

Human Services Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Renton City Hall
Council Conference Room, 7th Floor
April 21, 3:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: Ryan McIrvine, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order. There was not a quorum.

ATTENDANCE: Ryan McIrvine, Leslie Anderson, Chad Buechler, Kyle Burleigh, Amy Koehl
Excused: Shannon Matson, Brook Dodd, Linda Smith, and Henry Malphus. City of Renton Staff: Karen Bergsvik, Dianne Utecht, Katie McClincy, Jennifer Jorgenson. Guest: Chris Johnson, from CWU History of Social Services Agents Class.

Karen introduced Chris Johnson. Chris was job-shadowing Karen for the day. Chris asked the members to tell him why they wanted to be on this particular committee. Each of the members shared their thoughts with him.

The minutes were not approved due to lack of a quorum.

MEETING TOPICS FOR 2015

Karen went over the proposed meeting topics and asked for feedback from the members.

Leslie commented that the Poison Control Center was far north of Renton and that she visits it as part of her work duties. She volunteered to bring information back from one of her visits and share it with the group.

Karen clarified the May meeting will be focused on the Strategic Plan.

Leslie is in favor of individual visits with members reporting back to the Committee. Kyle agreed.

It was decided that we need the input of the members who are absent. Karen will email to the members a survey, asking for their input.

CAPACITY BUILDING UPDATE

Dianne shared that the second request for proposals generated several responses this time. The members (Leslie and Amy) who reviewed the responses and Dianne's preferred choice were the same. Dianne successfully negotiated a contract with The Alford Group to work with the six agencies that have been selected.

CONTRACTING 101

Karen went over the strategies developed by the cities in the East, North, and South King County areas to work as a united group to develop a regionally standardized funding application. The intent is for agencies to spend more time helping people and less time doing paperwork.

Dianne gave an overview of the work she does – she reviews all of the standardized contract forms, agency performance measures, and proposed outcomes. The agencies determine if they want to spend the funds on personnel or other things. The City has a 90% Performance Clause contained within each contract. If the agency meets 90% of the Performance Measures for a particular quarter it will be fully paid. If not, the City has the right to withhold funds.

Joint Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) are for agencies that several cities fund. The idea is that there is one contract for the agency and one invoice that is submitted to the lead city. The lead for each agency is usually determined by how much the city contributes, and/or the physical locale of the agency.

For the first time in 2015, quarterly reports are now available online for more efficiency. The group is hoping to eventually be able to auto-populate more fields within the reports.

SUBURBAN CITIES FUNDING ANALYSIS

Part of the strategic plan is to see what other cities in King County spend on human services. It is easy to collect data on what cities allocate to agencies and spend on staff; it is much more difficult to capture what is spent on other things, like the Senior Center, as each city seems to define human services differently. Karen and the Human Services Coordinator from Kirkland are working on creating spreadsheets to capture this information.

ITEMS IN THE QUEUE – INFORMATION

Karen is working with First Savings Bank on financial literacy classes. It is a need in Renton. The group that is working on it (Renton Housing Authority, The Salvation Army food bank, Low Income Housing Institute, Center of Hope) decided to use the YWCA's successful four-week course (called Money Works), and the YWCA agreed to teach the course.

Renton Farmers Markets will be accepting food stamps for the first time this year.

The update on the Human Services Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan is in the process of being finalized and sent to Council for approval.

The City has applied for a Sunset Area Choice Neighborhood Grant. Part of the grant is for the Housing Repair Assistance Program to rehabilitate rental units. The Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) has a proposal to build approximately forty units of housing for the formerly homeless in Renton; a group will be touring their projects in Ballard and Bellevue to learn more about LIHI.

The Committee to End Homelessness Final Draft report is out for comment and is scheduled for Council on June 9th. Karen is working on a coordinated response in south King County. The Sound Cities Association has assigned a staff person to help coordinate the suburban cities' response to the draft.

A briefing on the Kids First levy is scheduled for Council on May 18th.

Karen noted that Michelle Obama's 2015 personal quest is to end Veteran's homelessness. She is coordinating an effort to learn more about the demographics of veterans in Renton, and what their needs are.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan McIrvine, Vice-Chair

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: MAY 19, 2015, 7th Floor, Renton City Hall
COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM