



City of Redmond Human Services Commission
Meeting Summary
Monday, October 14, 2013
6:30-8:30 pm

Members Present: Steve Daschle, Carolyn Mansfield, Jason Dick, Lynn Fleshman, Kellen Baker

Staff Present: Brooke Buckingham, Alaric Bien

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

September Meeting Summary: Approved

Updates from Commissioners:

- Steve thanked everyone for volunteering for the food drive. This year twice as much food was collected as last year. Carolyn had suggestions for more targeted messaging next year.
- Carolyn attended a veterans center donor event at the Together Center. She was surprised to learn that there are several hundred active duty families in Redmond. She also found the map showing hundreds of veterans services throughout the county quite interesting and useful.

Updates from Staff:

- Staff followed up with how Bellevue handles information on prevention services within programs applying for funding. Will consider adding this to our discussion next month on overall guidelines for the next round of funding.
- There has been limited response to the proposal of a joint commission visit to the Race exhibit. If Redmond commissioners are interested, they should let Steve know by the end of the week.
- There will be an Eastside community conversation on equity on 10/23. This will help inform a regional summit on equity on 11/8 & 9.
- Staff asked commissioners if they thought using the film American Winter as a way to engage interested faith communities in getting more involved with the winter shelter was a good idea. Everyone agreed that it was. Staff will follow up with additional screenings to the community wide one planned in January. Lynn will provide contact for the Redmond pastors' gathering.
- The pooled funding memorandum of understanding with Bellevue and 5 other cities is being renewed, however, changes to the reimbursement arrangements need to be made. Staff are following up on this.
- Women's winter shelter will be sited at Redmond United Methodist, Redwood Family Church and Bellevue First Congregational this winter. Still working on siting the men's shelter.
- This summer's Rtrip promotion resulted in 45% of participants choosing to support human services (over 40% for planting trees and 15% for the arts). This will result in an additional \$22,500 we can use for homeless services.

Old Business:

ACA Outreach

Posters and flyers were distributed to commissioners for distribution. Staff have also posted in public spaces around the city and done outreach via email, social media and the city website www.redmond.gov/aca. Mayor attended kickoff event at Redmond Elementary on 10/1, which was also covered by print and television media.

Culturally Specific vs Mainstream Services

Reviewed numbers for selected programs serving special populations in comparison to Redmond demographics. Discussed possibility of soliciting culturally specific services (if available) if there is a wide gap in services within currently funded mainstream organizations. Staff will prepare proposed policy guidelines for funding based on past several months' discussion and present at November meeting.

New Business:

Parks Parenting Classes

Parks Department originally came to Human Services with a request to help with funding of child care services for a parenting class at Einstein Elementary. They have since withdrawn that request, but issue remains of how to handle out of cycle funding requests from either internal or external sources.

Initial thoughts are 1) that if the request is under a certain dollar amount, commission would authorize staff to make the decision, 2) we would not consider out of cycle requests for prevention programs or services, and 3) unless it is an emergency (eg without additional resources a currently funded program would shut down), we would not consider the request. At November meeting, will have more in depth discussion and set guidelines for how to handle such requests.

Regional vs Local Funding of Services

Reviewed current funding of mental health, disability, and substance abuse services in relation to prevalence in the population. Question is, if the state has primary responsibility to fund these areas, what should the city's role be, and why?

Observation that there will be a continuing need for city funding of mental health services because it is chronically underfunded. In addition, untreated mental illness can lead to more dire situations including homelessness. It is in the city's interest to provide supports where there are none so mentally ill residents do not have need for even more services.

Consensus that if you can't draw a compelling line from the program need to the city's interest, then there is less of a rationale for funding. Argument that city should continue funding for mental health, substance abuse and domestic violence services seems more clear than that for disability services.

Staff provided brief background of the funding formula. Incremental increases due to population changes and built in COLA have allowed for Commission to award funds to new programs and apply COLAs across the board. Opportunities to request more funds above and beyond established formula have not been pursued mainly because there has been no compelling reason to do so (e.g. Deep Impact project) nor has there been an established funding framework/rationale.

Discussion about possibility of setting caps or minimum amounts on funding per program or per agency. Also possibility of setting aside a certain amount next cycle to put into targeted issue areas instead of doing across the board COLA.

Seattle puts 6% of its general fund into human services. Redmond = 0.13% (\$758,000/\$581,600,000). Seattle also probably has a higher percentage of low and moderate income residents. Should we consider a family/education type levy?

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