

# MINUTES

## HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

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

Monday, March 15, 2019  
12:15 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Shaun Londahl *Vice Chair*, Pat Farr, Gabrielle Guidero, Claire Syrett, Members; Eileen Chanti (St. Vincent de Paul First Place Family Center) *Presenter*; Teresa Kennedy for Stephanie Jennings, and Regan Watjus City of Eugene Staff, Erin Fifield City of Springfield Staff, Steve Manela, Amanda Borta, Lyn Oliver, Melissa Coloma, Robin Scott, Cindy Perry, Rick Kincade, Lane County Staff; David Saez, Julie Watts, Lise Schellman, Mike Fleck, Pete Kerns, and Stacey Yates.

**ABSENT:** Marilee Woodrow *Chair* and Joe Berney, Members

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Shaun Londahl convened the meeting at 12:23 p.m. Those present introduced themselves.

### II. PUBLIC COMMENT

- *Julie Watts*, Egan Warming Center Youth Site Lead, detailed the services offered at the low-barrier youth site including check-in, dinner, breakfast in the morning, and a safe, dry, and warm place to sleep. She said that guests will ask her about the next day's weather forecast to keep apprised of when the site will again be open. She stressed the need for an all-weather youth low-barrier place for kids year-round.

### III. CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of February 15, 2019
- Statement of Revenue and Expenditures as of February 28, 2019

*Claire Syrett approved the minutes of February 15, 2019 as presented.*  
*Gabrielle Guidero provided the second. The motion passed.*

Mr. Manela noted that there are two financial reports; the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures in the meeting packet, and the Division by Major Program Area as of February 28, 2019 just now distributed at today's meeting.

*Claire Syrett moved to approve the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures and the Division by Major Program Area as presented. Pat Farr provided the second. The motion passed unanimously.*

### IV. MANAGER'S UPDATE

Mr. Manela said that as previously reported a Steering Committee was formed to work on the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) study recommendations; meeting dates are currently being scheduled. The committee consists of: City of Eugene Mayor Lucy Vinis, Councilor Claire Syrett and City Manager Jon Ruiz; from the Poverty and Homelessness Board (PHB) are Chair Pat Walsh and Kris McAlister; from the County are Commissioners Pat Farr and Heather Buch, Administrator Steve Mokrohisky, H&HS Director Karen Gaffney and himself. The Steering Committee is charged with advising staff in preparing for a May 13 joint meeting with Lane County Board of Commissioners (LCBCC) and City of Eugene to look at the work product and prepare an implementation plan to lay out the tasks and benchmarks for the next three years.

Mr. Manela summarized the information related earlier regarding the Governor's proposed budget and the suggestion to the Legislature for increased funding to address homelessness. The Oregon Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Transportation and Economic Development will be holding public hearings throughout March on Senate Bill (SB) 5512: "Increasing the supply of permanent supportive housing (PSH) across the State. PSH is a key solution to ending homelessness for people who experience health conditions, mental health issues, or addictions disorders. The Governor's Budget proposes, and the Legislature should commit \$50 million in General Obligation Bonds to help develop new supportive housing across Oregon. Oregon Health Authority (OHA) would commit project based on rent assistance vouchers to the projects."

## **V. SHORT-TERM FAMILY HOUSING**

St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP) First Place Family Center Director Eileen Chanti distributed handouts regarding Night Shelter services at the Annex. She explained that with generous donations from the community and funds from Lane County, SVDP purchased the old Crossfire church and remodeled the building into a 19 unit family shelter. The Annex program replaced the Interfaith Shelter program, with many of the same faith organization's members still involved as volunteers. County funding also made possible the hiring of a Housing Navigator which has been hugely successful. Currently, First Place has moved about 30 percent of clients into stable housing, and with the new Navigator position should be about to reach 80 percent placement. She related that staff are able to house families about a third of the time through the Central Wait List (CWL). One of the biggest barriers is finding ways to help people into housing that have been bumped out of or stalled in the CWL, and often Night Shelter is completely full. During the last inclement weather, 24 families were able to use motel vouchers coordinated by Catholic Community Services (CCS). Ms. Chanti said that the typical length of stay is 90 days, however some families present with extenuating circumstances which will require an extension to avoid putting that family at risk.

Responding to a question about the Housing Navigator, Ms. Chanti said the Housing Navigator is a St. Vincent de Paul position which started with eight hours a day in October for two people, but it was clear that additional help was needed so a supervisor position has been added to also assist with night shelter coordination. She noted that the next step is to build 18 short-term affordable housing units.

## **VI. FY 2019 - 2020 BUDGET PREPARATION**

### ***Review of Budget Policy Issues***

Mr. Manela noted that a memorandum was offered in the meeting packet with some information, recommendations, and to address any questions or requests for further information.

- a) The current budget as prepared for the County Administrator is down \$1.1 million from FY 2019 due to a decrease or elimination of one-time funds, a reduction in terms of cash balance, and also a major reduction in the Low Income Energy Assistance Program with the elimination of three FTE and services for 1,000 people with the renegotiation of the EWEB contract. As a result HSD has \$591,102 of unfunded contracted services in the base budget. The one-time funded projects are for homeless and underserved populations and include the homeless access center childcare, winter warming coordinator, landlord engagement, short-term homeless family housing with a capacity of 20 families a night, transitional housing for 24 homeless youth, overnight parking in unincorporated Lane County, and enhanced access services for low-English-proficiency Latino families. Mr. Manela referred to the meeting packet for pages related to *Contracted Services FY 19-20 Funding Analysis 1) HUD MATCH, and 2) 12.17% Administration All Contracts, COLA*.
- b) The HSD has historically provided contract agencies with 15 percent administration, and in the last two years have reduced that to 12.17 percent. The State provides 5 percent for administration which was passed along to the contracted agencies. Assuming HSC would fund the entire list of contracts in Tier 1 and Tier 2, the total cost to increase the contracts so all are receiving the 12.17 percent for administration would increase the budget obligation by \$156,983.
- c) This refers to the request from nonprofits to reconsider the requirement that contracted agencies leverage 15 percent of the total contracted budget.
- d) Established human service subcontract agreements have offered flat funding over the past eight years and has eroded purchase power, reduced level of service over time and also causing the HSD to eliminate or reduce behavioral health, early intervention, youth and senior services program funding. It is the best interest of the community to develop strategies to index our Human Services support for the future such as a 1 percent to 2 percent inflationary increase which is estimated to cost about \$77,000 to \$154,000.
- e) The HSD continues to leverage a significant amount of federal revenue for Human Services. The increased revenue from federal sources – Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) requires a 25 percent- 100 percent match and comes with some very limited administrative funds. The cost for the HSD to provide 100 percent match for all the contracts would require \$331,000 or a reduction in services.

- f) Additional capacity was created through the alternative shelter now called Dawn-to-Dawn, providing shelter and services to an average of 250 homeless individuals a night. The estimated cost of maintaining the current seasonal service level and the continuation of Lindholm Service Center expansion would total approximately \$900,000 annually. Lane County and the City of Eugene are in discussions regarding sustaining this alternate shelter program after April 2019.
- g) Implementation of the TAC recommendations to create an efficient and effective housing and services system to stably house individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The effort will require some strategic investments over the next three year period and will require coordination among the jurisdictions. The add package of \$740,065 has been included in the County budget process for this purpose. The City of Eugene is also considering the use of budgeted funds for this purpose.

Ms. Syrett asked how long the HSD has required the 15 percent, and how was this addressed in other agencies similar to the Lane County area.

Mr. Manela said he would bring this information to the next meeting. He noted the 15 percent funds and resources go directly to pay for positions or services.

Members discussed the unusual and cost effective way of contracting nonprofit agencies for the services. Mr. Farr noted his conversations with Commissioners from other counties in which they expressed interest in replicating the process in their area.

Ms. Oliver emphasized that the concern is that when new money is received, that someone has RFP'd for a particular amount of money. New money or projects is an unexpected cost and coming up with the match can be very difficult.

#### ***Priorities for Contracted Services with Additional Funding***

Program Services Coordinator Amanda Borta distributed an updated *2019 HUD CoC Application Project Ranking*. She explained the process and challenge of the priority exercise to consider and score accordingly the various projects with different levels of services and populations served, new and old projects, whether the project focused on a priority population, did they spend down their funds or were some returned and reallocated, and their project performance and outcomes. The cost per household was reviewed but not used for scoring. She noted the handout listed the projects and descriptions including the total contract and one-time funds.

Members discussed the projects and ranking. Ms. Syrett asked about the low score of the housing counseling.

Ms. Oliver explained that the project serves a large volume, but the outcome is housing so the result is unknown.

Mr. Manela cautioned that the handout illustrated part of the information for HSC member input if the state funding through the Governor's proposed budget is not approved.

Members questioned the analysis in regard to the TAC report and its focus on homeless individuals rather than families.

Mr. Manela advised that timelines were being considered related to HSC member feedback due to contract requirements and the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Oliver requested direction from members that staff could have available at the April meeting for consideration.

Mr. Londahl said the HSC will need to be prepared to make a motion around the State funding and one-time funding. We'll look forward to an update at the April meeting about legislative actions, and determine how to fund the uncertain items between the May and June meetings.

#### **VII. NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled HSC meeting is Monday, April 15, 2019.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

*Recorded by Diana Alldredge  
HSD Staff*