

MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Remote/Zoom

Tuesday, May 30, 2023
3:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Matt Keating *Chair*, Kori Rodley *Vice Chair*, Heather Buch, Laurie Trieger, Randy Groves, and Victoria Doyle, Members; Amanda Nobel Flannery and Peter Chavannes, City of Eugene Staff; Erin Fifield, City of Springfield Staff; Kachina Inman, Kate Budd, Lane County Staff.

ABSENT: Ryan Moore, Member

I. CALL TO ORDER

Matt convened the meeting at 3:04 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no one wishing to give public comment.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of May 5, 2023

Kori Rodley moved to approve the consent agenda.

Randy Groves provided the second.

Heather noted a clarification regarding her Conflict of Interest (COI) declaration on page two. She would like to add the explanation “due to the fact that there is an allocation of funding in the budget”.

Kori Rodley accepted Heather Buch’s amendment to the minutes.

Randy Groves accepted without objection. The amended minutes were passed 6:0:0

IV. 2024 BUDGET REVIEW AND APPROVAL

Heather Buch declared a Conflict of Interest (COI) due to the fact that there was a St. Vincent de Paul line item of funding in the budget and as she was related to the St. Vincent de Paul Executive Director. She recused herself from the conversation.

Housing Manager Kate Budd referred to the budget material in the meeting packet, and the Proposed Fiscal Year FY24 Contracts document which indicated the service, contractor and the recommended allocation. The service categories were Children & Youth Development, Basic Needs for Low Income Households, Utility & Weatherization, Street Outreach, Homeless Access Centers, Emergency & Seasonal Shelters, Homeless Prevention, Availability and Access to Supportive Housing, and Permanent Supported Housing for Homeless Households.

Addressing concerns and questions, Kate noted that some of the contracts in place today needed to apply through a Request for Proposal (RFP) through the County. Kate explained the Lane County RFP process and the coordinating contract periods. Regarding the FUSE program, those references are under Availability and Access to Supportive Housing on the first line indicating the contractor is Sheltercare, and on the second line with the contractor to be determined by the RFP process. Currently, in this fiscal year, that was awarded to Laurel Hill Center in the amount of \$367,174.

Randy asked about the budget amounts for services for Eugene Safe Sleep Site or Rest Stops. He said the City of Eugene had the funds for operations but they still needed services.

Kate said a request from the City of Eugene for \$900,000 to support Safe Sleep Site housing navigation and Community Supported Shelters was made last week. The City of Eugene’s requested is 15 percent of the the total amount of funding available, and would result in some significant reductions across-the-board. The biggest challenge is that it would defund other outreach or emergency shelter programs in order to fund the housing navigation and safe sleep sites.

Kate explained the County is still waiting on the State budget to be passed, in order for the County to understand the full funding landscape. There are currently zero unallocated funds. She shared the budget process and the opportunity for supplemental budgets four times a year. She said they would be willing to bring back those changes after they were provided to the County.

Matt said he saw gaps in funding that would significantly reduce services for vulnerable populations, specifically \$300,000 line item that was zeroed out for Community Supported Shelters (CSS). He would consider a motion to fill that \$300,000 gap.

Laurie said she was also mindful of the timing of the budget process. She considered looking at the Human Services Commission (HSC) budget as a whole and consider the specific services later during the supplemental budgets.

Members discussed precedence and the County budget process.

Sr. Management Analyst Lyn Oliver explained that the actual budget submitted to the County did not include the allocation plan – it included an amount of funding available for agency payments. In approving the allocation plan, it may be acceptable to move forward without finalizing an allocation plan. Also to clarify the City of Eugene contribution, out of the \$2 million allocated to the HSC, there is only \$810,000 that is discretionary. The bulk of the funding is going to projects that the City of Eugene designated.

Matt passed the gavel to Vice-Chair Kori Rodley in order to prepare and share a motion. Recognizing Laurie's point, Matt wanted to also put on the record the vital need for all of us to chip in to such an essential service such as Community Supported Shelters.

*Matt Keating moved to allocate the following discretionary funds to support Community Supported Shelters: \$150,000 Lane County, \$100,000 Eugene, \$50,000 Springfield.
Randy Groves provided the second.*

Matt noted he placed the motion in the Chat for clarity: Move to allocate the following discretionary funds to support Community Supported Shelters: \$150K (Lane County), \$100K (Eugene), \$50K (Springfield)

Laurie related she wasn't aware that we do allocations to that level of specificity and that we say from which contribution they are to come, rather than treating the funds as a pool. Not knowing the other needs, she didn't know what we are not funding in making that allocation.

Matt considered that the motion should have indicated that he moved to recommend the allocation.

Laurie considered that what we're trying to do is approve to advance to the Commissioners who will adopt a budget with bigger top-line notes. And that this Committee can wrestle with that level of specificity about allocation independent of needing to advance a recommended budget to the Commissioners for adoption.

Members discussed the process for the HSC budget approval, contributions by the jurisdictions and that the jurisdictions could designate some funds for specific projects and also leave some funds as discretionary.

Kate explained that all the HSC pooled funding was allocated. This allocation would essentially remove funds from outreach or supported shelters to provide financial support for CSS.

Lyn noted that the line item in the budget for CSS was through COVID funding which ended.

Members discussed funding for rest stops, safe sleep sites and the Navigation Center.

Ending the discussion, Vice Chair Kori Rodley asked for the vote on Matt Keating's motion.

*The motion passed 3:1:0
(Matt, Randy and Victoria voting for the motion, Kori voting against, no abstentions)
Voting on Matt's motion*

Matt asked for a motion to recommend adoption of the budget as recommended.

Kori Rodley moved to recommend adoption of this budget to forward to the Board of County Commissioners. Randy Groves provided the second. The motion passed 4:0:0

amendment

Laurie Trieger requested the minutes to reflect those who were absent or unable to vote. She had to leave at the end of the allotted time which she announced at the beginning of the meeting, and the vote occurred after that. Heather Buch was unable to participate due to a possible Conflict of Interest (COI).

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm

*Recorded by Diana Alldredge
HSD Staff*