



**City of Davis
Social Services Commission Minutes
Monday, June 21, 2021, 7:00 P.M.**

1. Call to Order

Chair Vaitla called the meeting to order at 7:02pm and took role.

Commissioners present: Judith Ennis, Vice Chair; Rachael Fulp-Cooke; Susan Perez; Bapu Vaitla, Chair; Georgina Valencia; Matthew Wise

Commissioners absent: Don Kalman

Others Present: Dagoberto Fierros, Management Analyst; Kelly Stachowicz, Assistant City Manager

2. Approval of Agenda

Wise moved, with Fulp-Cooke seconding, approval of the agenda. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Ennis, Fulp-Cooke, Perez, Vaitla, Valencia, Wise

NOES:

ABSENT: Kalman

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons

Commissioner Valencia reported out from the Housing Element Committee and the City Council meeting discussion of June 15. Comments were positive about the Housing Trust Fund.

4. Public Comment

Alan Hirsch – Shared slides and spoke about social equity and housing as relates to the tree canopy – low income housing needs trees.

5. Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes – May 17, 2021

Valencia moved, with a second by Ennis, approval of the minutes. Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Ennis, Fulp-Cooke, Perez, Vaitla, Valencia, Wise

NOES:

ABSENT: Kalman

6. Regular Items

A. UC Davis Aggie Compass Presentation –

Leslie Kemp, Director of UC Davis Aggie Compass, shared information about Aggie Compass, which assists low income students with needs and connects them to resources.

- The program now includes basic needs such as transportation, hygiene, physical wellness and needs of children of students. Also offers CalFresh enrollment assistance for students for food provision. COVID has affected a lot of the service delivery over the past year plus.
- Shared about several housing assistance programs, including one where “rent” payments go into an escrow program, and funds are given to student to assist with more permanent housing upon exit of program. Aggie Compass currently provides seed money for housing and then campus will provide future funding.
- Provides emergency housing via hotel vouchers at Davis hotels for 1-30 nights for students escaping domestic violence, power outages, gaps in leases, etc. Biggest challenge is locating students who are living in cars currently.
- Have several food pantries and food options.
- Launched a legal helpdesk last year to help students work with landlord and tenant issues. (Staff will make sure that City’s Rental Resources program is connected to this.)
- Provide life skills instructions
- See www.aggiecompass.ucdavis.edu for more information.
- Noted that every student deserves to have a meal and not go hungry. Food recovery is a huge opportunity.

Commissioners engaged with several questions, including:

- How does this program compare to other UC’s?
 - Kemp response: it varies greatly across campuses. Chancellor very supportive. UCD is the only campus with rapid rehousing program (started September 2020) and housing subsidy program.
- How do services assist students’ families?
 - Response: Some services for dependents can only be paid for with donor funds. Also, students are not eligible for some funding sources.
- Are there patterns leading to housing and food insecurity?
 - Response: Decision making process for students trying to decide which basic need to cover is complicated. One of the biggest challenges is locating the students who are homeless, particularly during COVID.
- Is there collaboration with the City?
 - Response: Yes, Kemp works regularly with city’s homeless outreach staff.
- What percentage of homeless in Davis are students?
 - Response: Difficult to know but Kemp would like to get in on Point in Time count and help.
- What do you need from the City?

- *Response: Coordination with homeless coordinator and rental resources positions at City. Potential for collaboration between campus and City is tremendous in allocating resources. Would like to work with City on how UC Davis can pump more money into the Davis economy. (For example, Compass gave out over \$200,000 in grocery gift cards to students. Would like to be able to give out cards that could be used in Davis to help local businesses, etc.)*

7. Additional Subcommittee Updates

- A. *Affordable Housing (Vaitla, Valencia, Kalman) – No update*
- B. *Awareness and Outreach (Ennis, Fulp-Cooke) - No update*
- C. *Evidence/Research/Grants (Vaitla, Wise, Perez) – Fulp-Cooke reported there is a draft survey to talk to people about social services*
- D. *Joint Subcommittee on Public Health and Safety (Perez, Vaitla, Wise) – No update*

8. Commission and Staff Communications

A. Development Projects and Affordable Housing Properties Update
Stachowicz provided update on properties in process of resale, and noted that it has been very quiet for this time of year.

B. Social Services Commission Long Range Calendar
Review of long-range calendar with meeting items in July. No public comment.

C. Departing Commissioner's Feedback to Commission and Staff
Commissioner Wise: appreciates commissioners and everyone contributing in meaningful ways. Currently, commission has narrow and meaningful goals. Think about work that staff and Council put in. Wants to make evidenced-based decisions.

Commissioner Valencia: Didn't understand the inner-workings of the City. Staff has many things on their plates, outside of the commission. This commission has changed since she has been on it, for the better. Affordable housing is at the root of many issues, so important not to lose sight. Know that your commitment makes change, but takes time.

Chair Vaitla: Commissioner Kalman's willingness to be vocal and consistent (about building affordable units) is important.

Commissioners and staff thanked and praised the outgoing commissioners.

9. Adjourn

Wise moved, with a second by Valencia, to adjourn.

Motion passed by the following vote:

AYES: Ennis, Fulp-Cooke, Perez, Vaitla, Valencia, Wise

NOES:

ABSENT: Kalman

The meeting adjourned at 8:36pm.