

MINUTES

HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

Remote/Zoom

Monday, June 26, 2023

12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Matt Keating *Chair*, Kori Rodley *Vice Chair*, Heather Buch, Laurie Trieger, Randy Groves, Ryan Moore, and Victoria Doyle, Members; Erin Fifield City of Springfield Staff; Peter Chavannes and Amanda Nobel Flannery City of Eugene Staff; Steve Adams, Presenter; Kachina Inman, Kate Budd, Brianna Rogers, Carly Walker, James Ewell, Kirstin London, Lyn Oliver, Melissa Coloma, Nancy McReynolds, and Patrick Kerr, Lane County Staff; Danyell Rejcek, Melinda Poor, Heather Quaas-Annsa, and Tabitha Eck (Community Supported Shelters), Mike Fleck and Suzanne Turner (Community Sharing),

ABSENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Matt Keating convened the meeting at 12:02 pm. He requested agenda item six be moved to number four.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Mike Fleck, Community Sharing Executive Director, said he was addressing agenda item 4 regarding the recommendation to fund Community Supported Shelters. He noted that his agency had postponed a request for additional funds due to the ARPA stimulus funds. Without the ARPA grant they were looking at about \$130,000 shortfall in the CS budget to provide the historical services. However the CSS recommendation would deallocate critical funds to the CS budget. He proposed that all agencies tighten their belts this year and work together next year to find more funding for critical services.
- Melinda Poor and Danyell Rejcek noted the navigation services provided at Community Supported Shelters and requested continued support through the Lane County contract. CSS provided a myriad of services to clients from getting their identification to gaining access to Healthcare, recovery support, and housing navigation services. They noted the success of the important program work as reported in HMIS data.
- Tabitha Eck and Heather Quaas-Annsa with Community Supported Shelters said CSS served people throughout Lane County including rural areas. They were in agreement in tightening the belt, however their Lane County contract was not renewed, and the current contract would end June 30, 2023. She advocated for funding the CSS navigation services.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes of May 30, 2023.

Kori Rodley moved to approve the consent agenda.

Randy Groves provided the second. The motion passed.

Laurie Trieger requested the minutes to reflect those who were absent or unable to vote at the last meeting. 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).

Matt Keating agreed this would be noted in the minutes.

The motion passed. 7:0:0

IV. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Lane County Police Director Steve Adams provided an update on the legislative session as it pertained to Lane County.

From the Governor's housing package:

- HB 5005 - \$604.2 million in Article XI-Q bonds to develop affordable homes with Local Innovation Fast Track (LIFT) Homeownership
- HB 5030 - \$50 million to preserve and improve existing affordable homes, prevent rent increases and preserve manufactured home parks
- SB 5511 - \$9.7 million for pre-development of affordable housing

- SB 5511 - \$4 million to establish a PSH Risk Mitigation Fund to stabilize operating costs and support the longevity of developments

From Legislative Bills Housing Package:

- HB 3395 - \$10 million to develop in-community housing for agricultural employees
- HB 2001 - \$20 million to establish Modular Housing grant funding to begin or expand production capacity of modular housing
- HB 3395 - \$20 million to develop the Affordable Housing Loan Guarantee Fund for the repayment of loans to finance construction of affordable and moderate-income households
- HB 2071 - \$3 million for selling publicly supported housing to retain or extend regulated affordability agreements available via income tax credit

Kate put the URL of the OHCS Legislative Highlights in the Chat:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ft.e2ma.net%2Fclick%2Ffiwyk5ze%2F2b425zec%2F2r06uiif&data=05%7C01%7Ckate.budd%40lanecountyor.gov%7Ccacfb7998fb64303dc8a08db7664c836%7C74df5a22826e49429a741d199974dedf%7C0%7C0%7C638233947468809215%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAwLj0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=4U7FTgVoOdNI4tT6L8rfFOzkX4E15HTKH%2Fw5%2F3WYWE%3D&reserved=0>

Members discussed the bills and local implications to programs and services.

Matt requested Steve be invited back to a future meeting.

V. FOLLOW-UP ON RECOMMENDATION TO FUND COMMUNITY SUPPORTED SHELTERS

Housing Manager Kate Budd referred to the memorandum in the Human Services Commission (HSC) meeting packet “Alternative Shelter Housing Navigation & Case Management Services *Community Supported Shelters*” which summarized the HSC member discussion and its interest in funding Community Supported Shelters (CSS) in the amount of \$300,000. Since the May 30, 2023 meeting, the City of Eugene has identified that underutilized current fiscal year Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding focused on COVID could be utilized to help meet that budget gap for about \$50,000 to \$90,000. The exact amount will be known when the agency currently using those funds submits a final invoice. So we’re looking to identify approximately \$210,000 to \$250,000 through this conversation.

In the memo, Kate noted there were three options presented for this body to consider in order to help staff identify the \$210,000 to \$150,000 for CSS. The options were to A) Deallocate funds from existing contracts for the next fiscal year to allow for the addition of Navigation and Case Management services at the City of Eugene alternative shelter site. This could mean reducing or defunding some contracts in order to meet the full \$210,000 to \$250,000 amount, B) Upon receipt of eligible revenue and after the current allocation plan is fully funded, direct HSD staff to prioritize restoring funding for Navigation and Case Management for City of Eugene alternative shelter project, should funding be available, and C) No action.

Heather first clarified that the conversation didn’t include possible funding to St. Vincent de Paul. Regarding the options available, she did not support defunding the other programs and expressed her support for Option B. She wanted to be clear in her support of Community Supported Shelters, however the services listed were also very vital. She would like to see more services supported with more resources if and when they come in.

Agreeing, Randy said he also supported Option B and didn’t like the thought of defunding any of the services listed in the memorandum.

Kori agreed and said she supported Option B. She remarked that it was her understanding that the HSC provided an opportunity to collectively support the work in the community, and some of our recent actions have pitted organizations against each other to compete for the limited funding available. Hopefully in moving forward we can refrain from these conversations.

Laurie agreed with the comments, but could not echo strongly enough that it is not good practice to set up these dynamics and ask these non-profits to be in rapid response mode. She expressed a desire to be more thoughtful, strategic, and get in front of the legislative sessions to start talking about more money and the root problems growing this need in the community. She said she fully supported Option B.

Matt suggested a mechanism to help establish a review or return of investment that indicated where the investment dollars go so we could indicate to our constituencies where our dollars were being spent and how well they were being utilized. He had no appetite for Option C, and no interest in robbing from Paul to pay Peter, but had concerns about how Option B was structured. He would entertain a motion that omitted the first clause of Option B “Upon receipt of revenue and after the current allocation plan is fully funded”, and starts with “direct HSD staff to prioritize restoring up to \$300,000 for Navigation and Case Management for City of Eugene alternative shelter project”, recognizing that funding is there from our municipality leaving roughly \$150,000 for the County, \$100,000, and Springfield, \$50,000, to fill.

Randy considered metrics important, but he also wanted to take into account that different organizations served different groups of people that they were serving, and some populations were more difficult to serve than others. So metrics would need to be able to have that factored in.

Laurie said that she didn’t stand behind saying we made a pledge. She noted there were seven members of this board of which only four members were present for a vote to be taken and only three voted to pass. She didn’t consider that to be a pledge of this body. She said she had never seen this body make an allocation by dollar amount by jurisdiction motion before. She wondered if the City of Eugene needed to run their CDBG fund dollars through the HSC or whether they could choose to allocate dollars to help alleviate the funding gap of that organization, then that is something the City of Eugene can do. She considered that the City of Eugene could make their direct allocation to Community Supported Shelters to help them close their funding gap, and then the HSC can continue its attempts to address other funding gaps across many agencies that are needing support.

Amanda Nobel Flannery said that we don't HSC to provide direction to use the CDBG-CV funds for Community Supported Shelters. The City does contract with the County to administer those dollars through the jurisdictional relationship. The City didn’t have enough funding to cover the \$300,000 at this time.

Laurie stressed that she wanted to be clear that funds going to the HSC are for the HSC to allocate.

Heather agreed that metrics was important to see what works and what doesn’t. However in speaking about human services, she didn’t want to discuss them as a commodity. She disagreed with changing the terminology of Option B as this created unnecessary competition among the agencies. The HSC is where we collectively come together in order to solve some of the hardest human services challenges in Lane County.

Members discussed the metrics currently collected through contract performance measures.

Matt advocated for the May motion and restoring funding to Community Supported Shelters.

Heather noted that Community Supported Shelters wasn’t the only agency to not receive funding. She emphasized her support for Option B.

Kori Rodley moved to adopt the recommended Option B upon receipt of eligible revenue and after the current allocation plan is fully funded, direct HSD staff to prioritize restoring up to \$300,000 for Navigation and Case Management for City of Eugene alternative shelter project, should funding be available.

Heather Buch provided the second. The motion passed 7:0:0

V. HSC/PHB STRUCTURE UPDATE

Health & Human Services Assistant Director Kachina Inman displayed the *Proposed Structural Options & Preferences* presentation on the meeting screen and summarized the conversations around the options. She noted a meeting with County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky, Health & Human Services Director Eve Gray and City Managers about two weeks ago to ensure that folks still wanted to participate in the HSC and find value in that work. That commitment was clearly heard. Kate and Kachina are also planning on meeting with City Managers, and more staff to further discuss.

Next Steps:

- Focus on Options (A, B or potential hybrid)
- Deeper analysis on top tier options in the next three weeks
- Meet with City Managers and County Administrator and staff to gain more input
- More feedback from HSC at the July 17 meeting
- PHB/ HSC chairs to meet again on July 21 for final recommendation

- Recommendations go to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC)
- Continue our work until decisions are made about the restructure

VII. STAFF PROGRAM UPDATES

Kate reported that the All In contract negotiations were being finalized with 44 proposal being received for the \$18 million All In funding coming into the community. The list of programs funded through that process will be shared as soon as it is finalized. She related that two staff are now on parental leave which left much of the Continuum of Care (COC) work to herself, with the CoC application to open up soon for the approximately \$2.5 million of funds coming into our community.

Kachina-said that the HSD Manager position was still vacant. She will send out materials and requested members help in recruitment for that position.

VIII. NEXT MEETING & FUTURE ITEMS

- Take action on the restructure
- Larger conversation with Steve Adams
- Plan for retreat for the HSC and PHB to occur after the reimagining process is completed.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

*Recorded by Diana Alldredge
HSD Staff*