

MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

H&HS Charnelton Building, Room #258
151 W. 7th Avenue, Eugene

June 18, 2018
12:15 p.m.

PRESENT: Claire Syrett *Vice Chair*, Jay Bozievich, Gabrielle Guidero, and Shaun Londahl, Members; Eileen Chanti and Beckey Beck (St Vincent de Paul First Place Family Center), and Trevor Whitbread (White Bird); *Presenters*; Erin Fifield City of Springfield Staff, Regan Watjus City of Eugene Staff, Steve Manela, Alex Dreher, Amanda Borta, Lyn Oliver, and Robin Scott, HSD Staff; Tom Mulhern (Catholic Community Services), Victoria Smithweiland (Womenspace), Joe Richards (Nightingale Health Sanctuary).

ABSENT: Marilee Woodrow *Chair*, Greg Evans, and Pat Farr, Members

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Claire Syrett convened the meeting at 12:22 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public who wished to speak.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of May 21, 2018
- Financials as of May 31, 2018

Jay Bozievich moved to approve the consent agenda. Shaun Londahl provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Manela advised that since the last Human Services Commission (HSC) meeting the budget process with Lane County, City of Eugene and City of Springfield was concluded. Both Lane County and City of Eugene contributed the requested funding for Dusk to Dawn Shelters so it is set for another season.

Mr. Manela said that as part of the Lane County budget, \$2 million of one-time money - \$1.5 million from Secure Rural Schools and \$.5 million from Health & Human Services (H&HS) – was approved for the Housing Improvement Plan. He is working with County Administration Steve Mokrohisky, Director of Operations Greg Rikhoff, and H&HS Director Karen Gaffney to construct a process for accessing the funds. Currently the discussion is around a two phase process to first publish a request for concept papers followed by an official Request for Proposal (RFP). The concept paper will allow various groups of stakeholders, small cities, housing developers, service providers and other parties that might be interested to be able to submit a concept without putting together a full RFP so we can see what people's ideas are without having to commit to a 20-page official RFP.

The planning and acquisition of resources is moving forward on the MLK project. A kick off meeting was held, *Housing is Healthcare*, and included representatives of key stakeholders Kaiser Permanente, PeaceHealth, PacificSource, McKenzie-Willamette, and Trillium. We are getting commitments for the MLK project and for a broader partnership with the Healthcare sector with keen interest in converting patients with chronic health conditions or are chronically homeless.

Mr. Manela announced that the HSD received notice last week that the State of Oregon is going to reduce funding to Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) due to the federal funding reduction of 28 percent. He explained that these funds are passed through the State of Oregon for workforce investments, then come back to the local workforce boards. The State was able to use other funds two years ago during a similar federal cutback. The impact to our Workforce Services Department is a loss of three staff positions and reduced services to clients such as training slots, scholarship awards and on-the-job training in the County.

Ms. Syrett noted that the City of Eugene budget approved additional funding for Dusk to Dawn which also included funding for the navigator position. She suggested that the HSD contact Ms. Jennings with the details of the navigator position.

V. LATINO ACCESS SERVICES

Centro LatinoAmericano (CLA) Assistant Director Trevor Whitbread said he represented Centro today to submit an Ask for about \$10,000, or relatively 25 percent of their current contract. He understood that this increase could be funded through the Human Services Division (HSD) contingency fund.

Mr. Manela advised that the Centro Executive Director David Sáez had contacted him with the request, and he explained at that time that the HSD had just completed the budget process, and it was not typical to make a request at this time although it wasn't unprecedented.

Mr. Whitbread offered a brief history of CLA funding by the HSC, and noted that at one time the HSC funding was a much more significant part of the Centro budget and currently Centro receives about 4 percent of the HSD budget. In 2001 HSC provided about \$120,000 to serve about 700 households or about \$168 per household served, and currently the funding level is \$43,271 to serve 541 households or about \$79 per household. In that time the local Latino population has grown as has the workload at Centro; about 9 percent of the overall population in Lane County has identified as Latino or about 30,000 individuals. Of that number about 25 percent live below the poverty level, while the white counterpart experience is about 18 percent.

Another indication of vulnerability is the ALICE report. The rate at which Latino households live at or below the ALICE threshold is 59 percent. He explained that the ALICE threshold is where the household exists on a bare-minimum survival budget, but does not include any savings leaving no cushion for unexpected expenses. The ALICE threshold is much higher than the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Mr. Whitbread explained that Centro adds immense value to the community issuing helping an estimated 120 DACA recipients that are eligible to renew their status. Fundraising continues to help coverage the average cost of each \$495 processing fee.

Responding to question from Mr. Londahl, Mr. Whitbread said that Centro tries to maintain services with additional fundraising and supplementing staff with interns. He noted that Centro did not enter all clients served into the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) ServicePoint.

Members discussed the process for honoring mid-budget requests.

Mr. Mulhern commented that Catholic Community Services works closely with Centro and the issues the agency faces are very real. While the timing of the request might be difficult, he said it is a legitimate request and need.

Mr. Manela acknowledged that the HSD had about \$337,000 in its contingency fund, but the year-end reports are not completed and it is unknown if there will be dollars remaining. He remarked that the Ask seemed to shift the need from a need for cultural and linguistic assistance to actual safety of clients from mainstream governmental services.

Agreeing, Mr. Whitbread said that Centro has a reputation in the Latino community that people know they will be served and be safe. He added that there is much concern about Public Charge, and whether people who accessed public benefits such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) could negatively impact their ability to access other benefits.

Members discussed the regular Centro contract and the 25 percent maximum request of the contracted amount.

Mr. Bozievich expressed his concern about honoring Centro's request today and the precedence this would set up for other mid-budget requests. He noted his reticence to make or pass a motion today without further information and suggested this be discussed in greater detail at the next month's meeting when the final fiscal reports are available.

Responding to a request from Ms. Fifield for a breakdown of people served by jurisdiction, Mr. Whitbread said he would provide this information.

VI. FAMILY HOMELESS TEMPORARY HOUSING

St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) First Place Family Center Director Eileen Chanti said that through the awarded RFP First Place is now moving forward to permanently move night shelter out of the faith-based organization and into the old Crossfire building on Amazon recently purchased by SVDP. She offered a brief history of the Interfaith Night Shelter which provided case management and rotated as many as ten families every two weeks to a consortium of more than 30 faith communities. The plan is to complete the project in two phases with the Phase 1 begins in September and will expand to serve double the number of families, about 18 to 20 families. With case management, families are much more successful at moving from temporary to permanent supportive housing. She added that staff will be able to work with the families before they actually get on the Central Wait List (CWL).

Night Shelter Coordinator Becky Beck explained that the large sanctuary will be partitioned into about 18 cubicles to house the families. Each cubicle will have an electrical outlet for the family's use to charge cell phones or watch DVD's, with the advantage that the cubicles can be reconfigured based on the needs of the family. The night shelter program will continue the partnership with the faith community as the volunteers come to the building to serve dinner, make breakfast, and hang out with the families to help them feel welcome. While the families are being housed and on the CWL, staff will be able to work with them to ensure that identification documentation is in place so that they are not waiting for the documentation before they are able to look for housing within the 90 day program period.

Ms. Beck noted that Phase 1 will also see the roof ripped off and working with the architect to bring the space up to code, and installing a commercial dishwasher to enable the congregations to cook in our kitchen. Phase 2 will occur the middle of next year will replace the cubicles with 18 apartment units, providing families with the dignity of privacy. The apartments will have kitchenettes, the bedrooms will be built with partition rooms so that families can open or close as needed.

Ms. Beck remarked that another good connection in the new building will be the coordination with the preschool program at First Place which can serve up to 20 children on a drop-in basis and is barrier free. The preschool is currently open 9:30 to 1:00, but it is hoped to expand to 5:00 p.m. to address one of the largest barrier to employment which is childcare.

Members discussed the great improvement to the program by housing the clients in one place, and also maintaining the faith-based partnerships.

VII. HOUSING IMPROVEMENT PLAN

This topic was moved to the July meeting agenda due to lack of time.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

The next scheduled HSC meeting is the combined HSC and PHB on Monday, July 16, 2018. Ms. Dreher explained that this planned so both board would be able to hear the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) presentation. However there is some question where their flight will arrive in time for their attendance. She will keep members updated.

Mr. Manela inquired whether the date of the joint meeting should be moved to the 17th or 18th.

After discussion, Mr. Manela said that members would receive alternate meeting date and time options should it be determined that this would facilitate the TAC presentation.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

*Recorded by Diana Alldredge
HSD Staff*