisions of the federal stimulus package affecting Californias low-income residents. Content will focus on those provisions most likely to affect residents in the near-term including tax credits, job training, homelessness prevention, CalWORKs, and child care. Presenters will share summary information about funding levels, administering entities, permissible uses, and eligibility. Education, housing construction, and infrastructure projects will not be discussed.

This webinar is available through the generous support of the [Walter and Elise Haas Fund](#), the [San Francisco Family Support Network](#), and [Single Stop U.S.A.](#)

*Presenters:* Terri Feeley, consultant; Elaine de Coligny, executive director, [EveryOne Home Alameda County](#); Kim McCoy Wade, [Western Center on Law & Poverty](#). The program is free, but registration is required via the [Foundation Centers web site](#).

**Conard House:** Richard Heasley has more information on their upcoming public board meeting, community forum and reception:

Dear Colleague,

Please open your calendar to **Thursday, May 7**, and write in: **5 pm - Conard Reception, 6-8pm Conard Forum, Unitarian Center 1187 Franklin - bring 3 friends.**

For once, I won't be bending your ear about *self-management*. We've got this terrific panel of experts eager to do it. They will be discussing **Self-Management of Chronic Conditions in San Francisco Health Systems** after they've talked about the history, status and future of chronic condition self-management within their respective medical and and behavioral health systems. And you'll get to comment and ask them questions.

- Jennifer Boyd, PhD, Director, Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center, San Francisco VA Medical Center
- Lisa Golden, MD, Director, Ocean Park Health Center, SFPD
- Kelly Pfeifer, MD, Medical Director, San Francisco Health Plan
- Mason Turner, MD, Chief, Department of Psychiatry, Kaiser San Francisco Medical Center and Clinical Instructor in Psychiatry, UCSF Medical Center

And introducing the topic and moderating will be: Kate Lorig, RN, Dr.PH, Director, Stanford Patient Education Research Center and Professor of Medicine in the Stanford School of Medicine

Please see [www.conard.org/publicmeeting](http://www.conard.org/publicmeeting) about parking and directions. And please RSVP to [carolv@conard.org](mailto:carolv@conard.org) or 415.864-7833.

---

## **Budget and other HSN updates, week of 4/27 April 27, 2009**

### **(1) Board of Supervisors Budget Committee**

Board Budget Committee: On Wednesday, April 29, 1:30 pm in the City Hall Board Chambers, the Board will hold a hearing on funding for children, youth and families. The hearing will include presentations from DCYF, the Human Services Agency, Public Health, Rec and Parks, Juvenile Probation, First 5, and the SFUDS.

Coleman Advocates is organizing a major [turnout and public comment effort](#) to protect services and to advocate for alternative set-aside reform. Coleman cites over \$10 million in proposed budget cuts to services for children, youth and families, including \$6 million in cuts to violence prevention, \$4 million for

recreation directors at rec centers, \$1.2 million in cuts to community convenors, anchor institutions and the safety network, \$1 million to youth employment programs, and more.

Other [agenda](#) items include budget updates, continuation of their hearing on public safety department budgets (Police, Fire, Sheriff, District Attorney, Public Defender, Adult Probation and Juvenile Probation), the Board's 2009 budget process and policy priorities, and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) allocation.

Set-aside reform: Because set-asides constrain a significant portion of the city's general fund, the City is considering a ballot measure to reform current and future set-asides. One proposal, by Supervisors Mirkarimi, Chiu and Elsbernd, would do the following:

\* Set-asides adopted as Charter amendments: Police minimum staffing, MUNI Fund, symphony, Park Rec & Open Space Fund, Children's Fund, libraries, Public Education Enrichment Fund, Controller's audit fund.

\* Cap the set-aside at FY 2008-09 level

\* If the projected deficit equals or exceeds \$100 million, the Board could reduce some or all set-asides by up to 25%

\* Mandatory service levels (e.g. police, MUNI, libraries) could be adjusted as necessary to carry this out (e.g. reduce the number of officers that can be funded under the cap)

\* Board could waive all or part of any set-aside during an emergency by a 2/3 vote and Mayoral approval

\* Set-asides adopted as initiative ordinances: Neighborhood Firehouses, Neighborhood Beautification and Graffiti Cleanup Fund, Economic Analysis of legislation, Care Not Cash, Small Business Assistance Center, Treatment on Demand

\* States that the appropriation requirement is not legally binding for any fiscal year after the year of adoption

\* Declares it city policy that during fiscal shortfalls, the Mayor and Board can make reductions

\* Future set-asides: Declares it city policy that future set-asides include a cap, provisions to reduce during shortfalls, waiver during emergency, and an expiration date not to exceed 10 years.

However, the popularity of many set-asides makes the passage of such a measure highly questionable. Strong opposition is already coming from the firefighters and the library.

Coleman Advocates has developed an alternative proposal that would protect vulnerable populations while developing a set of flexible and fair criteria to reform set-asides. *HSN has signed on to this approach*. Set-asides would have to conform with the following criteria:

Revenue-driven, increasing or decreasing each year in proportion to overall city revenues

Have sunset provisions

Have accountability measures so funding is linked with outcomes

Have allocation/spending plans approved by the Board of Supervisors

Limit annual growth of set-aside so that in best of years city has flexibility to use new resources for rainy day fund or other priorities

No set aside can be more than 5% of general fund

No set aside can dictate and lock-in a specific expenditure or specific staffing level, regardless of cost

Majority of funding should go to politically, physically or economically vulnerable populations in need of a protected safety-net

CDBG: On April 13, the Budget Committee held a hearing on the merger of MOCI under OEWD, changes in CDBG funding, and the [Mayor's preliminary recommendations for CDBG allocation](#). Supervisors criticized the merger plan, favoring instead the retention of an agency that coordinates broad community development needs and strategies, and that those strategies and priorities continue to be set in

partnership with lower income residents and their CBOs. (See the S.F. Information Clearinghouse statement posted under the Advocacy section of HSN's [Budget Central](#) web page.)

The Committee voted to continue the 2009-10 CDBG budget approval to this week's April 29 meeting, set up a working group to oversee the CDBG and community development system including community participation, and served notice that the Charter requires Board approval when city departments shift personnel, funds and programs. Their actions should help restore some cuts to economic development and workforce groups, and force OEWD to rectify problems associated with the merger.

More on budget reform: In addition to set-aside reform, a number of budget reform proposals are on the table. The Controller's Office has issued its "[Budget Improvement Project](#)" report. HSN and other advocacy organizations have joined together to form the Community Budget Reform Council, which has developed a set of recommendations. Supervisor David Chiu is considering legislation to establish a two-year budget process along with a five-year financial planning process. There will be hearings in coming months on budget reform proposals, as most of them would involve Charter Amendments for the November 2009 ballot.

## **(2) City Departments**

Department of Public Health: At the Health Commission's April 21 meeting, Gregg Sass presented an update on their \$100 million budget reduction target. (DPH's [update](#) memo is posted on HSN's [Budget Central](#) web page.) According to Mr. Sass, because the city budget is still out of balance and discussions with labor unions are still in progress, the city may require an increase to department reduction targets. They have now delayed presentation of the DPH budget balancing plan to the May 5 Commission meeting. DPH also rescinded about \$1 million of the proposed cut to community-based behavioral health contracts, reducing the cut from \$4.7 to \$3.6 million.

So far, DPH has reduced its general fund budget by \$60.7 million, with \$39.7 million to go. About \$33 million of their target was achieved through the use of federal and state FMAP (Federal Medicare Assistance Percentages) funds.

*It now appears that the Mayor will require DPH to submit the remainder of their budget cuts, and the May 5 hearing is the only opportunity for the Commission - and the public - to weigh in on that proposal. Many nonprofits and programs that have escaped cuts so far are likely to be on that list. This crucial hearing will take place on Tuesday, May 5, 4 pm, 101 Grove St., 3rd Floor.*

The agenda and budget memo should be available on the DPH website by the end of the day on Friday, May 1. For more info, see the [Commission's agenda page](#). The budget memo should be posted on the [DPH home page](#), [budget page](#), or both.

Commission on the Status of Women: On March 25, the Commission held a public hearing on the impact of the current economic crisis and recommendations for San Francisco's women and girls. Many invited speakers and members of the public offered testimony. A [transcript of the hearing](#) is available on the Commission's website.

## **(3) HSN calendar items**

HSN Public Policy Committee: The Public Policy Committee will meet on Wed., April 29, 10 am at the Progress Foundation, 368 Fell St. This meeting is open to all HSN members that paid dues in 2008 or 2009. These meetings provide members with an opportunity to discuss current issues in greater depth, and to bring new issues to HSN's attention.

HSN Calendar: The [HSN calendar](#) has been updated with May meetings and hearings.

No HSN update next week: I will be out of town from Wednesday, April 29 through Tuesday, May 5. There will be no update on May 4. Don't forget to check the DPH website links noted above for info on the

Health Commission and DPH budget. You may also want to check the [Board of Supervisors](#) "Meeting Information" page for the agenda of next week's Budget Committee meeting.

Compilation of HSN updates: A compilation of e-mailed weekly HSN updates from January through April 2009 is now posted on HSN's [Archived News](#) web page.

#### **(4) Other announcements**

Institute on Aging educational program: IOA presents "*Complexities of Clinical Care in the 21st Century*" on Wednesday, May 13 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough St. Six continuing education units available for professionals, breakfast and lunch provided, free on-site parking to the first 100 participants. Early-bird registration discount until May 1. [Register on-line](#) or call Danna Moore, Project Manager of IOA's Department of Education at (415) 750-4180 x-223.

Disability Disaster Preparedness Committee: The DDPC will meet on Friday, May 1 at City Hall, Rm. 421 from 1:30 to 3:30. The first agenda item is a discussion of better ways to integrate CBOs into emergency preparedness and response.